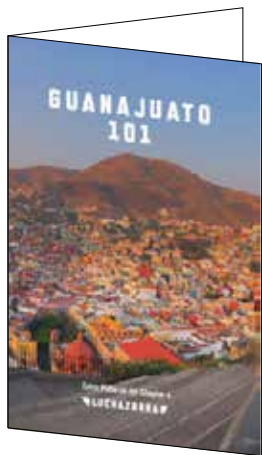
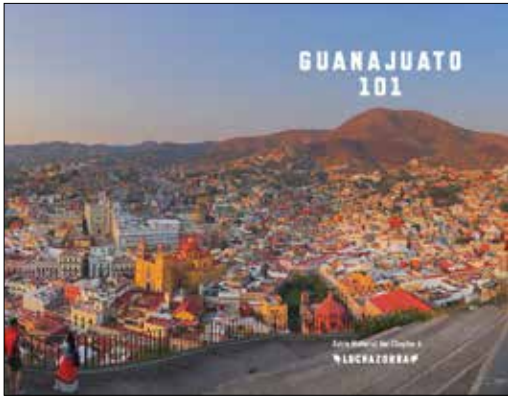
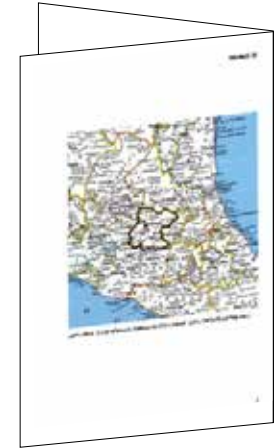


# Creating your booklet:

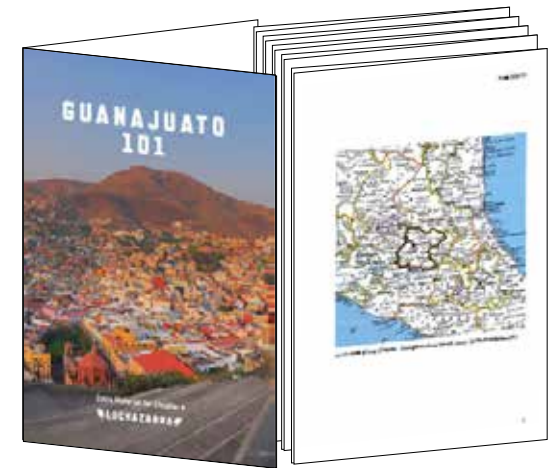
STEP ONE *fold the cover as so:*



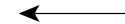
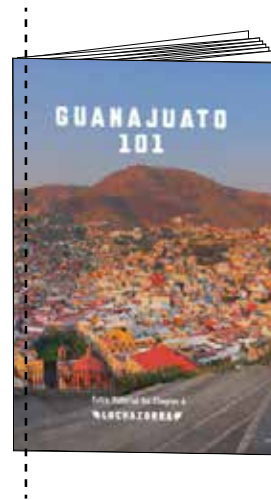
STEP TWO *fold all five interior pages as so:*



STEP THREE *place all pages in order inside your cover*



STEP FOUR *staple 2-3 times along the spine*



# GUANAJUATO 101



Extra Material for Chapter 4

➤ **LUHAZORRA** ⚡





ABOVE detail of map of Mexico; Guanajuato city is starred. (2019, OnTheWorldMap.com).

OUR DEAR LITTLE FOX lives in the city of Guanajuato, the beautiful capital of the central Mexican state of the same name. The state of Guanajuato is part of a region informally known as El Bajío or “the lowlands,” a dynamic, heavily industrialized and service-oriented region that boasts some of the highest levels of education, development, and quality of life in Mexico. In addition to Guanajuato, El Bajío is made up of the states of Jalisco (famous for the production of tequila!), Querétaro, and Aguascalientes.

# Long ago...

*In the times before the arrival of the Spanish conquerors, the current territory of Guanajuato was settled by two indigenous civilizations:*

## The Purepecha

Living in the southwest of Mexico, the Purepecha were unique among pre-colonial civilizations for their mastery of metallurgy, which they used both for tools and weapons. It is believed that this is one of the reasons why they were never defeated by the Aztecs.

