Guadalajara

Owner: Randi First edit: Dan Second edit: Ross

Neighborhoods Living traditions (Tlaquepaque) Party central (Chapultepec) Hipsterville (Templo Expiatorio, MUSA, Parque Rojo) Family-friendly (Aquarium, Santuario de Guadalupe) Tourists (Centro Histórico) Tech & finance (Avenida de las Américas) Premium GDL (Andares, Puerta de Hierro) LGBTQ+ (From Av. de la Paz to Av. Hidalgo) Old & new (Zapopan) Food town (Minerva, Los Arcos) Indigenous arts (Tonalá) Classic sights **Guadalajara** Cathedral Plaza de Armas Rotonda de los Jaliscienses Ilustres Instituto Cultural Cabañas Mercado Libertad Basilica de Zapopan Teatro Degollado Parque Agua Azul Parque Zoológico Templo Expiatorio Museum of the Arts (MUSA) Los Guachimontones

Local favorites

Barranca de Huentitán canyon Jardín Mexicaltzingo Los Colomos park El Parián cantina Seafood market Jardín del Santuario Panteón de Belén Biblioteca Iberoamericana Cantina la Fuente Las 9 Esquinas Tequila Malecón de Ajijic walkway

Instaspots (10-12+)

Andares Centro Comercial The Landmark Midtown Jalisco Matute Remus Bridge Pannarama facade Los Colomos Japanese Garden Minerva Roundabout Lineal Pablo Neruda Park Punto Sao Paulo Arcos Vallarta

No-go zones? (Dangerous areas tourists should know about)

- 1. San Juan de Dios area at night
- 2. Parque Morelos

Neighborhoods

Link to Google Map:

https://www.google.com/maps/d/edit?mid=1F0Trbrqq42FJca7DaxTMiKxPnBqLmWMQ&II=20 .673685729859862%2C-103.33541316883469&z=12

1.

Living traditions (Tlaquepaque)

Photo

https://flic.kr/p/MgAZ7q (Alejandro Hernández Osuna)

<u>Tags</u>

Romance, Traditions, Markets, Musicians

Description

One of the oldest towns surrounding Guadalajara, this area is famous for its classic pottery and colorful colonial streets. It's also the best place to listen to mariachi music, which originated in the region. Whatever your relationship status, Tlaqueparque is for the romantic at heart.

Local tip (when relevant)

Alert

:red_car: Parking garages are small here, so it's better to come via cab or public transportation

2.

Party central (Chapultepec)

Photo

https://unsplash.com/photos/gA48mA4So54 Regina Victorica

<u>Tags</u>

Bars, Parties, Nightlife

Description

Ever heard of the seven-day weekend? The area known locally as Chapu has a different themed celebration every day. If you want to be close to the party, stay at one of the many hostels and boutique hotels. Far from quiet, but also far from boring.

Local tip

This area is part of Colonia America, the coolest neighborhood in the world according to <i>Time Out</i> magazine. The best place to start the night is at the dollar bars – guess how much their menu items cost.

Safety

:warning: Atlas hooligans gather at the roundabout when their team wins (or loses), so don't show up in a rival team's jersey

3.

Hipsterville (Templo Expiatorio, MUSA, Parque Rojo)

Photo https://flic.kr/p/wCAcd5 Miltch Altman

<u>Tags</u>

Bohemian, Antiques, Modern Art

Description

This area features plenty of art galleries, cafes, hotels, and bazaars to quench artsy visitors' thirst for culture. If you're working while traveling, it's a good place to grab a coffee and find a quiet table to get down to business.

Local tip

This is one of the city's most bikeable neighborhoods, with a lot of public bike rental stations. It's also part of Colonia America, the coolest neighborhood in the world according to <i>Time Out</i> magazine.

Safety

:woman: Mercadita in Parque Rojo is an exclusive market for women. Men will be asked to leave!

4.

Family-friendly (Aquarium, Santuario de Guadalupe)

Photo

<u>https://share.icloud.com/photos/0c2EvaPyAgW39XCZvL-mGh3Ew</u> (автор — Santiago Ramirez)

<u>Tags</u>

Kid-friendly, Peaceful, Festivals, Parks

Description

This old suburban area is a great place to stay with kids, as it's quiet and relaxing with a lot to explore. There's an aquarium, a planetarium, and an old cemetery, as well as a monthly fair in honor of St. Jude and a church square with great street food.

