2019 Mazatlán Carnaval!
Schedule of Carnival Events and Calendar

Keep the dates February 28 until March 5, 2019 open... that's Carnaval Week!

Carnival in Mazatlan isn't just about Carnaval Week, it involves an entire year of preparation that becomes heated in the Fall as the holidays draw near and carnival does not seem so far away, and begins to glow white-hot after new year.

Now Carnival is upon us, and mazatlantoday.net would like to wish you a safe and wonderfully fun Carnaval Mazatlan 2019!

Buying 2019 Mazatlán Carnaval event tickets

Tickets for all 2019 Carnival events -- including events held at the Venados baseball stadium -- are on sale at a kiosk outside the Angela Peralta Theater at Plaza Machado from 9am until 3pm and from 5pm until 7pm.

Tickets can also be purchased at Cultura's offices daily from 9am until 5pm.

2019 Mazatlán Carnaval Events

Velada de las Artes
Friday February 22, 2019 / 8pm / 300 - 550 pesos

The Evening of the Arts (Velada de las Artes) is a special annual performance staged at the Angela Peralta Theater the Friday before Carnival.

Sponsored by Cultura Mazatlan, in previous years this exciting event has been conducted by Maestro Enrique Patron de Reuda, and featured performances by Orquesta Sinfonica Sinaloa de las Artes (OSSLA) with Camerata Mazatlan.
Velada de las Artes starts at 8pm, and tickets range from 300 pesos to 550 pesos. Tickets available at the Angela Peralta ticket office.

Muestra Gastronómica food festival at Plaza Machado
Thursday February 28, 2019 / 2pm - 7pm / Free!

The run-up to the main events of Carnaval week in Mazatlan begin at Plaza Machado at about 2pm Thursday with Muestra Gastronomica, a fun outdoor food fest staged in the heart of the Centro Historico.

Restaurants located on and near the plaza prepare all sorts of special munchies and traditional Sinaloan dishes. It makes a great place to relax into Carnaval and get ready for the coronation of the King of Joy just a couple of blocks away on the Olas Altas Malecon at 7:30pm.

Muestra Gastronomica continues every afternoon during carnival.

King of Joy (Rey de la Alegría) Coronation
2019 King of Joy (Rey de la Alegria) Coronation / Upcoming 2019 Mazatlan Carnival Events
Thursday February 28, 2019 (8:00pm)
Parque Ciudades Hermanas / Free!

While most people think of carnival in Mazatlan as beginning on Friday, the festivities actually start on Thursday. All day Thursday the 23rd the Muestra Gastronómica -- food fest -- will be underway in Plaza Machado, and after dark the King of Joy will be crowned on the Malecon overlooking the Sea of Cortez between the Deer Monument and Casa del Marino.

Rey de la Alegria, the King of Joy, is the modern name for the El Rey Feo, the Ugly King.

All the way back to the first official Mazatlan carnivals in 1898 and 1899, this carnaval character was El Rey Feo. In a strikingly modern attempt at politically correct speech he was re-named the King of Joy in 1965.

To some degree the re-branding didn't really stick: many older Mazatlecos still refer to him as Rey Feo...

The Mazatlan King's coronation is always a Banda Bash, and this year the crowd will be entertained by La Banda Carnaval! Let the street party begin!
Floral Games (Juegos Florales)  
Concert and Coronation of the Queen of the Floral Games / Upcoming 2019 Mazatlan Carnival Events  
Friday March 1, 2019 (8:00pm)  
Estadio Teodoro Mariscal - Venados Stadium / 150 - 2,200 pesos

The big carnival concert -- and coronation of the Mazatlan Juegos Florales Queen -- is staged in the Mazatlan Venados baseball stadium.

Juegos Florales ("Floral Games") is always a well-attended event that centers on literature and culture.

Awards are given to contestants who have written the best "flowery verse", the top prize being the prestigious Clemencia Isaura Poetry Award, a nearly 70 year tradition of honoring the best unpublished work from anywhere in Mexico.

The Floral Games event is also where the Mazatlan Prize for the best literary work published in Mexico during the year that precedes the feast is delivered within the framework of the celebrations of Carnival.

This literary award has gained great prestige within Mexico and internationally, with winners including well-known writers such as Ricardo Garibay, Elena Poniatowska, Hector Aguilar Camin, Juan Villoro and Jorge Volpi.

A concert caps the evening of entertainment at the Floral Games, in 2018 it was Latin American sensations Il Divo!

The Floral Games are a beautiful evening, and a highly recommended way to begin Carnaval!

