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White walls of a large building emerge out of a crowded city center. Mountains loom behind the city buildings. The University of Guanajuato was founded in the seventeenth century as a private college and became a public institution after the signing of Mexico's first constitution in 1827. Guanajuato was an important colonial city because of the area's large silver deposits. Silver continues to be a major export, while tourism and industry round out the balance of the economy. The University of Guanajuato has served the city's industry well over the years. the University is known for its excellent technical programs, particularly in mining and engineering. Because Guanajuato was an important colonial site, the city boasts of lavish colonial architecture and a historic city center that is recognized by UNESCO for its cultural heritage.



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