Did you know that there were no horses in the American continent before the arrival of the Europeans? While many indigenous peoples distrusted or outright feared the never-before-seen horses, the Purepecha were the first to learn how to ride them, and formed a small but effective cavalry unit to both resist and later assist the Spaniards in their conquering exploits.

On the artistic side, the Purepecha were well-known for their mosaics, made delicately with luscious, luxurious feathers of the most colorful birds such as the *quetzal*, and for their construction of T-shaped pyramids.

The Purepecha continue to exist to this day, chiefly in the southwestern state of Michoacán, where they live in the largest numbers around their traditional cities, such as Tzintzuntzan (their former capital) and Pátzcuaro.



ABOVE detail of a Diego Rivera painting, “The Tarascan or Purepechan culture of Michoacán,” housed in the Palacio Nacional de México.



## The Chichimecas

This group lived in the center and north of Mexico. Chichimeca was not actually the name of any single civilization, but rather an umbrella term for a variety of multi-ethnic, multi-lingual tribes characterized by their nomadic nature—which is to say, they had no fixed dwellings and therefore built no cities of significance—and their lax approach to religion when compared to many other Mesoamerican cultures. The Spaniards considered them to be barbarians when compared to the highly developed civilizations they found across Mexico, and the name Chichimeca soon took on a negative meaning akin to “brute,” or “hillbilly.”

Because their territory enclosed extremely rich deposits of silver and gold, they soon came into conflict with the Spaniards, who believed waging war against them to be “just,” due to their perceived hostile nature and refusal to adopt the Catholic religion.

Unlike most Mesoamerican civilizations, which were either defeated by the Spaniards or pledged allegiance to them, the Chichimecas continued to wage war against them for almost the entire 1500s, constantly ambushing and pillaging trade routes or sabotaging military and industrial settlements, especially those dedicated to mining.

Eventually their numbers dwindled, due to both their constant warring and the many diseases introduced by the European settlers, and currently no significant number of them remain in Mexico.

TOP descendants of the Chichimeca tribe dressed in traditional clothing. Photo taken for the “Before They Pass Away” project by photographer Jimmy Nelson. (Copyright Jimmy Nelson. *Misión de Chichimecas, Guanajuato, Mexico*, 2017.)

# Recent history

*Guanajuato has played a key role in the history of Mexico since its establishment at the very start of the 300-year Spanish occupation.*

Did you know there were no pigs or cows in the Americas before the Europeans arrived? There were only turkeys! The Guanajuato region was originally settled by the Spaniards in the 1540s for the purposes of raising livestock.

Within the next three decades, it underwent radical transformation, as more and more mining settlements were built to exploit the vast gold and silver deposits, with large towns and wealthy cities consequently sprouting around them. In addition, many military outposts were established, with the purpose of defending against repeated Chichimeca incursions, which finally came to an end with the signing of a peace treaty in 1590.

By the 1700s the mining boom was still going and better than ever. Over a third of all the silver produced in the world in the past 200 years has come from there! Thanks to this, the city of Guanajuato was granted a royal warrant and its own coat of arms (still borne in the state flag to this day), and the grandiose baroque buildings for which the city is known were built, including the gigantic grain depository

known as the Alhóndiga de Granaditas, a popular tourist attraction and city landmark in modern times.

But this was just the beginning of its storied role in the formation of current-day Mexico. The city was the stage of one of the first major battles of the Mexican War of Independence, a conflict which lasted from 1810 to 1821. During the battle, the Alhóndiga was used as a stronghold by the Spaniards and was sieged by the rebels. The taking of the Alhóndiga was the first major defeat suffered by the Spanish crown, and to the rebels it was a symbol that the war was winnable. El Pípila, a statue on the hill overlooking the city, was created to commemorate Juan José de los Reyes Martínez Amaro, who led this victory against the Spanish.

After the establishment of an independent Mexican nation, decades of infighting between different political and military groups followed, and Guanajuato continued to be at all times an important part of the plans of the different factions. The city saw intense

armed conflict during the Mexican-American War in the 1840s, including an uprising by several generals unwilling to accept the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, a ceasefire signed at the end of the conflict where Mexico ceded over half of its territory to the United States of America, including the modern-day states of California, Arizona, Nevada, Utah, Kansas, Colorado, Wyoming, Oklahoma, and New Mexico.