Local tip

A local group gathers at Jardín Santuario every Thursday at 7:30pm to skate all over the neighborhood. Anyone with roller skates is welcome!

Safety

Tourists (Centro Histórico)

Photo

https://unsplash.com/photos/cGOkS_UvttU (Roman Lopez)

<u>Tags</u>

Historic Center, Tourists, Museums, Architecture

Description

The historical heart of this five-century-old city. It holds the lion's share of major tourist attractions, but its bustling energy doesn't detract from the provincial town vibe. Weekends will still find locals gathering around the main square's bandstand for ice cream and free entertainment.

Local tip

Most of the museums around here are free if you show a student or teacher ID at the entrance.

Safety

:ring: Don't wear jewelry, and beware of pickpockets – that's everywhere, but especially here

6.

Tech & finance (Avenida de las Américas)

Photo

Tech and finance.jpg by Santiago Ramirez

Backups: https://share.icloud.com/photos/013hMT5KpFjWo4F1hHfbyTnFw

<u>Tags</u>

Golf, Offices, Skyscrapers, Elite, Luxury hotels

Description

A combo of Wall Street and Silicon Valley, this business quarter features a golf club, upscale restaurants for meetings, and skyscrapers that tech companies call home. With all these amenities, closing a deal should be as easy as taking a shot of tequila.

5.

Local tip

This area has the best hotels in Guadalajara! Also check out City Market in Plaza Patria, a fancy store selling everything from the basics to caviar and Kobe beef.

Safety

7.

Premium GDL (Andares, Puerta de Hierro)

Photo

https://share.icloud.com/photos/09eMrxvru6MPjIWy9XE-6ctTA https://share.icloud.com/photos/0bbMVES9ibRsn7vLDft6Xd1Tg

<u>Tags</u>

Elite, Shopping, Parks, Skyscrapers

Description

Just decades ago, this was a cornfield, but now it's home to the country's 1%. Check out Los Colomos for fresh air and greenery, or the Paseo Andares for upscale shopping and celeb-spotting. At night, if you pass the vibe check, they might even let you into one of the exclusive nightclubs north of the mall.

Local tip (when relevant)

Try a pampered movie experience at the Cinépolis VIP theater.

Safety

-

8.

LGBTQ+ (From Av. de la Paz to Av. Hidalgo)

Photo

https://share.icloud.com/photos/03ekDZ0Y26vErfaXymxZrvOtA

Tags Bars, Nightlife, LGBTQ+

Description

Tradition and modernity coexist here in the city center: a monastery-turned-art-gallery stands just behind one of the largest and most famous gay clubs in the city. Pride is the name of the game. While you're in the neighborhood, be sure to check out the late-night, rainbow-striped "Tacos Gay" stand.

Local tip (when relevant)

Visit Taco Fish La Paz – it has some of the best fish tacos in Mexico. <i>Taco Chronicles</i> on Netflix filmed their "Pescado" episode at the restaurant's Baja California Sur location.

Safety

:last_quarter_moon_with_face: Don't walk alone here at night

9.

Old & new (Zapopan)

Photo

https://www.shutterstock.com/es/image-photo/monuments-basilica-zapopan-jalisco-mexic o-771107185

<u>Tags</u>

Religion, Restaurants, Markets, Pilgrims

Description

A Catholic basilica and pilgrimage site forms the heart of this old suburb, which is technically the second-largest city in Jalisco. Recent modernization hasn't dispelled the traditional vibes, and it's a great place to try a local favorite – the traditional Wixárika drink <i>tejuino</i>, made from fermented corn dough.

Local tip

Zapopan's Akron Stadium will be part of the 2026 World Cup! It's also the home of C. D. Guadalajara ("las Chivas"), one of the most important soccer teams in Mexico.

