

> MEXICO CITY 1968 VENUES

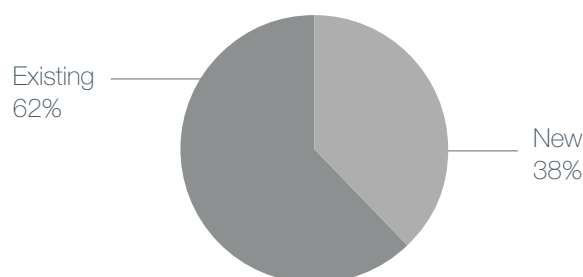


OVERVIEW

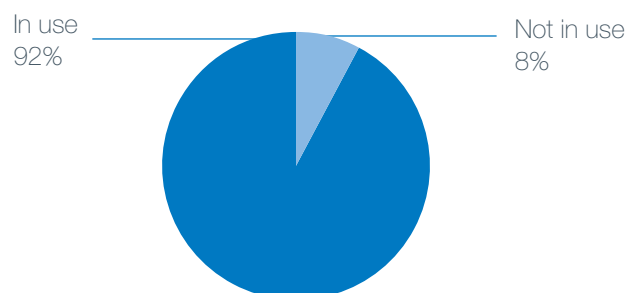
Twenty-three competition venues were used for the Olympic Games Mexico City 1968, 21 of which remain in use today. Fifteen of the competition venues were existing and eight were new. Two of the existing venues have been demolished. All eight of the venues newly built for the Games still host sports competitions and cater for high-performance athletes, sports clubs and the community.

The Olympic Stadium hosted the Opening and Closing Ceremonies and two sports, and continues to be regularly used. The Olympic Village was built for the Games and remains in use.

VENUE CLASSIFICATION



CURRENT USE (PERMANENT VENUES)





MEXICO CITY 1968 VENUES AT A GLANCE

Venue name at Games time	Venue classification at Games time	Use at Games time	Current status
Campo Marte	Existing	Equestrian (jumping, dressage)	In use
Municipal Stadium	Existing	Hockey	In use
University Olympic Stadium	Existing	Athletics, equestrian (jumping), Opening and Closing Ceremonies	In use
Arena México	Existing	Boxing	In use
Azteca Stadium	Existing	Football	In use
Military Camp No. 1	Existing	Modern pentathlon (equestrian)	In use
National Auditorium	Existing	Gymnastics	In use
Ciudad Universitaria Swimming Pool	Existing	Water polo	In use

MEXICO CITY 1968 VENUES AT A GLANCE (CONTINUED)

Venue name at Games time	Venue classification at Games time	Use at Games time	Current status
Insurgentes Theatre	Existing	Weightlifting	In use
Insurgentes Ice Rink	Existing	Wrestling	Not in use (demolished)
Revolution Ice Rink	Existing	Volleyball	Not in use (demolished)
Virgilio Uribe Rowing and Canoeing Course	New build	Rowing, canoe sprint	In use
Francisco Márquez Olympic Pool	New build	Swimming, diving, water polo, modern pentathlon (swimming)	In use
Agustín Melgar Olympic Velodrome	New build	Cycling (track)	In use
Fernando Montes de Oca Fencing Hall	New build	Fencing, modern pentathlon (fencing)	In use
Juan de la Barrera Olympic Gymnasium	New build	Volleyball	In use
Juan Escutia Sports Palace	New build	Basketball	In use
Vicente Suárez Shooting Range	New build	Shooting, modern pentathlon (shooting)	In use
Miguel Hidalgo Olympic Village	New build	Athlete accommodation	In use
Venues outside Mexico City			
Jalisco Stadium	Existing	Football	In use
León Stadium	Existing	Football	In use
Yacht Club	Existing	Sailing	In use
Avándaro Golf Club	Existing	Eventing	In use
Cuauhtémoc Stadium	New build	Football	In use

> THE VENUES UP CLOSE

VENUES IN USE

UNIVERSITY OLYMPIC STADIUM

The 72,000-capacity venue opened in 1952 and was used at the 1955 Pan-American Games. It staged four matches at the 1986 FIFA World Cup and hosted events at the 1975 Pan-American Games and the 1990 Central American and Caribbean Games. Now known as the Estadio Olímpico Universitario, it is the home ground of Pumas Dorados, the American football team of the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM), and football club Pumas UNAM, who play in Liga MX, the top tier of Mexican football. Also used for university track and field competitions and training, the stadium is open for more than 50 days a year and is visited by over a million people annually.

