



### Mexico

Location: Americas

Population: 126 Million

Catholics: 100 Million (~89% of population)

Kids <14: ~33 Million (~30% of population)

Language: Spanish (63 Other languages)



Mexico is located on the North American continent and shares borders with the USA in the north and Belize and Guatemala in the south, and the Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean Sea and Pacific Ocean. The border between Mexico and the USA is the second longest border in the world and is about 3,155km/2,000 miles long.

Mexico is a tourist's paradise: the beautiful beaches in Acapulco and Cancun are starkly contrasted by the ancient civilizations. Its national identity is reflected by the heritage of its native peoples, their colorful art, languages and festivals; the most famous Mexican festival being The Day of the Dead.

The climate varies from tropical climate to desert climate. Mexico has four time zones!

Mexico is situated on the 'Ring of Fire', the world's most prominent volcano and earthquake region. However, the volcanos on Mexico's Baja California, a popular tourist destination, are mostly dormant. The peninsula to the west of mainland Mexico is called Baja California. Over 120 species of cactus are growing there.

The highest peak in Mexico is a volcano and is the third largest in Northern America. It is called 'Pico de Orizaba' or 'Volcan Citlaltepetl' and is 5,636m/18,491ft high.

Most people in Mexico speak Spanish. Mexico is the country with the most Spanish speakers in the world. More people speak Spanish here than in Spain, because many more people live in Mexico and the country is also more than three times bigger.

Mexicans are known as very friendly and welcoming foreigners; they are really fond of kids. Mariachis are the popular musicians who play folk music. They mainly use string instruments, but also trumpets are sometimes played. The groups are often invited to play at birthday parties, weddings and other family celebrations.





Chocolate, chilies and corn come originally from Mexico. One dish many of you will know is 'chilli con carne', a spicy mincemeat dish with beans.

Hot chocolate was considered the sacred drink by the Aztecs!



Although Mexico has one of the largest economies in the world, more than 30% of the country is poor. Kids under the age of 14 are the most affected

Roman Catholicism is the overwhelmingly predominant faith in Mexico—making the country the second-largest Catholic community in the world

There are many catholic missions in Mexico. The Catholic missions work in Mexico focusses on providing access to basic needs and education and helping with refugees along the USA border.

In Mexico, Christmas is celebrated from December 12th to January 6th.

From December 16th to Christmas Eve, children often perform the 'Posada' processions or Posadas. Posada is Spanish for Inn or Lodging. There are nine Posadas. These celebrate the part of the Christmas story where Joseph and Mary looked for somewhere to stay.

The Catholic Missions strives to respond to the needs of children and teenagers at risk - to give them a chance of social acceptance, love, care, food, medical help, legal assistance, so they do not become part of the cartel and become involved into illegal activities.

***Let's Pray for all Missionaries, especially those in Mexico***

**Baby Jesus:** El Niño Dios  
**Nativity scenes:** nacimiento  
**Merry Christmas:** Feliz Navidad  
**Holy Spirit:** Espíritu Santo

