

# Have the time of your Life in Guadalajara Jalisco, Mexico!

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Guadalajara, without a doubt, is one of the most beautiful and modern cities in all of Mexico. Also known as “La Perla Tapatia”, Guadalajara is the capital of Jalisco and the second largest city in Mexico. Continue reading to learn about the top things you should do when visiting Guadalajara. The following are not in a specific order.



## **The Cathedral of Guadalajara**

The Cathedral of Guadalajara is the Center of the city’s cultural and religious history. Chosen as one of the best and most spectacular churches in Mexico, by *viamexico*, the cathedral of Guadalajara is one of the most symbolic buildings in the capital of Jalisco. Its construction began in 1561 but wasn’t until 1864 when its two famous towers were added to the cathedral. Don’t hesitate to take a picture in front of its attractive façade. It is also worth taking a look inside the church and going under the alter to see where the remains of cardinals and bishops rest. It is recommended to take your time viewing this church, because there are a lot of interesting details to observe inside the cathedral.



### **Take a Stroll through the Historic Center**

An unforgettable way to cover the Guadalajara historic center is by riding carriage. You can rent a carriage for about \$17 USD, which allows you to see the historic center in a timely manner. The routes of the carriage rides are very complete because it passes by the majority of the churches and museums that are worth seeing. During the ride, you are also able to see the most impressive parks and buildings. If you have little time to discover the historic center, the carriage ride is a great alternative to walking.



### **Check out the Amazing Murals in the Hospicio Cabanas**

For more than a century, this building served as an orphanage. The Hospicio Cabanas' important construction has been converted to a stupendous cultural center. In the interior of this building you are able to admire a series of the most important murals painted by Jose Clemente Orozco. It took him two years to complete 57 fresco paintings that decorate the building's chapel. The most popular painting is the "man on fire", which is considered Orozco's masterpiece. Orozco completed his works in this building while he only had one arm.



### **Visit the Basilica of Zapopan**

Located just ten miles northwest of the historic center of Guadalajara, Zapopan is a great municipal. It is famous because in its main plaza stands one of the most important religious constructions in the state of Jalisco, the Basilica of Zapopan. This basilica is important because it hosts the great virgin of expectation from June to mid-October. Also known as our lady of expectation, it is an image that is very venerated by hundreds of worshipers that starting October 12 they celebrate her with music, dance and prayers during their annual festivities. You cannot leave Guadalajara without visiting Zapopan to see the image of the virgin of expectation.



### **Watch a live soccer game**

Guadalajara is a city that is in love with soccer. This city is home to two of the eighteen teams that are part of Mexico's first division soccer league. The two teams are Atlas and Chivas. Even if you aren't a big soccer fan, you should still plan to visit a game because of the magnificent

atmosphere you'll experience. One of the stadiums you can watch a game at is the "Estadio Jalisco", which hosted games in two separate world cups in 1970 and 1986. This stadium is the home of Atlas F.C. The second stadium you can visit is the "Estadio Akron". This stadium was finished in 2010 and is the home of Chivas F.C., the most popular soccer team in Mexico.



### **Go Shopping for Artisanry in Tonalá or Tlaquepaque**

Towards the south of Guadalajara are located two municipalities of great tradition, Tonalá and Tlaquepaque. In addition to being able to relish the best gastronomy in Jalisco, you are able to acquire beautiful artisanry through hundreds of stands and at great prices. In the center of Tonalá, you will have the opportunity to enter the shops of an artisan to be able to see how they make their products. If you are a fan of artisanry, these two municipalities are essential to your trip to Guadalajara.



### **Watch Mariachi Perform at El Parian**

While you are shopping for artisanry in Tlaquepaque, be sure to stop and watch the mariachi perform at “El Parian”. Mariachi is a famous Mexican folk music that originated in Jalisco. “El Parian” is surrounded by a circle of restaurants where you can enjoy Guadalajara’s most famous dishes. In the middle of all these restaurants is a central bandstand where the mariachis play their music. If you want to listen to the most popular music of Jalisco, then you can’t go wrong here.



### **Taste Guadalajara’s Famous Dishes**

Did you really go to Guadalajara if you didn’t try a “Torta Ahogada”? This popular dish is made with birote bread and is filled with chicken, beans and sometimes cheese. The sandwich is served with onion, radishes and avocados. To finish the sandwich, it is drowned in sauce which is how it got its name “drowned sandwich”. Due to the crispiness of the bread, the sandwich does not fall apart when drowned. You can typically find this famous dish on the street from vendors, but it can also be eaten at restaurants. Another famous dish from Guadalajara is “carne en su jugo”,

which translates to meat in its juice. This dish is a beef stew that consists of roasted beef and fried bacon. It is accompanied by onions, cilantro and beans from the pot. You can also find this dish all around Guadalajara.

In conclusion, Guadalajara has a lot to be proud of. Not only is it the architecture, but also the cleanliness of the streets and the atmosphere of the city are what makes Guadalajara one of the best cities in Mexico. If you plan to visit Guadalajara, visit or do the things that I have listed above and you should have a great time. If you don't have a trip planned to this amazing city, now you have a reason to travel to Guadalajara.

## **Links**

most spectacular churches in Mexico

<http://viamexico.mx/las-10-catedrales-hermosas-mexico/>

- The above is a link so readers can read about the best churches in Mexico

Jose Clemente Orozco

<http://www.theartstory.org/artist-orozco-jose-clemente.htm>

- The above is a link so the readers can read about Jose's struggles and see more of his work.

most popular soccer team in Mexico

<https://www.thetoptens.com/best-mexican-soccer-teams/>

- The above is a link so the readers can see which are the best clubs in Mexico.

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