Safety & alerts

Food town (Minerva, Los Arcos)

Photo

https://www.shutterstock.com/es/image-photo/los-arcos-architecture-monuments-city-guad alajara-1765528358

<u>Tags</u>

Restaurants

Description

Minerva, goddess of wisdom, might prefer that the area where her statue stands be known for intellectual rather than gastronomic delights. But it's your vacation, not hers! Enjoy both the traditional and the reinvented dishes served up here. Bonus: you'll have your choice of hotels nearby, so you can lie in bed and digest.

Local tip

For a shot at getting into the best restaurants, make a reservation.

Safety

11.

Indigenous arts (Tonalá)

Photo

https://share.icloud.com/photos/0f248B6RdcnEmWBbaSI04Dsfw

<u>Tags</u>

Culture, Markets, Traditions

Description

The region's last indigenous kingdom was located here, and the area has preserved its culture with pride. You'll feel that in the air when you visit the massive handicraft market or go up on Cerro de la Reina, a huge hill with a monument to Queen Cihualpilli and a great view of the city.

Local tip

The craft market here is THE place to come for souvenirs. It takes place every Thursday and Sunday.

Safety

Classic sights

1.

Guadalajara Cathedral

Photo

https://www.shutterstock.com/ru/image-photo/guadalajara-cathedral-assumption-our-ladymexico-1087327421

Coordinates

20.677084174910323, -103.34697327345786

Description

In a city of exquisite churches, this is the queen. She's been through a lot, from fire to several earthquakes. Centuries of construction and reconstruction have made the facade gorgeously unique, but beauty is more than skin deep: step inside to be enchanted by dazzling art and architecture.

Local tip

The cathedral has a public light show every Thursday, Friday, and Saturday at 8:15pm, 9:15pm and 10:15pm. Also, one block away, you'll find Mercado Corona, which specializes in street food and <i>brujería</i> (witchcraft).

Alerts

:point_up: Dress conservatively; men need to remove their hats

Safety (when relevant)

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Website

https://arquidiocesisgdl.org/

Instagram

https://www.instagram.com/explore/locations/361032904/catedral-de-guadalajara/

Plaza de Armas

Photo

https://unsplash.com/photos/dRRr5r-p3es (Roman Lopez)

Coordinates

20.67629119126581, -103.34699473112825

Description

The most iconic of the cathedral's four plazas, this historic square is known for its Art Nouveau bandstand, where you might just catch a free concert. While you're waiting for the music to start, pop into the Governor's Palace to see Orozco murals depicting Miguel Hidalgo, Mexico's Father of the Nation.

Local tip

The local orchestra usually plays here on weekend afternoons. And good news: you no longer need a guide to access Palacio de Gobierno!

Alerts

:point_up: Protests are common by the Palacio, and the building is closed even during small gatherings

Safety (when relevant)

Website

https://visitguadalajara.com/plaza-de-armas

Instagram

https://www.instagram.com/explore/locations/509499989414422/plaza-de-armas-guadalaj ara/

3.

Rotonda de los Jaliscienses Ilustres

Photo

https://unsplash.com/photos/U4a43plYJdM (Roman Lopez)

Coordinates

20.677826965959433, -103.34699473112825

Description

The state of Jalisco's open-air hall of fame is something to behold. The 17-column rotunda is surrounded by 22 expressive bronze sculptures of the region's most illustrious figures.

After a leisurely walk and some photos, pop into the Museo Regional next door for more Jalisco history – including a reconstructed mammoth skeleton.

Local tip

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It looks even better when lit up at night. Most of the 100 tombs are still unoccupied, so if you become an illustrious figure in Guadalajara, you won't need to worry about finding a resting place.

Alerts (when relevant)

Safety (when relevant)

Website

(none)

Instagram

https://www.instagram.com/explore/locations/667492/rotonda-de-los-jaliscienses-ilustres/

4.

Instituto Cultural Cabañas

Photo

https://www.shutterstock.com/image-photo/hospicio-cabanas-cultural-institute-guadalajara -jalisco-514113526

Coordinates

20.677078123553567, -103.33707487949148

Description

This UNESCO-protected sanctuary no longer houses orphans, but its beauty remains. It boasts lofty ceilings, 23 courtyards with citrus trees and roses, and 57 Orozco murals, including the famous <i>Man of Fire</i> in the cupola. If you only make one stop to see Orozco's work, make it this one.