Reina del Carnaval (Carnival Queen) Coronation  
2019 Carnival Queen Coronation / Stadium Event / Upcoming 2019 Mazatlan Carnival Events  
Saturday March 2, 2019 (6:00pm)  
Estadio Teodoro Mariscal - Venados Stadium / 200 - 2,800 pesos

Carnaval Saturday evening festivities begin with the coronation of the Carnaval Queen at the Estadio Teodoro Mariscal / Venados Baseball Stadium.

Alexa Méndez Sarabia was chosen 2018 Mazatlan Carnaval Queen, and reigns until the 2019 Queen is crowned.
Our spectacularly beautiful 2018 Carnaval Queen is Alexa Méndez Sarabia. She is 19 years old and a student of industrial engineering at Universidad Tec Milenio.

Alexa loves music and films, playing soccer and swimming -- her favorite sport.

Alexa's coronation featured a headline concert by Panamanian pop musician and actor Miguel Bosé. Known throughout Latin America as an exciting performer, his recording career spans 5 decades: he released his first recordings in 1975 when just 19 years old and already a teen heart-throb -- as a result of his already-established film career!

A truly joyous event, it is well worth going to Venados stadium and experiencing the coronation for yourself. Big-time fun!

Bad Mood Burning (Quema del Mal Humor)

Traditional Public Event / Upcoming 2019 Mazatlan Carnival Events
Saturday March 2, 2019 (8pm)
Olas Altas Malecon / Free!

A traditional annual Mazatlan Carnaval ritual, the climax of Quema del Mal Humor (Bad Mood Burning) is the incineration of a giant puppet.

Sometimes modeled after an unpopular public figure, sometimes just someone famous, the effigy is hanged and burned -- think massive exploding flaming piñata on steroids.

It is believed that this ritual banishes ill-feeling from Mazatlan.

Quema del Mal Humor / Bad Mood Burning takes place Saturday night of Carnival Week after dark on the Malecon at Olas Altas Beach. The event is very festive and very well attended.

This is a really fun Carnival event: in both 2016 and 2017 the manigote burned at the Mazatlan Carnival was of now United States President Donald Trump...

Naval Combat Fireworks (Combate Naval)

Fireworks at Olas Altas Beach / Upcoming 2019 Mazatlan Carnival Events
Saturday March 2, 2019 (10:30pm)
Olas Altas Malecon / Free along the Malecon!

This fireworks show is a dramatization of the defense of Mazatlan during the French Colonial invasion of 1864.
The pyrotechnics and sounds evoke the cannon fire exchanged during the battle with the French warship La Cordeliere and the British war sloop Charybdis.

Traditional fireworks are now joined by the effects generated by light and laser shows, and this Mazatlan Carnaval fireworks show is arguably the most popular event staged at Olas Altas Beach during carnival.

Inaugural Parade (Primer Desfile de Carnaval)
Parade up the Malecon / Upcoming 2019 Mazatlan Carnival Events
Sunday March 3, 2019 (5:30pm)
From the Fisherman's Monument to Valentino's along the Malecon / Free!

Arguably the most iconic and universally anticipated event within any Mazatlan Carnaval calendar, the Inaugural Parade -- sometimes referred to as carriage float parade -- that is held on Sunday is at the top of every list of recommended carnival attractions.

During the Inaugural Parade the Malecon between the Fisherman's Monument and Valentino's is transformed by the ocean of revelers that line the waterfront.

This parade is northbound starting at the Fisherman's Monument. Its sister parade on Tuesday -- Segundo Desfile de Carnaval -- flows south and returns the carriage floats to the Centro Historico.

Coronation of the Child Queen (Reina Infantil)
Coronation Stadium Event / Upcoming 2019 Mazatlan Carnival Events
Monday March 4, 2019 (6:00pm)
Estadio Teodoro Mariscal - Venados Stadium / 150 - 3,500 pesos

The Child Queen (Reina Infantil) is an important part of carnival in Mazatlan, and her coronation is one big party suitable...for...a...queen!

The tradition of a Child Queen dates from 1921, and the modern event is staged at Estadio Teodoro Mariscal (Venados Baseball Stadium).

In 2018 musical entertainment was provided by the group CD9, one of the most popular bands in Mexico!
Second Parade (Segundo Desfile de Carnaval)
Parade down the Malecon / Upcoming 2019 Mazatlan Carnival Events
Tuesday March 5, 2019 (4:30pm)
Starts at the Aquarium and proceeds south along the Malecon / Free!

The closing parade marks the beginning of the end of the Mazatlan carnival.

Segundo Desfile de Carnaval -- the second and final parade of the Carnaval season -- starts at the Mazatlan Aquarium and flows south along the Malecon to the edge of the Centro Historico.

Far from a time of sadness, this last evening of revelry matches anything that preceded it, and the party continues long into the night!