

Las Posadas



The Birth of the Baby Jesus



Las Posadas is a Mexican tradition carried out during the build up to Christmas. People get together to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.

Going on a Journey



Mary and Joseph had to go to Bethlehem so they could be counted in the census, as ordered by the emperor Augustus.

Mary was going to have a baby and was tired. When they tried to find shelter to rest, they couldn't so they had to settle for a barn.

Where do Las Posadas take place?



In many places in Mexico, Las Posadas take place on the streets of the towns. The streets are decorated with Christmas lights and other decorations.

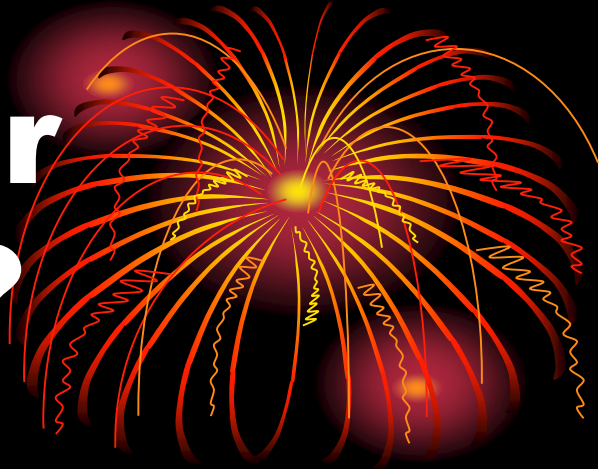
Local people dress up and sing songs telling the story of Mary and Joseph. They travel through the town in a procession, going from house to house. This lasts for over a week.

Candle Lights



During the procession people carry a small candle to light their way and sing Letanias which are songs, in Spanish. The Letanias songs tell the Christmas story.

Asking for Shelter?



The people go to the first home where they start asking for shelter. If there is no room, they move onto the next house. The procession sing to the families in the houses and then the families sing back to them that there is no room.

Making Offerings



Once Mary and Joseph find shelter at one of the houses, everyone joins together to say some prayers and sing another part of the story. People often play guitars and flutes. Family and friends get together and the party goes on for hours!

Breaking the Piñata



At the party people enjoy lots of traditional Mexican food and break a Piñata which is filled with peanuts, oranges, tangerines, sugar canes and other wrapped hard sweets.



Meaning of Breaking the Piñata.



Breaking the Piñata symbolises abundance for the whole year; may it bring happiness, food and well being to those around us.