



DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS



Day of the Dead, in the indigenous vision, implies the transitory return of the souls of the deceased, who return home, to the world of the living, to live with relatives and be nourished by the essence of the food that is offered to them on the altars placed in their honor.

NOVEMBER 1

All Saints' Day, the date on which the "little angels" arrive at noon, who are the souls of those who died as children. On this day all the food is placed on the altar of the dead.

NOVEMBER 2

Known as All Souls' Day, it is believed that it is the souls of the adult dead who come to collect and eat the offerings that their family placed on the altar. Copal incense is burned, and a path is decorated with cempasúchil petals to guide them to the offering.



NOVEMBER 3

The last white candle is lit, copal incense burned, we say goodbye to the souls of our dead and we ask them to come back the following year. The raising of the offering takes place.

Altar



The altar is a fundamental element in the celebration of the Day of the Dead. People believe that the spirit of the deceased returns from the world of the dead to live with the family that day, and thus consoles and comforts them for their loss.

Types of Day of the Dead Altars



- **2 Levels** - Represent Heaven and Earth, symbolizing the connection between the spiritual world and the living.
- **3 Levels** - Add the concept of Purgatory, reflecting the belief in a place between Heaven and Earth where souls are purified.
- **7 Levels** - The most traditional altar, symbolizing the seven steps a soul must take to reach Heaven and rest in peace. Each step carries its own special meaning and elements.

La Catrina is a figure that represents an elegant skull dressed in high-society clothing. It symbolizes the equality of all before death, reminding us that no matter the social status, death is for everyone. Today, it is a festive and cultural symbol that celebrates the memory and respect for the deceased.



CANDLES

They keep vigil throughout the night, illuminating the way for visiting souls.



PAPEL PICADO

Papel picado is brightly colored tissue paper with cut-out designs, and it's one of the most iconic Day of the Dead decorations. The designs are often images of skulls, saints, flowers, and candles.



PHOTOGRAPHS OR PAINTINGS

Families often place portraits of their ancestors and relatives on the altar.



PERSONAL OBJECTS

Families commonly include meaningful items that belonged to the deceased person or that reflect what they liked. This might mean toys for children, an object from the person's profession, or a hobby they enjoyed.



INCENSE

Originally, indigenous people in Mexico used copal incense in their religious ceremonies, made from the resin of trees. Incense is also said to cleanse the air, keeping bad spirits or negative energy away.



WATER

A glass of water is set out to welcome thirsty souls after their long journey back from the afterlife. Water can also symbolize purity.



SALT

Salt is another element of purification. It is sometimes shaped into a cross to represent the four cardinal points (north, south, east, and west).



ARC

Some altars include an arc that stretches along the back of the ofrenda. It can be adorned with flores de cempasúchil or lights.

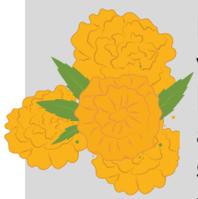


FOOD

Fruits, along with traditional dishes and favorite foods, are commonly placed on altars as symbols of the earth's bounty and to nourish the visiting souls. The aroma of the food is believed to feed their hungry spirits, while drinks are offered to welcome and uplift the adult souls who come to visit.

MARIGOLDS

The cempasúchil flower, also known as the marigold, is a vibrant orange flower. Its bright color and strong scent are believed to guide the souls of the departed back to the world of the living. Often called the "flower of the dead," it decorates altars and graves, symbolizing the fragility and beauty of life.



PAN DE MUERTO

Pan de muerto is a traditional sweet bread baked specifically for Day of the Dead celebrations. Its round shape and decorative bone-like pieces symbolize the cycle of life and death. Often flavored with orange blossom and sprinkled with sugar, it is placed on altars to nourish and honor the visiting souls.



CALAVERA DE AZUCAR

These sugar skulls are decorated with bright icing, foil, and beads, symbolizing the departed souls. They often bear the names of loved ones and are placed on altars as a joyful reminder of life and death.

