



# GUADALAJARA

MAY 2026

CINDY & JOSE CASTILLO



## HOTEL SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA

We stayed again at this hotel by the Cathedral San Francisco. It is nestled between downtown and Las Nueve Esquinas where the pitaya vendors come each morning with fresh pitayas. This time we had a room with a balcony and a view of the cathedral! We heard the bell tower every fifteen minutes day and night.

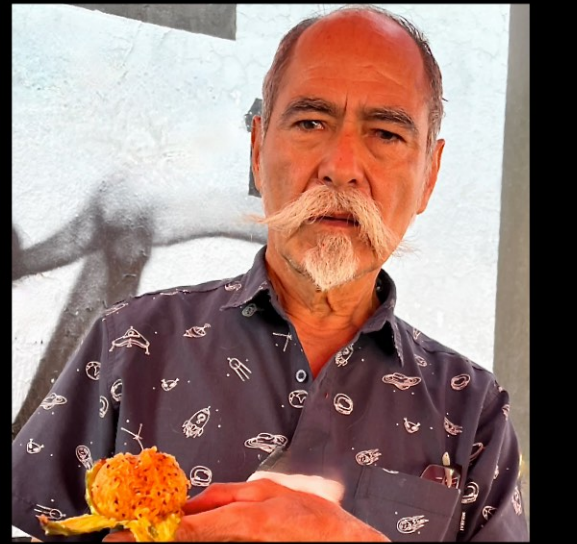




**WORLD CUP COUNTDOWN**

Downtown music and light show on the face of the cathedral and other buildings were magical. Tres leches cake, ice cream and coffee on the plaza.





### PITAYA

Pitayas grow on the organ pipe cactus, harvested nightly, stripped of spines, and brought to market in baskets with alfalfa. Red is the predominant color but they can also be white, pink, yellow, and purple.



## LAGUNILLAS

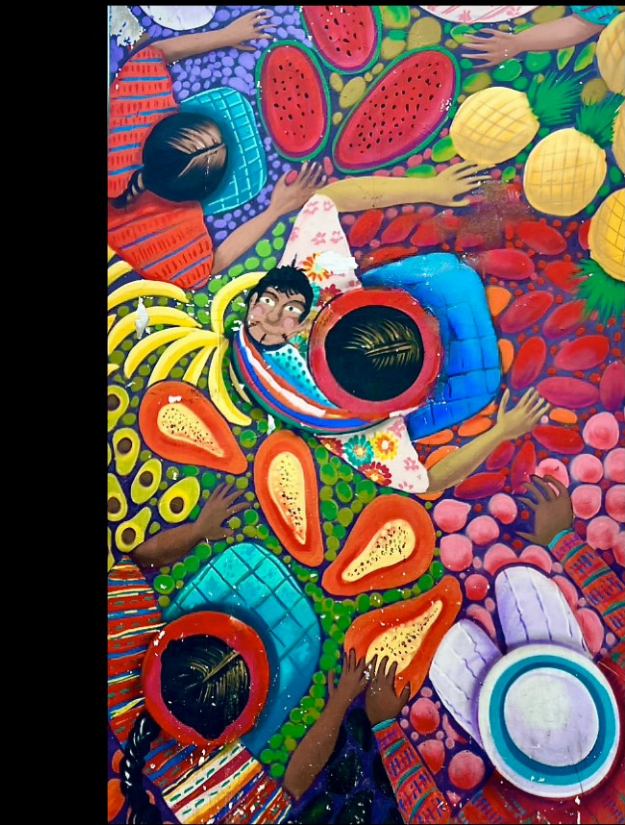
On our way to Lagunillas, the ranch where Jose was born and grew up. We always stop at the store on the outskirts of Ameca to pick up snacks, supplies, and beverages for the bumpy ride through the smaller ranches and villages to reach Lagunillas. We pass by some organ pipe cactus, both natural and planted for harvest.

## RANCH FOOD

Mango, coconut, plum, papaya, and tortilla from multi-colored corn!







MERCADO CORONA



HISTORIC DOWNTOWN GUADALAJARA



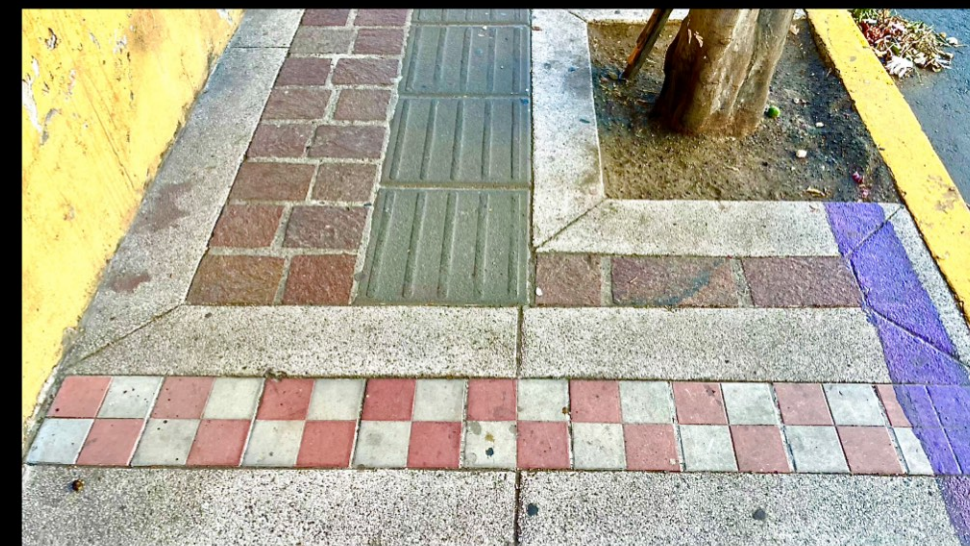


**SAN JUAN DE DIOS  
DOWNTOWN MARKET**





LOTS OF COLOR!





### TONALA

A city just outside Guadalajara famous for its pottery. We enjoyed refreshing coconut water.





## POZOLE

Adios until next year when we come back for more pitayas and family visits. Good luck at the World Cup!