Local tip

There's a cafeteria that opens at 11am and is a good place for coffee. Also, ask the guides in the chapel when they will be starting their tour of the Orozco murals – it's offered in English and Spanish.

Alerts

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:money_with_wings: Paid entry except on Tues
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Safety (when relevant)
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Website

https://museocabanas.jalisco.gob.mx/en/

Instagram

https://www.instagram.com/explore/locations/76477/hospicio-cabanas/

5.

Mercado Libertad

Photo

https://flic.kr/p/81tKAu Dennis Sylvester Hurd

Coordinates

20.675694054956978, -103.33985151364585

Description

Show off your haggling prowess at this market to rule all markets. Whether or not you're in town to shop, you'll get a taste of Mexican material culture while exploring three floors of stalls selling produce, home goods, crafts, and pretty much everything under the sun (or not, since it's indoors).

Local tip

The best time to visit and explore is between noon and 4pm. The first floor is for souvenirs, traditional sweets, and produce; the second is for food; and the third is for clothes and shoes.

Alerts

Avoid this area at night

Website

Instagram

https://www.instagram.com/explore/locations/235656604/mercado-libertad-o-san-juan-de-dios/

6.

Basilica de Zapopan

Photo

https://www.shutterstock.com/image-photo/basilica-de-zapopan-jalisco-mexico-351555995

Coordinates

20.721442982412654, -103.39218980229263

Description

While the cathedral is the symbol of the city, this basilica is arguably its spiritual heart. Every October, a wooden statue of Our Lady of Zapopan is hauled 5 miles (8km) back home from the cathedral in a festive procession. It's both a heartfelt pilgrimage and a massive party.

Local tip

Next to the church is a museum of indigenous Wixárika culture.

Alerts (when relevant)

Safety (when relevant)

Website

https://arquidiocesisgdl.org/

Instagram

https://www.instagram.com/explore/locations/947213517/basilica-virgen-de-zapopan/

7.

Teatro Degollado

Photo

https://www.shutterstock.com/image-photo/degollado-theatre-guadalajara-jalisco-mexico-5 14113499

Coordinates

20.677208003246317, -103.34478878879861

Description

Jalisco's elegant answer to the Palais Garnier and the Bolshoi. Home to the Guadalajara Philharmonic, this theater features a red-and-gold concert hall with five tiers and state-of-the-art acoustics.

Local tip

This is the best place for a morning coffee in the historic center.

Alerts (when relevant)

Safety (when relevant)

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Website

https://sc.jalisco.gob.mx/

Instagram

https://www.instagram.com/explore/locations/386602/teatro-degollado/

8.

Parque Agua Azul

Photo

https://www.shutterstock.com/image-photo/vertical-view-geodesic-sphere-agua-azul-2129 104925

Coordinates

20.659770719652983, -103.34820283112838

Description

City dwellers wilt without visits to a natural oasis, and this is Guadalajara's most popular one. Amid the greenery, you'll find fountains, jogging trails, playgrounds, an outdoor theater, a butterfly house, an aviary, and an orchidarium. But wait, there's more: a paleontology museum with prehistoric fossils!

Local tip (when relevant)

Alerts

:money_with_wings: Paid entry

Safety (when relevant)

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Website

https://bosquesurbanos.mx/bosques/parque-agua-azul

Instagram

https://www.instagram.com/explore/locations/629438480424549/agua-azul/

9.

Parque Zoológico

Photo

https://unsplash.com/photos/MII0ZZjiKNU

Coordinates

20.729061075256823, -103.30697160229249

Description

Families and animal lovers will have a blast at the country's largest and most diverse zoo,

which includes an aquarium, a reptile house, and a "veterinary ranch" where children can meet the animals up close. Don't miss a unique opportunity to see Bengal tigers or get a panoramic perspective from a Sky Zoo cable car.

Local tip

Try to catch one of the earliest safari rides – by midday, the wait will be more than 30 minutes.