VIRGILIO URIBE ROWING AND CANOEING COURSE

Completed in July 1968 and opened two months later, the six-lane competition course measures 2,200 metres in length and runs from north to south, following the prevailing wind direction. The venue, which also has a training course and permanent seating for 2,100 spectators, is used by several of Mexico City's rowing clubs and is also home to the Mexican rowing and canoeing federations. It stages national and international rowing and canoeing competitions and offers a variety of activities for users.

FRANCISCO MÁRQUEZ OLYMPIC POOL

Situated next to the Juan de la Barrera Olympic Gymnasium, the venue was neglected for several years after the Games, before being refurbished and reopened in 2009 as part of a federal government drive to encourage more people to exercise. It was further renovated in 2018 to mark the 50th anniversary of the 1968 Olympic Games and to enhance its accessibility. A public pool used by residents and local aquatics clubs, it also hosts high-performance training and stages national and international events. The borough and city's sports offices are located in the building.

MUNICIPAL STADIUM

Temporary seating was erected for the hockey tournament and later removed. Renovated in 2014, the venue is now known as the Jesús Martínez "Palillo" Athletics Stadium and is located in the Magdalena Mixhuca Sports Complex. It hosted the Pan-American Sports Festival that same year and was one of the facilities used at the UIPM 2018 Pentathlon World Championships. A multi-purpose stadium, it is currently home to some of Mexico City's American football teams.

AGUSTÍN MELGAR OLYMPIC VELODROME

Part of the Magdalena Mixhuca Sports Complex, this open-air velodrome was renovated in the mid-1990s and refurbished once more in 2016, when an artificial pitch was laid for the use of local soccer and American football clubs. The venue and its surrounding esplanade are used by more than 20,000 people a week for community sports and local events, though the track is no longer suitable for competition and is now mainly used for recreational cycling.

NATIONAL AUDITORIUM

Opened in June 1952, the auditorium was a venue for artistic and cultural events, trade shows, political gatherings and international beauty contests. After being refurbished in the early 1990s, it became one of the most important concert and stage venues in the country. It also hosts photography and art exhibitions.

FOOTBALL STADIUMS

The four stadiums that hosted matches at the Mexico City 1968 men's Olympic football tournament (Azteca Stadium, Jalisco Stadium, Cuauhtémoc Stadium and León Stadium) all remain in use. Home to clubs playing in Mexican football's top three divisions, they were all used at the 1970 and 1986 FIFA World Cups. The 87,000-capacity Azteca was the venue for the final at all three competitions and is one of three Mexican stadiums in the running to host matches at the 2026 FIFA World Cup, to be hosted jointly by Mexico, the USA and Canada.

MIGUEL HIDALGO OLYMPIC VILLAGE

All of its 904 apartments, which served as accommodation for athletes and the press at Games time, were sold on the open market after the Games were over, a strategy pursued by subsequent Olympic host cities. Though demand was initially low, the apartments are still occupied by local residents today. They command higher prices than in other parts of the city because of their historical value.

A second village (Narciso Mendoza Olympic Village) was built to house event officials and Cultural Olympiad participants. Its 686 houses and 470 apartments were also made available on the market after the Games and remain occupied today.

VENUES IN USE

INSURGENTES ICE RINK

Also used as a concert venue, the rink formed part of a shopping centre that was opened in 1962 and demolished in the 1970s. The site is now occupied by a hotel.

REVOLUTION ICE RINK

One of Mexico City's first ice rinks, the venue was built to promote ice hockey. It was remodelled for the 1968 Olympic Games. Afterwards, it became a well-known wrestling venue specialising in "lucha libre", a style that enjoys great popularity in Mexico. It held its last wrestling match in June 1997 and was demolished a few weeks later. The site is now occupied by a petrol station.

> DID YOU KNOW?

The largest facility of its kind in Mexico, the Magdalena Mixhuca Sports Complex covers an area of 192 hectares. It comprises four Olympic venues: the Fernando Montes de Oca Olympic Fencing Hall, the Juan Escutia Sports Palace, the Jesús Martínez Palillo Athletics Stadium and the Agustín Melgar Olympic Velodrome.

The Olympic Stadium forms part of the UNAM Campus, which was added to UNESCO's World Heritage List in 2007. The stadium's main entrance is adorned by a vast natural stone mural created by celebrated Mexican artist Diego Rivera.

The Olympic Stadium set new design standards and provided the inspiration for Rome's Olympic Stadium and Tokyo's National Stadium, built respectively for the 1960 and 1964 Olympic Games. The Agustín Melgar Olympic Velodrome was once one of the fastest tracks in the world and saw no fewer than 30 world records set before its wooden track was replaced by a concrete one in 1997.

The National Auditorium has twice been voted best international venue, receiving the Pollstar Award in the category in 2002 and the Billboard Touring Award in 2006.