Later on, after spending the majority of the 1850s constantly changing hands between the infighting liberal and conservative factions of Mexican government, it was occupied again in the 1860s, this time by French-backed Imperialist forces under the short-lived Second Mexican Empire. It was headed by Austrian-born Maximilian of Habsburg, who reigned as Emperor of Mexico from 1864 to 1867, when he was defeated and Mexico's independence was reinstated.

After a period of peace and prosperity lasting for the remainder of the 19th century, the state and the city once again saw armed conflict during the Mexican Revolution, with the biggest event being the Battle of Celaya in 1915.

From the 1920s onward, the state saw significant development, transforming into a center of both industry and culture in the country. The 1970s saw the establishment of the Cervantino Festival, considered to be one of the most important cultural events in the world. It is a massive yearly gathering of poets, writers, intellectuals, actors, musicians and many more artists from all over the world, with events taking place in the fall all over the city of Guanajuato.

*BELOW La Alhóndiga de Granaditas, built in the late 1700s, began as a grain storehouse and market. It has since been used as warehouse, military barracks, prison, and currently serves as a regional museum (2019, Wikimedia).*





# Modern Guanajuato

*So, you ask, what can I see if I visit Guanajuato today?*

A better question would be, my dear reader, what can't you see? With the rich history you just read about, you can surely guess Guanajuato has no shortage of attractions for all ages!

Among the most iconic attractions are the Alhóndiga de Granaditas, nowadays a museum dedicated to the exploits of Independence War heroes, and the colossal statue of its tormentor, El Pípila. El Pípila was the nickname of a humble miner who participated in the armed conflict previously described. Seeing that the rebels were not able to penetrate the thick-walled, heavily-fortified Alhóndiga, he strapped a large stone slab to his back and laboriously crawled towards the doors, with the stone slab serving as a shield against the rain of bullets fired by the Spaniards. Once there, he set fire to the doors, allowing the rebels to swarm the building and claim victory. For this show of heroism, the city commemorated him with an 80-plus foot statue atop a hill overlooking the city, which you can access via a cable car similar to the ones you'd take to get to a ski slope.

The beautiful Teatro Juárez is a large theater built in 1903, featuring elements of Greek, Roman, and Moorish architecture. A sight not to be missed, even more if you can catch a performance!

El Callejón del Beso, or the kissing alley, is the stuff of legend for romantics. It's a really narrow alley, not even three feet wide, atop which you can spot two balconies, belonging to two different houses facing each other, almost touching. It is regularly visited by couples, and sharing a kiss there with one's significant other is said to be an omen of good fortune for the relationship.

That is not all, of course. Among the many amazing museums, the one you absolutely can't miss is the one holding the mummies. Yes, you read that correctly, they don't live only in Egypt! This scary museum holds the perfectly mummified remains of several people whose graves were dug up when the local cemeteries started struggling for space. To everyone's surprise, the bodies were not decayed but perfectly preserved. But, like I told



ABOVE *El Teatro Juárez during the Cervantino Festival. (2017, MexicoDestinos.com.)*

you before, steer clear at night. As El Ciclón can tell you, the mummies don't always feel like staying in their display cases!

In addition to all this, the city boasts a large amount of public squares, parks, public gardens, markets, restaurants, and all kinds of activities to satisfy all tastes.

If you want to explore a bit outside downtown, head to one of the many mines, where you can find fun museums packed with spectacular mineral deposits, or to the nearby dam, where boats can be rented for paddling and fishing. I've heard Luca's dad takes her and her siblings fishing there sometimes!

# Treasure hunt

*Let's hunt down some photos! Find and print out images of the items listed on these next few pages and paste them here. Send photos of your handiwork to [vamos@luchazorra.com](mailto:vamos@luchazorra.com) for a free sticker sheet.*

**Find images of Purepecha and Chichimeca art (some keywords you can search: plumería, mosaico, bordado, tejeduría).**

**Find images of at least two of these Guanajuato landmarks: Alhóndiga de Granaditas, El Callejón del Beso, Teatro Juárez, El Pípila, Las Momias.**