Alerts

:money_with_wings: Paid parking

Safety (when relevant)

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Website

https://zooguadalajara.com.mx/

Instagram

https://www.instagram.com/explore/locations/413881181988539/Zoologico%20Guadalajar a/

Or official Instagram account: <u>https://www.instagram.com/zoologicoguadalajara/</u>

10.

Templo Expiatorio

Photo

https://www.shutterstock.com/es/image-photo/famous-blessed-sacrament-temple-guadalaj ara-templo-1310589353

Coordinates

20.673905383326513, -103.35899928879864

Description

Fans of Neo-Gothic architecture, right this way. The facade is gorgeous enough, but the soaring towers and brilliant stained-glass windows are even more stunning from the inside. The clock chimes with German precision at 9am, noon, and 6pm as the Twelve Apostles march out.

Local tip

This is a good place for street food on Sunday afternoons.

Alerts (when relevant)

Safety (when relevant)

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Website

Instagram

https://www.instagram.com/explore/locations/635453/templo-expiatorio/

11.

Museum of the Arts (MUSA)

Photo

https://unsplash.com/photos/MydEvr4qG30 (Roman Lopez)

Coordinates

20.67444121693861, -103.35899946618973

Description

Grab a coffee from the museum cafe, then enjoy a leisurely walk through galleries of Mexican and international contemporary art. Among the highlights are two frescoes by the famous Mexican muralist and Jalisco native José Clemente Orozco.

Local tip

Entrance is free, but check the website for tickets to special exhibitions.

Alerts (when relevant)

Safety (when relevant)

Website

https://www.musaudg.mx/

Instagram

https://www.instagram.com/explore/tags/musaguadalajara/

12.

Los Guachimontones

Photo

https://www.shutterstock.com/ru/image-photo/guachimontones-pyramids-archaeological-si te-mexico-teuchitlan-412771984

Coordinates

20.69628033901682, -103.83632789999999

Description

While Rome was still a republic, the Teuchitlán people were building these mysterious stepped mounds in the Tequila Valley. Why? That's still a hot archaeological debate. Theorize as you take a breather from the big city and explore the ancient heritage of Jalisco.

Local tip (when relevant)

Alerts

:money_with_wings: Paid entry (doesn't include a guide)

Safety

ant: Beware of red ants

Website

https://www.inah.gob.mx/zonas/176-zona-arqueologica-teuchitlan-o-guachimontones

Instagram

https://www.instagram.com/explore/locations/381214986/guachimontones/

Local favorites

1.

Barranca de Huentitán canyon

Photo

https://unsplash.com/photos/NGQfDO4EyuM (Alejandro Barba)

Coordinates

20.72459483681303, -103.29216698787141

Description

This 6-mile (10km) loop trail is as old as the city and plunges 1,706ft (520m) into the canyon depths. It's a great route for getting in touch with nature, but it's also steep – be prepared to sweat! If you'd rather not, you can still admire the landscape from an overlook.

Local tip

Check out the abandoned town at the bottom of the canyon – it's rich with ghost stories! Bring good shoes and plenty of water and snacks. At the trail gate, vendors sell fresh juice and light breakfasts.

Alert

:money_with_wings: If you park on the street, tip the vienevine (valet)

Safety info

:warning: Stick to the trail and don't walk on the train tracks - it's extremely dangerous

Website

(none)

Instagram

https://www.instagram.com/explore/locations/118115260047891/barranca-de-huentitan/

2.

Jardín Mexicaltzingo

Photo

Jardin Mexicaltzingo.JPG by Santiago Ramirez

Backups: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1rZwZYzs2ZqawFYO97xYEnvSD4dtil1Q4

Coordinates

20.666564658106317, -103.35066651744239

Description

The heart of one of the city's oldest neighborhoods, originally settled by Mexica (Aztecs) helping Mendoza in the Mixtón War. It's a prime example of classic Guadalajaran planning: houses gathered around a public garden and church. Nowadays, it's home to delicious street snacks and traditional cantinas.

Local tip

This is the best place to try <i>torta ahogada</i> and <i>lonche de pierna</i>, two famous Guadalajaran sandwiches.

