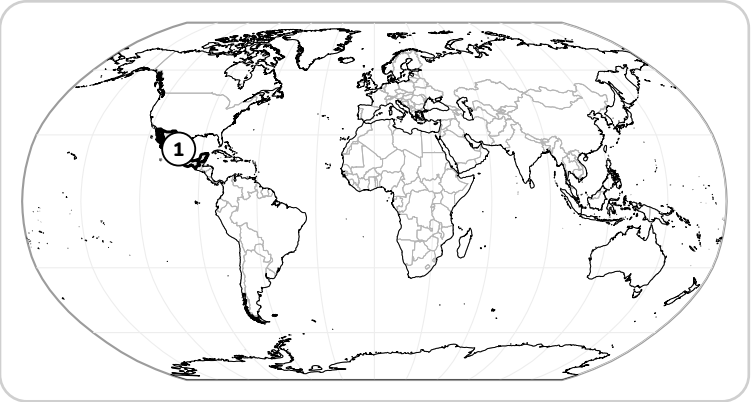
Christmas in Mexico

Stop 1 of 10 | "Feliz Navidad"



Fast facts

Continent: North America

Capital: Mexico City

Language: Spanish

Merry Christmas: Feliz Navidad (feh-LEES nah-vee-DAHD)

Big day: Christmas Eve (Nochebuena), Dec. 24

In Mexico the Christmas season begins on December 16 with **Las Posadas**, nine evenings of celebration that end on Christmas Eve. Posada means "inn" or "lodging." Each night, neighbors walk together through the streets carrying candles, sometimes with children dressed as Mary and Joseph. At each door they sing a song asking for shelter, the way Mary and Joseph searched for a place to stay in Bethlehem. The people inside sing back that there is no room, until at last one house opens its door and everyone is welcomed in for prayer, food and fun.

The fun often includes a **piñata**. A traditional Christmas piñata is shaped like a star with seven points. Blindfolded children take turns swinging at it until it breaks and candy and fruit tumble out.

Many homes display a nativity scene and the red **poinsettia**, a plant native to Mexico that Mexicans call flor de Nochebuena, "Christmas Eve flower." On Christmas Eve families share a late dinner and many attend a midnight church service. The season continues to January 6, Three Kings Day, when children receive gifts in honor of the Wise Men.

Pray for Mexico

Thank God for the believers in Mexico. Ask Him to bless their families and churches this Christmas, and that many would hear the "good tidings of great joy" (Luke 2:10).

Next: turn the page to explore Mexico.

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