



Christmas Around the World



Christmas in Colombia

Many people in Colombia begin decorating their houses and streets with candles and other lights in early December. December 7 is called Día de las Velitas (Day of the Little Candles). This is the beginning of Christmas celebrations in Colombia. As well as candles and lights, people in Colombia often decorate their homes with a Christmas tree and a nativity scene. Children write letters to baby Jesus asking for toys. Many Colombians go to 'novenas'. These are events where people come together to pray and sing Christmas songs. Fireworks are a very common part of Christmas celebrations.



Día de las Velitas

Church services are held at midnight on Christmas Eve. Gifts are often opened at midnight on Christmas Eve. This is also the time for the main Christmas feast, called 'Cena de Navidad'. Arepas are a popular food to eat on Christmas. They are a round, flat savoury 'bread' made from corn flour. Natillas and buñuelos are traditional Colombian desserts. Natilla is a sweet custard dish, and buñuelos are balls of sweetened flour with a crispy crust.

Christmas Day is a day for families to enjoy together. Many spend the time talking, relaxing, eating and drinking. Dancing and singing are also very popular. Christmas Day is a time when many Colombians will contact friends and wish them blessings for the year ahead.

Do you think you would enjoy Christmas in Colombia?

Use the Venn diagram to compare Christmas in Colombia to Christmas in your country.