Alert (when relevant)

Safety info (when relevant)

-

Website (none)

Instagram

(none)

Los Colomos park

Photo

https://www.shutterstock.com/es/image-photo/japanese-garden-located-middle-colomos-fo rest-1325429135

Coordinates

20.71024621904129, -103.393504237612

Description

Take a stroll around the lake that local witches supposedly used for rituals back in the day. Maybe you can tap into some of that magic with a yoga session in the Japanese garden, as the fresh pine-scented air mixes with aromas from family barbecues.

Local tip

The cafeteria in the park is a great spot for a coffee, and if you come early enough, you might see some famous local athletes on their morning workouts.

Alert

Safety info

:pouting_cat: Don't pet the animals - their reactions are unpredictable

Website

https://bosquesurbanos.mx/bosques/bosque-los-colomos

Instagram

https://www.instagram.com/explore/locations/245163/bosque-los-colomos/

4.

El Parián cantina

Photo

https://share.icloud.com/photos/0adk7JwT8rSB_heRLyzEqqp5Q

Coordinates

20.63857577815054, -103.31105311102499

Description

For a real Jalisco experience, look no further than Mexico's biggest cantina, which also happens to be the best spot for mariachi! Sit in <i>equipales</i> and nosh on some local food while being serenaded from the main gazebo. Also try a <i>casuelita</i>, this neighborhood's traditional tequila cocktail.

Local tip

With its midday mariachi shows, this is an excellent place for lunch.

Alert

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:red_car: No parking

Safety info (when relevant)

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Website

Instagram

https://www.instagram.com/explore/locations/1025845108/el-parian-de-san-pedro-tlaquep aque/

5.

Seafood market

Photo

https://www.instagram.com/p/CaC85JrOfWn/ Photo 1 square version here @mercadodelmarzapopan

Coordinates

20.731262937574876, -103.39003404059277

Description

Mexico's West Coast is famous for its seafood, so mornings at the Mercado del Mar are a frenzy. After midday, when stores close and restaurants open, the market chaos turns festive as <i>norteño</i> bands wander in to entertain guests.

Local tip

Alert

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Safety info (when relevant)

Website

Instagram

https://www.instagram.com/explore/locations/949351206/mercado-del-mar-zapopan-jalisc o/

Jardín del Santuario

Photo

https://share.icloud.com/photos/05d6gM2Ms0tcWU0FSod9CnbrA

Coordinates

20.684619545619658, -103.34828041274172

Description

A firm reminder that you're in Mexico, this place comes to life at sunset, when the elderly unfold their chessboards, the Latin dancers blast their speakers, and the youth roll in on their skateboards. If you're hungry, there's plenty of Mexican street food, as well as <i>cenadurias</i>

Local tip

A really cheap and safe way to get here is by subway. The station is named after the park.

Alert (when relevant)

Safety info (when relevant)

Website

(none)

Instagram

(none worth looking at)

Panteón de Belén

Photo

https://www.instagram.com/p/CanrUjoJA0j/ @s_tiagor

Coordinates

20.687628968971588, -103.34483291051497

Description

Enter the Land of the Dead like in <i>Coco</i>. Let the city's oldest cemetery take you on a spooky excursion through Mexican folklore and history. With bats and cats in your entourage, a nighttime ghost tour of the mausoleums and chapels can turn into a Who's

6.

^{7.}

Who of historical figures.

Local tip

Come on the Day of the Dead to see Mexico's unique customs come to... life? When you visit, bring a little toy for Nachito, one of the cemetery's ghosts – the cemetery admins will pass it on to the children's hospital.

Alert

:point_up: Tour groups only, but no need to book – just come 10 minutes before the tour starts

Safety info (when relevant)

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Website

http://sic.gob.mx/ficha.php?table=museo&table_id=1611

Instagram

https://www.instagram.com/explore/locations/254168684744824/panteon-de-belen/

8.

Biblioteca Iberoamericana

Photo

https://share.icloud.com/photos/0937vKnJD7wYVmWZfGSP8hNsg https://share.icloud.com/photos/05088ZeU-JBdoOZ0DgtE3OheQ

Coordinates

20.675725790804478, -103.34857683742867

Description

This charming library dedicated to Iberoamerican culture and literature provides that quiet city moment you need. Not in the mood to read? Look up and admire the murals by David Alfaro Siqueiros, one of Mexico's three most famous muralists. Or just watch some cat videos – there's free wifi.

