

D·O·W·D·L·E

DAY OF THE DEAD™

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DAY OF THE DEAD

Make no mistake here; what you're about to experience is not the Halloween holiday being exaggerated, overblown, or presented as over-the-top. This is Day of the Dead, a huge holiday focused on families celebrating their deceased relatives coming back to visit the land of the living. Dating back nearly 3,000 years ago, families still gather together to respect, cry and laugh along with their ancestors. That's why instead of skeletons portraying death in a fearful way, they signify how death is part of life, or another way of looking at it, we can laugh in the face of death. Day of the Dead is celebrated from November 1st through the 2nd, with people, skeletons smiling and a few famous faces filling the streets. So come on down to Mexico City in this folk art puzzle and party until dawn!

1. Families will clean and decorate ofrendas, or altars, with all of the deceased relatives favorite foods, drinks, photo, and if a child, toys.
2. It is believed that the spirits of the dead visit the living during the celebration and Aztec marigolds' vibrant colors and pungent scent guide those spirits to their altars and families.
3. Frida Kahlo is considered one of Mexico's greatest artists who, despite being severely injured in a bus accident, painted striking self-portraits. After her death, in the 1970's, many viewed her as an icon of female creativity.
4. Papel picado are sheets of paper, cut with elaborate designs, that hang high overhead as many holidays are celebrated; weddings, quinceañeras, and of course Day of the Dead. It came from when the Aztec people first chiseled spirit figures into bark.
5. Pan de Muertos, or Bread of the Dead, is a soft sweet bread shaped like a bun, traditionally decorated with bone-shaped pieces on top. Families bring dozens of them to decorate deceased relatives' graves.
6. Almost as abundant as marigolds, the skull sugar candy, or calavera de azúcar, is placed as decoration on altars, homes, streets, and basically anywhere you look.
7. Did you know that Mariachi bands have been around since the 18th century? They have evolved into an iconic of merry music and exciting clothing that brings a smile to faces all over the world.
8. La Santísima Church was built between 1755 and 1783 as a temple for the adjoining hospital/hospice for priests.
9. Enrico Martínez, was cosmographer to the King of Spain, interpreter for the Spanish Inquisition, publisher, and hydraulic engineer. A monument was dedicated to him, standing today in the historic center of Mexico City.
10. On February 2, 1656, The Metropolitan Cathedral of the Assumption of the Most Blessed Virgin Mary into Heaven was finally finished. Whew! That's a mouthful to say. Standing as the largest cathedral in the Americas, it's situated atop the former Aztec sacred precinct near the Templo Mayor on the northern side of the Plaza de la Constitución in Downtown Mexico City.
11. Ex Teresa Arte functioned as a convent of Santa Teresa la Antigua and the Monastery of San José de las Carmelitas Descalzas. It's original name before 1998 was X'Teresa Arte Alternativo.
12. The Temple of Saint Agnes, or Templo de Saint Inés, was built in the Baroque style in 1600, but was remodeled in the neoclassic style near the end of the 18th century.
13. Thanks to its grand size, and its large square called Zócalo, Mexico City celebrates Day of the Dead with a gigantic parade with gorgeous masks and puppets dancing through the streets.