

Festival of the Souls 2025



Mexico has a unique culture centered around the concept of death. It is both respected and feared, but at the same time, people coexist with it and even laugh with it.

For visitors and new residents of our city, it is interesting to learn a bit about our local traditions, particularly our celebration of the Day of the Dead, which is similar to other traditional festivals in the country but somewhat distinct from the famous Halloween.



The Festival of the Souls is a tradition that began in 2008, when it was first held in Mérida. This parade is based on the belief that the souls of the deceased leave the cemetery to spend a few days back in the world of the living. Over time, the celebration has evolved and become a series of events aimed at preserving and promoting the rich heritage of Maya culture.



This year, 2025, the Mérida City Council has planned more activities around this festival, called the "Festival de las Ánimas." The celebration, organized by the Mérida City Council (headed by Mayor Cecilia Patrón Laviada), will last nine days, from October 25 to November 2. The 2025 Festival de las Ánimas will feature a variety of cultural events aimed at encouraging participation from all sectors of society.



The celebrations will begin on Saturday, October 25 at 7:00 p.m. with the lighting of San Juan Park. The park transforms into a stage of light and tradition, featuring illuminated trees, monumental figures, and a magical atmosphere that invites families to stroll together. The now-famous Paseo de las Ánimas will take place on Friday, October 31 at 6:00 p.m., starting from the General Cemetery and ending at San Juan Park.

There will be photography exhibitions, altar displays, a dance festival, lectures on legends, and even a Pib festival—our traditional food! You can see the activities, schedules, and locations of each event through this link.

<https://www.merida.gob.mx/animas/>



Despite being a celebration of Maya origin, the customs surrounding it underwent changes with the arrival of the Spanish and the missionaries, who adapted the ancient traditions to religious beliefs. And these customs continue to evolve, such as the recent trend of painting one's face as a Catrina, for example.

These traditions strive to remain relevant in this era of rapid technological advancements, especially with the influence of other celebrations and customs, such as Halloween. It is important to remember that this is a religious celebration, which is why masses are also held in various churches and cemeteries. The main purpose of Hanal Pixán and Day of the Dead in general is to remember with love those who have passed before us.



Definitely, the Maya culture remains one of the most important in Mexico and for the rest of the world due to its contributions in various fields. But undoubtedly, the traditions that the Maya populations still preserve are truly incredible, as they speak to a culture that respects not only the land but also their loved ones and, above all, life. The Day of the Dead in Yucatán is something very special.

We invite you to learn about and experience our traditions. Enjoy the Festival of the Souls!



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