Local tip

In the evening, clowns, magicians, and mimes perform on the library square.

Alert (when relevant) :point_up: ID required to enter

Safety info (when relevant)

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Website

Instagram

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https://www.instagram.com/explore/locations/1016004213/biblioteca-iberoamericana-octav io-paz/

9.

Cantina la Fuente

Photo

https://share.icloud.com/photos/0d9PcLPSI7IOL3IdPVanClu-A

Coordinates

20.67774741485034, -103.34576245024465

Description

Before coming to the city's oldest cantina, learn the more famous cantina songs – otherwise you'll be the only one not singing along. Have a drink cooled on the traditional ice blocks, order classic snacks, and be warned – tequila and ballads are a tearjerking combination!

Local tip

Though it's open 12pm-12am the whole week, it's best to come on a Friday or Saturday. At 8:30pm, it gets crowded – but the sound of all those voices is amazing.

Alert

-

:red_car: No parking garage nearby

Safety info (when relevant)

Website

Instagram

https://www.instagram.com/explore/locations/1047062/cantina-la-fuente-centro-gdl/

Las 9 Esquinas

Photo

https://share.icloud.com/photos/051dWvyfiLZDyovORIMmu5gxQ

Coordinates

20.67040370727103, -103.3485510296172

Description

This small, romantic plaza with a fountain used to have a train station spilling hungry passengers into nearby restaurants. The station's gone, but the restaurants still serve the city's specialty – birria, a spicy stew made with goat or lamb. In spring, hit the fruit market for pitaya, a local relative of dragonfruit.

Local tip

The best birria restaurants close around 11:30am, so come early.

Alert

:last_quarter_moon_with_face: Can be unsafe after 9pm

Safety info (when relevant)

-

Website

(none)

Instagram

https://www.instagram.com/explore/locations/1982103/birrieria-las-9-esquinas/

Hashtag to avoid that specific birrieria: https://www.instagram.com/explore/tags/las9esquinas/

11.

Tequila

Photo

https://www.shutterstock.com/es/image-photo/farmer-on-his-horse-walking-agave-140357 6927

Coordinates

20.885273385274946, -103.83929366640376

Description

<i>Jose Cuervo, you are a friend of mine...</i> Explore the legendary liquor's hometown by visiting small, locally-owned tequila distilleries, learning the production process, and – of course! – enjoying some samples. If drinking isn't your thing, remember this is a UNESCO heritage site, and the sprawling agave fields look great in photos.

Local tip

Buy a spot on a day tour for a ride there and back – you won't be behind the wheel. And you know what that means.

Alert (when relevant)

-

Safety info (when relevant)

:warning: Seriously, don't drink and drive – the legal BAC here is 0.4, there are several checkpoints on the way back, and the consequences are severe

Website

(none)

Instagram

https://www.instagram.com/explore/locations/87876159/tequila-jalisco/

12.

Malecón de Ajijic walkway

Photo

https://www.shutterstock.com/es/image-photo/photo-ajijic-boardwalk-lake-chapala-backgro und-1874585929?id=1874585929&irclickid=1a1SB9UdwxyIR6kwyV3cAyPpUkGWgL1W9 QNqVE0&irgwc=1&utm_medium=Affiliate&utm_campaign=Curly%20Eskimo&utm_source =13749&utm_term=photo-search-top&c3ch=Affiliate&c3nid=IR-13749

Coordinates

20.296641659729428, -103.26394137758489

Description

Locals love the harbor for picnics and birthdays, but if you haven't been invited, you can still have a fine day strolling the historic town and waterfront and eating traditional ice cream. If you're lucky and it's a clear day, you might see the Colima volcano's white peak to the south. Bring mosquito repellent!

Local tip

If you walk a few blocks north of the harbor toward the downtown area, there are a lot of good places to eat.

Alert (when relevant)

Safety info

:no_entry_sign: No swimming

Website

(none)

Instagram

https://www.instagram.com/explore/locations/220381383/malecon-de-ajjjic/

Instaspots (10-12+)

1.

