

Guadalajara

Sports

Charrería

Named to UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage List, the sport of charrería (Mexican rodeo) is considered a "living history" of Mexico and the country's national sport. Charrería dates back to the 1500s with the herdsmen in the state of Jalisco when Mexico's haciendas were widespread. The first charrería evolved from ranch work competitions between neighboring haciendas. As haciendas began to break up after the Mexican Revolution, charros (horsemen) saw their traditions slipping away, so they formed the National Charros Association in the 1920s to keep charrería alive. Today, it is an art form that demands constant training and practice.

Today's Charrería, consists of nine events called suertes designed for men and one event dedicated to women called escaramuza. All of the events use horses and cattle, often incorporating both, and consist of horse riding, roping, and cattle handling. An important component of the sport is the traditional charrería clothing which for men includes a fitted and decorative suit, leather boots with spurs, and sombrero. For women, the traditional uniform is a colorful and full dress with a sombrero. Two or more teams compete against each other during one charrería match and are judged based on their style and execution throughout the nine events. Live charrería shows are popular in Guadalajara and can be found throughout the city year-round. Guadalajara also hosts the Mexican National Charro Championship, held as part of the International Mariachi and Charrería Festival every year.

Club Deportivo Guadalajara

Club Deportivo Guadalajara, commonly known as Las Chivas Rayadas del Guadalajara, is a professional soccer club based in Guadalajara. The team was founded by Edgar Everaert, who arrived in Mexico in 1906. In 1908, with the approval of Everaert and the players, the team was renamed as Club Deportivo Guadalajara to reflect a sense of loyalty within Guadalajara's locals. In that same year, the team declared it would only field Mexican-born players. Today, Club Deportivo Guadalajara remains the only football club in Mexico to exclusively field Mexican players, and is one of Mexico's most successful and popular soccer teams, winning numerous championships. The team plays from late summer to fall at Estadio Omnilife located in the Zapopan district of Guadalajara.

Charros de Jalisco

Charros de Jalisco is Guadalajara's official baseball team and a member of the Mexican Pacific League. The team originated with the Pozoleros de Jalisco and officially became the Charros in 1952. From there, a second reincarnation of the Charros team was launched from 1964 and 1975 in which the team won the Mexican League Championship twice. The baseball team was relaunched again in October of 2014 by a group of local entrepreneurs at the newly built Panamerican Athletics Stadium in Guadalajara's Zapopan district. The stadium holds up to 11,000 people, and its modern field is made of synthetic grass. The season runs from October to December and tickets range from 50 to 600 pesos (\$2 to \$30 USD).

Lucha Libre

Lucha libre is a form of professional wrestling developed in Mexico. This lively sport has become an internationally recognized symbol of Mexican pop culture and has a huge contingency of dedicated fans. The history of Mexican wrestling dates back to the 1800s when Enrique Ugartechea, the first Mexican wrestler, developed the Mexican lucha libre style inspired by Greco-Roman wrestling. Today, lucha libre wrestlers are known as luchadores, each characterized by a vibrant outfit including a colorful mask. The wearing of masks in lucha libre wrestling has special significance and matches are sometimes contested in which the loser must permanently remove his mask. Tag team wrestling is especially prevalent in lucha libre, particularly matches with three-member teams, called trios. The sport is made up of various holds and high-flying maneuvers. Matches can be won by pinning the opponent to the mat for the count of three, knocking the opponent out of the ring or by disqualification. Lucha libre performances are held at the Arena Coliseo de Guadalajara in Guadalajara's downtown district on Tuesday and Sunday nights.

For more information on Guadalajara, please visit www.visitguadalajara.com.

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