

# El día de los muertos

## The Day of the Dead

In Mexico, el día de los muertos is celebrated to honor loved ones that have passed away. It is not a fearful or scary holiday; rather it is a loving ritual, full of joy and remembrance. This holiday is celebrated on November 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>.

El día de los muertos can be celebrated at homes or graveyards. In many homes in Mexico, people create altars with candles, pictures, flowers, and in some occasions, the loved ones' favorite foods. Also, families visit the graveyards where their loved ones are buried. Some come to decorate the graves, similar to the altars, or just to clean the area. Often people tell funny stories about their dead relatives and friends, listen to music, and children wear skeleton costumes.

In other Spanish speaking countries, people go to church and eat traditional Day of the Dead food, such as:

fiambre



calaveras de azúcar (sugar skulls)



hot chocolate



pan de muerto (bread of the dead)



tamales



nísperos (fruit)



calabaza dulce (sweet pumpkin)



mole negro



In Guatemala, some towns make giant kites to fly on the Day of the Dead to decorate the sky and make their dead loved ones happy. It takes up to seven months to finish one kite.

