

2018 Mazatlán Carnaval!

Schedule of Carnival Events and Calendar

Keep the dates February 8 until February 13, 2018 open...
that's Carnival Week!

Carnival in Mazatlan isn't just about Carnival 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.

While at the time of this writing Carnival 2018 is still months away, in a very real sense, the 2018 Mazatlan Carnaval has already begun!

Buying 2018 Mazatlán Carnaval event tickets

Tickets for all 2018 Carnival events -- including events held at the Venados baseball stadium -- will be on sale at the Angela Peralta ticket office in the Centro Historico from 9am until 3pm and from 5pm until 7pm.

A kiosk outside the Angela Peralta Theater in Plaza Machado also sells Carnival event tickets from 10am until 1pm and from 3pm until 8pm.

Another option is to buy 2018 Carnival event tickets at the kiosk within the Gran Plaza Mall which will be open from 11am until 8pm after New Year.

Countdown to Ecstasy

Friday February 2, 2018 / 8pm / 300 - 550 pesos

Velada de las Artes, Evening of the Arts special performances

The Evening of the Arts is a special annual performance staged at the Angela Peralta Theater the Friday before to 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**.*

Visit Mazatlan, Sinaloa, at Carnival and experience the party of a lifetime!

Thursday February 8, 2018 / 2pm - 7pm / Free!

Muestra Gastronómica food festival at Plaza Machado

The run-up to the main events of Carnival 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 Carnival 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.

Thursday February 8, 2018 / 7:30pm / 750 pesos

Annual Masquerade Ball / Baile de Fantasía

The annual Carnival Mazatlan costume ball marks the start of Carnival nightlife. Featuring beautiful ambassador-queens from many countries, these women compete for the honor of riding on floats in the inaugural and end of Carnival parades.

Tickets for this event, held at Terraza Las Pargos (Chamelta 230 / Playa Sur), can be purchased at the Angela Peralta Theater ticket office, the ticket kiosk at Plaza Machado or the kiosk at the Gran Plaza Mall.

Filled with music, dancing and wonderful food, this is a Carnival event not to be missed -- unless you need to be at the Carnival King Coronation, which is held pretty much at the same time...

2018 Mazatlán Carnaval Events

King of Joy (Rey de la Alegría) Coronation

2018 King of Joy (Rey de la Alegria) Coronation / Upcoming 2018 Mazatlan Carnival Events

Thursday February 8, 2018 (7:30pm)

Paseo Claussen between the Deer Monument and Casa del Marino / 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 Alegría, 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 carnival 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 2018 Mazatlan Carnival Events

Friday February 9, 2018 (8:30pm)

Estadio Teodoro Mariscal - Venados Stadium / 150 - 1,500 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, and this year it will be the 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

2018 Carnival Queen Coronation / Stadium Event / Upcoming 2018 Mazatlan Carnival Events

Saturday February 10, 2018 (6:30pm)

Estadio Teodoro Mariscal - Venados Stadium / 200 - 2,800 pesos

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

The strikingly beautiful Viviana Carolina Avena Valdez was chosen 2017 Mazatlan Carnival Queen, and reigns until the 2018 Queen is crowned!

This carnival event traditionally includes a concert performance by a major Latin musical artist or group, ¡y este año será la superestrella latinoamericana Miguel Bosé!

Go to the stadium and watch the 2018 Mazatlan Carnival Queen -- Reina del Carnavál -- receive her crown! Big-time fun!

Bad Mood Burning (Quema del Mal Humor)

Traditional Public Event / Upcoming 2018 Mazatlan Carnival Events

Saturday February 10, 2018 (8pm)

Olas Altas Malecon / Free!

A traditional annual Mazatlan Carnival 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 2016 the manigote burned was of Donald Trump...

Naval Combat Fireworks (Combate Naval)

Fireworks at Olas Altas Beach / Upcoming 2018 Mazatlan Carnival Events

Saturday February 10, 2018 (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 Carnival 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 2018 Mazatlan Carnival Events

Sunday February 11, 2018 (5:30pm)

Olas Altas Beach to Valentino's / Free!

Arguably the most iconic and universally anticipated event within any Mazatlan Carnival 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.

Children's Dance (Baile Infantil)

Children's Dance Party and Contest / Upcoming 2018 Mazatlan Carnival Events

Monday February 12, 2018 (10:00am)

Salón Espectaculare / Avenida Camaron Sabalo

What could be more adorable than little children dancing? The Baile Infantil on the morning of the coronation of the Child Queen provides that in spades!

Held at Salón Espectaculare on Camaron Sabalo, this annual event is packed with Mazatlan children enthusiastically dancing to the delight of family and friends.

Lots of prizes are awarded and the creativity of the costumes and choreography is amazing!

Coronation of the Child Queen (Reina Infantil)

Coronation Stadium Event / Upcoming 2018 Mazatlan Carnival Events

Monday February 12, 2018 (6:30pm)

Estadio Teodoro Mariscal - Venados Stadium / 150 - 750 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).

This year musical entertainment will be provided by the group CD9, one of the most popular bands in Mexico!

Festival of Lights Fireworks (Festival de la Luz)

Fireworks along the Malecon / Upcoming 2018 Mazatlan Carnival Events

Monday February 12, 2018 (10pm)

Avenida del Mar / Free!

The Festival de la Luz fireworks show in Mazatlan is unique.

This massive fireworks display is staged all along Avenida del Mar, and draws uncountable numbers of spectators.

The Festival of Lights fireworks in Mazatlan are only rivaled by Rio, New Orleans and Veracruz for the scale and impact of the fireworks display!

Second Parade (Segundo Desfile de Carnaval)

Parade down the Malecon / Upcoming 2018 Mazatlan Carnival Events

Tuesday February 13, 2018 (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!