Andares Centro Comercial

Coordinates

20.711304453481706, -103.41217687670397

Photographer's tip

While the mall looks great all day, the best light is around 6:30pm. Get pictures at Paseo Andares, then grab a frozen yogurt at NIEVA on the second floor. That's another good place for pictures, since it's outdoors and has great lighting.

Alert + safety info Paid parking

Instagram geotag https://www.instagram.com/explore/tags/paseoandares/

2.

The Landmark

Coordinates

20.7084949552642, -103.4129156153408

Photographer's tip

One of the city's most luxurious spots, with good places to eat, drink, and shop. Look out from the third floor between the taller buildings to capture a variety of views.

Alert + safety info

🚗 Paid parking

Instagram geotag

https://www.instagram.com/explore/locations/1032213999/the-landmark-guadalajara/

3.

Midtown Jalisco

Coordinates

20.695073838773087, -103.37519814602238

Photographer's tip

The best time for pictures is before noon. Shop and dine in style while keeping your eyes peeled for cool photo spots. My favorite is the pool with trees above the underground parking lot.

Alert + safety info

Raid parking, cash only

Instagram geotag

https://www.instagram.com/midtown.jalisco

4.

Matute Remus Bridge

Coordinates 20.66486044035691, -103.39374352291739

Photographer's tip

The best photos can be taken from under the bridge: head there in the early morning to beat the crowds or at night to see the bridge lights change up.

Alert + safety info

:warning: Don't go alone, and watch out for cars

Instagram geotag

https://www.instagram.com/explore/tags/puentematuteremus/

Pannarama facade

Coordinates

20.697929590737733, -103.3729309952085

Photographer's tip

Locals call this the 1500 Tower and the Letters Tower for its facade. Go in the afternoon for the best light, and follow the photo session up with a tropical drink at one of the restaurants.

Alert + safety info

🚗 Paid parking

Instagram geotag

https://www.instagram.com/pannaramagdl

6.

Los Colomos Japanese Garden

Coordinates

20.705021316091518, -103.39225005117288

Photographer's tip

The softest lighting is at 9am. You'll probably see a lot of people exercising, and watch out for squirrels – they're everywhere.

Alert + safety info

A Paid parking

:last_quarter_moon_with_face: Avoid at night

Instagram geotag

https://www.instagram.com/explore/locations/215926539/jardin-japones-colomos/

7.

5.

Minerva Roundabout

Coordinates

_

20.67438861628286, -103.38740480027454

Photographer's tip

The best light is in the morning. The statue is one of the most important symbols of the city, so it can get crowded!

Alert + safety info

Instagram geotag

https://www.instagram.com/explore/locations/108071337425591/glorieta-de-la-minerva/

8.

Lineal Pablo Neruda Park

Coordinates

20.6985627069356, -103.37676785769236

Photographer's tip

Best come early, when there's good light and fewer cars. Grab a coffee as you walk around hunting for interesting angles. You probably won't find them at night, so make the most of the daylight!

Alert + safety info :red_car: Paid parking

Instagram geotag https://www.instagram.com/explore/locations/29778045/parque-lineal-pablo-neruda/

9.

Punto Sao Paulo

Coordinates

20.702002941494158, -103.37643530259409

Photographer's tip

This mall still has the garden from when it was a private house. Start taking pictures from outside the parking lot with the street's beautiful restaurants as a backdrop, then enjoy the shopping and good food.

Alert + safety info

:red_car: Paid parking; valet available

Instagram geotag <u>https://www.instagram.com/punto_saopaulo/</u> Or <u>https://www.instagram.com/explore/locations/264464578/punto-sao-paulo/</u>

10.

Arcos Vallarta

Coordinates

20.6744577889929, -103.38479674358133

Photographer's tip

Be sure to take pictures from multiple angles to capture the whole scene. The best light will be early in the morning as the sunrise streams through the arches.

Alert + safety info

A Watch out for cars – look both ways

Instagram geotag

https://www.instagram.com/explore/locations/989613941/arcos-vallarta/ Or https://www.instagram.com/explore/tags/arcosvallarta/