

Day of the dead



MEXICO

THE 1ST AND 2ND OF NOVEMBER

Day of the Dead

A day to welcome your ancestors



Origin

One of the most important celebrations in Mexico lasts two days. They celebrate the “Day of the Dead” on the 1st of November (All Saints’ Day) and the 2nd of November (All Souls’ Day). The origin of this festivity is religious, many thousand years ago the Aztec, Toltec and other indigenous people celebrated this day.

CLOTHES

They remember past lives, but also they celebrate the continuity of life. To show that joy, they wear colourful dresses to walk around the town at night. People usually wear long dresses or trousers, hairbands, hats, necklaces or earrings full of flowers and a lot of makeup on their faces with the design of the most famous skull in Mexico: “La Catrina.”



MUSIC



This day could be sad for you, but in Mexico, this day is full of colour and music everywhere. In order to remember their ancestors they play popular and folk songs, the most famous ones are “La Llorona” and “Remember Me.”

ACTIVITIES

There are many traditional activities to do during the Day of the Dead. First, Mexicans create an altar at home with objects and photographs of their loved ones. Then, when they get dressed, they get together and go on a parade around town. They visit local cemeteries in order to clean and decorate the graves of their families.



DECORATIONS

All towns in the country get ready for this celebration. Local markets are the perfect place to buy items to build an “ofrenda” table. They decorate own altars with colourful paper, Catrina skulls, crosses and religious symbols, candles, small toys and personal objects, colourful pots with food and water and a lot of Marigold petals (an orange flower). People also decorate streets with many stalls to buy the pieces they need to create their altar and “papel picado,” they are cut-outs with many different patterns.



FOOD AND DRINKS

In this country it is impossible not to eat.

In each corner you can find caramelized pumpkin and sugar skulls. The most typical food is “Pan de muerto” a sweet bread made of seeds and decorated with bones and skulls in the middle. To drink they can give you hot chocolate or “atole” (a warm drink made of water, sugar, corn flour, cinnamon and vanilla).



IT ISN'T SCARY

Now you know that the Day of the Dead is not scary at all. It is a religious and also a familiar celebration to remember your ancestors. So, grab your luggage and travel to the world of “Coco” a Disney film that shows the atmosphere of this day. Then, put the Catrina makeup on and get dressed, sing “Remember me” and eat sugar skulls with your family to enjoy this day to the fullest.



You can leave a comment
to know more about this
fantastic Mexican
festivity.





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