

The most important days in the Mexican Calendar are:

January 1st. New Year.



January 5th is called LA NOCHE DE LOS REYES MAGOS (The night of the King Wizards). Family and friends get together in a very casual way and have a ROSCA DE REYES (like a big doughnut in an oval shape) and HOT CHOCOLATE for dinner. Everybody gets a chance to cut their piece of the ROSCA and inside it has a plastic baby (Jesus) and whoever finds the baby is supposed to invite everyone present to eat TAMALES on **February 2nd,**

(Day of the CANDELARIA, 40 days after Jesus is born). Normally you can find 2 to 8 babies inside the bread, and it is done more for the fun of it than really for making another party. What is most important here is the next day, children go to sleep on January 5th and leave a shoe next to the NACIMIENTO, (A Nativity, a small representation of the birth of Christ) and receive presents the next day

May 5th, La Batalla de Puebla is a minor Holiday.



September 16th, Our Independence. Everybody celebrates at the City Hall of every town.

November 2nd, The Day of the Dead:



Rather than a time of mourning, Day of the Dead - observed every Nov. 1 and 2 - is a celebration of life and death, when the spirits of the dearly departed return to Earth for a family. While some prefer to visit the graves of loved ones, others build an ofrenda (offering), or altar, in their home. It consists of a photo of the one being honored; prayer candles in purple for pain, white for hope and pink for the celebration; pan de los muertos (bread of the dead), a sweetened bread baked in round loaves or skull shapes; marigolds; sugar skulls; papel picado (Mexican tissue-paper decorations); copal (incense to clear the path for spirits return); a glass of water and a bottle of beer.

November 20th Mexican Revolution, Military parade in front of the President.

**December 12, Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe
Virgen of Guadalupe:**



Mexicans are very religious people. About 500 years ago, Virgin Mary, Mother of Jesus, appeared to Juan Diego, an Indian and told him her name was SANTA MARIA DE GUADALUPE (Saint Mary of Guadalupe) and instructed him to visit the highest Priest and ask him to build a Church for her to be adored. Juan Diego did as he was told but nobody believed him. Then Virgin Mary visited him once more and asked him to go to a nearby hill and to gather some roses and to take them to the Priest and that they would believe him now. He did as he was told. At the top of the hill he found the prettiest roses he had ever seen and considering they were not in season, he was sure he wouldn't have any trouble now. When he took the roses to the Priest he had them gathered in a piece of cloth Indians used as a coat (like a cape but with the knot at the front) and he dropped the flowers and saw the Priest kneel down immediately thus the cloth had the Virgin's image printed on it. Of course the church was built exactly where the Virgin had appeared to Juan Diego. We celebrate this on December the 12th and that is the most important day in Mexico. People visit the church from every state and some even go by foot and take several days to do so.



December 24, Nochebuena. The night Jesus was born, family dress up and get together.

December 25, Christmas

December 31, New Year's Eve.