



The Accidental Mummies of Guanajuato **Exhibition Areas**

A Look Into the Past

Journey back over 100 years to Guanajuato, Mexico, a city known for its rich silver mines, artist Diego Rivera and colonial-era Spanish architecture. Nestled in the mountains of the Sierra de Guanajuato, the historical and picturesque city of Guanajuato is a collage of pastel-colored facades, balconies trimmed with iron work, flower-filled window boxes, cobblestone streets and breathtaking vistas of beautiful churches and plazas.

Death & Transformation

Prepare to meet Guanajuato's most famous residents in a beautiful and unique cemetery. Explore the graceful crypt walls, stately monuments and grave markers filled with poetry to learn about the history and practices of the cemetery, and the rare process of natural mummification. An opening in the wall of crypts offers a preview of the actual mummies who await you.

Life & Lore

It was in 1865 that cemetery workers in the Santa Paula Pantheon exhumed the remains of Dr. Remigio Leroy, and were astonished to find that his body had not decayed, but had instead mummified. Over time, more than 100 of these natural mummies would be discovered during exhumation from their crypts. For the first time ever, discover who the mummies were, how they lived and how they died. See portraits from a forensic artist that show how they looked when they were alive, including illustrations of their faces and clothing. Meet "The Witch" and learn about the custom of dressing deceased children as angels and saints.

Solving Mysteries

Step inside a forensic lab to explore the skeletal structures, internal organs and cellular composition of the mummies through increasingly sophisticated medical science and technology. This area will reveal the secrets of the mummies in fascinating detail through diagnostic tools that include endoscopy, x-ray, computed tomography, molecular analysis and forensic reconstruction. Progressing from "gross anatomy" external examination to molecular structures, then to reconstruction, the forensic lab will feature areas on *How to Read a Mummy*, *The Diagnostic Tool Box* and *The Artist's Eye*.

Celebrating Life & Death

Join a celebration of The Day of the Dead and find out why this holiday is at the heart of Mexican culture. Learn the customs unique to the residents of Guanajuato as they observe this important holiday. See how the mummies have permeated Mexican popular culture. Explore the unique shops of a Guanajuato marketplace selling candies, authentic silver jewelry and souvenirs from the exhibit.