

## MEXICAN CUSTOMS AND TRADITIONS

[Mexican culture](#) is marked by the influence of the Mayas, Aztecs and Iberian communities. Spain had colonized Mexico for 300 years. The United States too, has influenced the culture of Mexico to a great extent. These influences are reflected in the customs and traditions of the country. There are many interesting traditions that have been forgotten with time. Being receptive and open to the cultures of different communities, Mexican culture has developed a special flavor of its own. As a result, the customs and traditions followed in Mexico are varied and diverse.

### **Traditional Music**

The [traditional music](#) in Mexico, is diverse in its form and every region has a different flavor of folk music.

### **Weddings**

In Mexico, there is a tradition to have Godparents for the marriage ceremonies, who sponsor the wedding and also the benefactors of the newlywed couple. The couple is gifted with a Bible and a rosary by their Godparents. There is a custom in Mexico to tie a 'lasso' around the necks of the couple during the marriage ceremony. It signifies the bonding and love between them.

### **[Cinco de Mayo](#)**

It marks the victory of Mexico over France, in the 'Battle of Puebla' on the 5th of May, 1862. On the fifth day of May every year, people celebrate, in memory of the victory. The major activities carried out on the day are to educate the youth about the importance of the day. Exhibitions featuring the crafts and artwork, that signify the importance of the day, are organized on a large scale in Mexico.

### **Christmas**

The specialty of the [Christmas](#) celebrations in Mexico is the procession known as 'La Posada'. During the procession, 'the search of shelter by Mary', the mother of Jesus, is enacted. The 'Flame leaf' or the Poinsettia, holds great importance in the Christmas celebrations in Mexico. 'La Misa Del Gallo' is the term used for the midnight mass, that takes place in Mexico at the time of Christmas. People sing lullabies for the newborn Jesus at the midnight mass.

### **[Aztec Story of Creation](#)**

Tribal people from the central regions of Mexico, are known as the Aztecs. The Mexican people believe in the Aztec story of creation. According to the story, life began in water. Tezcatlipoca, Huizilopochtli, Quetzalcoatl and Xipe Totec were the four Gods who created water and rest of the Gods emerged from the water.

### **New Year Celebrations**

On the eve of New Year, women walk around the streets to collect money at fiestas. People throw money and wish them good luck. People leave a lamb at the entrance of their house on New Year's eve. The passersby, keep money near the lamb in order to wish a healthy new year to the family.

### **Quincenera**

A quincenera is a special ceremony that a girl has when she reaches the age of 15. It is a sign of showing that she is becoming a woman. The ceremony is an optional part because usually you have a ceremony because you get blessed by the priest also while that part of the ceremony you can write a paper about being sorry for all the sins you did and read it aloud to the whole church(your guests) . The party part is where you get to show of your dance skills before the quincenera you learn how to dance any kind of dance you want hip hop, break dancing, merengue, so on. After you choose what type of dance you have to gather some boys who will be willing to dance at your quincenera. Apart from those boys you have to choose a special guy to accompany you for the waltz.

## **Mi Primera Comunion** (My First Communion)

Before you have the ceremony of your first communion, you have to take classes to teach you all the prayers they are called Doctrina in Spanish. Every child has to take two years of Doctrina before they can receive the bread and wine you receive in your Communion ceremony. Doctrina takes place on Saturdays and it lasts only about an hour. So after you take the Doctrina classes you start getting ready for your first communion ceremony. Usually the first communion ceremonies are in May. For this grand ceremony you must pick 1-2 godparents and they will pay for your dress, tiara or crown, your bracelet/necklace, and your party (which takes place after your ceremony). You can invite as many people as you want to your ceremony. After the ceremony most people take pictures with the girl/boy in front of the church where there are flowers and beautiful decorations. When you have your ceremony it's not just you and the pope in private, it is a whole group of people receiving the bread and wine of god. After your ceremony you have the choice of having a party or not, most people like to celebrate the occasion. They don't invite many people though, just the people that went to the ceremony. The party is the best part. You get to have cake and hit a pinata and much more.