

# Christmas In Mexico

Christmas Day for Mexicans is an important holiday season with beautiful traditions.

Christmas festivities begin with “*Las posadas*” on December 16th until December 24th. There are nine consecutive days of candlelight processions where people enact the looking for lodging or shelter for Saint Joseph and the Virgin Mary.

The procession of the *Posada* is headed by a figure of Virgin Mary and St. Joseph, and this symbolizes the journey made by them from Nazareth to Bethlehem.



People dressed as the angels, the three kings, and the shepherds follow them.

Each family in a neighborhood will schedule a night to celebrate “*La posada*” in their home. There is a lot of food and drink, with candies, fruits, and a traditional *piñata* for the children.

When they find the house, the group divides in two groups. One group remains outside and begs for lodging from the other group inside the house. Verses of the *posada* song are exchanged between the two groups. They sing from inside the house: “Enter holy pilgrims, receive this humble corner, that while we know it is a poor lodging, it is given as the gift of heart”.



Finally, the doors are opened and the group inside the house accepts the figures of St. Joseph and the Virgin Mary, and the people go inside.

The Nativity Scene is a very important tradition in Mexico. In most Mexican homes the principal holiday decoration is the nativity scene.

They make “*El Nacimiento*” using a stable where figurines of the Holy Family are sheltered. Included in the scene is an angel, the three Kings, an ox, a donkey, the shepherds and their sheep. The scene is an entire village, which includes artificial trees, palm trees, hills, paper or foil waterfall, a mirror pond, houses, little farms, rivers, lakes, deserts, vendors with carts of vegetables and fruits, etc.