

México



Celebration of the "Day of the Dead" in Mexico and Malaysia
PHOTOGRAPH BY MELISSA CORMICAN

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“Day of the Dead” in Malaysia

2 November marks the Day of the Dead, which was declared by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) part of the Intangible Cultural Heritage List in 2003. This year we shared the tradition among Mexicans, Malaysians and other nationalities as part of the Mexican Global Week.

An altar with more than 100 pieces was created to honour the heroes of the Mexican Revolution and Mexican artists. Princess Putri Juneita Johari and Ms. Malaya Hamidah of the Malaysian Speakers Club read “Literary Skulls” (satirical poems written to poke fun). Moreover, guests had the opportunity to have their faces painted and shared Mexican dishes and drinks, such as, the traditional pan de muerto, tequila and mezcal.



In KidZania Kuala Lumpur Mexican families gathered to preserve the tradition with all the generations to create an altar which honoured Mexican artists from the movies and the music scene. Las Adelitas de México had a successful performance which showed traditional dances from Jalisco and Guerrero. Also, a Mexican sweet bread called pan de muerto was eaten and kids from different nationalities learned about this festivity.



Since there is a growing local interest in this celebrations there were other presentations of this festivity in restaurants and bars in Kuala Lumpur with performances of Mexican artists.



Flavours of Mexico in Malaysia

The sixth edition of Flavours of Mexico in Malaysia was a unique opportunity to experience the authentic Mexican cuisine. This festival has become one of the most successful culinary event in Kuala Lumpur. The Mexican cuisine was catalogued in 2010 as Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity by UNESCO, thanks to its delicious contrasts and its diversity in flavors.

Flavours of Mexico in Malaysia took place from 14th to 18th October as an invitation to adventure into Mexican traditional dishes. The Embassy of Mexico in collaboration with JW Marriott Kuala Lumpur, Botanica + Co, Fresca Mexican Kitchen & Bar, La Boca Latino Bar and Nick's Kuala Lumpur worked together to present a multivenue Gastronomic event which was also possible through the support of Mission Foods, La Costeña and Mezcal Koch El.



Mexico and Malaysia. Celebrating 45 years of Friendship and Cooperation

As part of the celebrations of the 45 years of diplomatic links, the Embassy of Mexico in Malaysia and the Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) celebrated the relations between Mexico and Malaysia with a conference in which H.E. Dato' Jamaiah Yusof, former Ambassador of Malaysia to Mexico, and H.E. Carlos Félix, Ambassador of Mexico to Malaysia shared their experiences in each country.

Throughout these forty-five years, strong ties of friendship and cooperation between Mexico and Malaysia have been forged. We have developed cultural and educational projects that bring the communities of both nations closer to enrich themselves since we share similar values, vision and determination for improving the well-being of our people.



Mexico at a glance: El Vizcaíno Biosphere Reserve

Mexico has 34 world heritage sites protected by UNESCO, the largest number in Latin America. Among them we can find El Vizcaíno Biosphere Reserve.

El Vizcaino is located in the central part of the Baja California peninsula in the Sebastian Volcano region. Vizcaino includes a great abundance and variety of species of wild fauna and flora, including numerous endemics to the Mesoamerican region and species which are in danger of extinction elsewhere.

Protection of the site is justified by the exceptional value of the desert, mountain and coastal/marine ecosystems, which link the Pacific Ocean to the Gulf of California. The reserve is also of importance for its fossil beds and numerous marine birds, including some under threat of extinction. Grey whale (*Eschrichtius robustus*) frequents the bay. Visit Mexico!



Agri-Food Health

Officers from the National Service for Agri-Food Health, Safety and Quality of Mexico (SENASICA) and the Department of Agriculture of Malaysia (DoA) negotiated the approval of the phytosanitary requirements for the Mexican avocado, raspberry, table grape and bell pepper to be exported to Malaysia.

The last phase of this process will take place during the first quarter of 2020, with the site visit of the Malaysian Agricultural authorities to Mexico. The diligent intervention of the Mexican officers and the continuous support that the Embassy of Mexico has provided in the implementation of the federal government's strategy for the market diversification of Mexican agricultural products, brought this process to a successful conclusion.



Mezcal: Mexican Spirit drink

Mezcal is a traditional Mexican spirit made from agave, which is only produced in nine Mexican states but is consumed worldwide.

In 2018, Mexico produced 5.09 million litres of mezcal, an increase of almost 30% compared to the volume of mezcal produced in the previous year. In 2018, artisanal mezcal represented 92% of the total amount of mezcal manufactured in Mexico, whereas ancestral mezcal accounted for only 1% of the production, although tequila and mezcal are expected to reach a retail value of more than 1 billion USD by 2020.

The Embassy has continuously supported the Mexican spirits industry, most recently by presenting mezcal as the feature drink during the VI edition of the Gastronomic Festival "Flavours of Mexico in Malaysia."



Mexico-Malaysia: Challenges and opportunities

On 26th September, Ambassador Carlos Félix gave the talk "Mexico-Malaysia: Challenges and Opportunities of Bilateral Links in the XXI Century" in the framework of the Ambassador Lecture Series of the Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations of Malaysia (IDFR) and as part of the events to commemorate the 45 years of diplomatic relations.

Ambassador emphasized that the 1st Mechanism of Political Consultations between Mexico and Malaysia on 9th July revitalised the political dialogue and reviewed cooperation projects in education and culture and the current status of the commercial relationship. Malaysia is Mexico's main trading partner in Southeast Asia and the ninth worldwide, so it is relevant to continue working to expand these areas of opportunity.



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