

# Culture and Traditions of Ecuador

## Reading

In Ecuador, there are a variety of festivities that represent diverse cultural practices related to traditional popular culture.



During March or April, Easter week is usually celebrated in Ecuador. In Quito, the Procession of Jesus del Gran Poder, one of the most traditional in the country, takes place. During this procession, there are many people dressed in purple (cucuruchos) through the streets holding a statue of Jesus, crosses, or other religious symbols.

The "diablada" or devils party is celebrated in the town of Pillaro in Tungurahua. Its origin comes from the colony time, when the natives used to disguise themselves as devils in rejection of the Catholic religion, due to the abuse they received from the Spaniards.

Guaranda's Carnival is one of the most important festivals in the country where hundreds of national and international tourists attend, where some traditional events take place such as the election of the beauty queen, the Taita Carnival, its parade, among others. The origin of this celebration which lasts 3 days, was in honor of the Cacique Guaranga and nature.

On June 24, the sun is celebrated, which is called Inti Raymi and takes place in the city of Otavalo.

On November 2 takes place the "Day of the Dead", which is celebrated in Europe and North America as All Saints' Day. Especially for this day Ecuadorians bake "Guaguas de pan" and cook "Colada Morada".

In November, there is a ceremony called "**Mama Negra**". This special event is held for the anniversary of its independence, and in honor of the Virgen de la Merced in the province of Cotopaxi. A particularity of this festival is that it is celebrated twice a year.

Ecuadorians, of course, also celebrate **Christmas**. On December 24, families gather in their homes to make the novena and have dinner together. On Christmas Eve, families open their gifts together.

At the end of the year, Ecuadorians celebrate the arrival of the new year, building figures of paper and glue (**años viejos**) that they burn at midnight, on December 31. The burning of the dummy represents leaving behind all the bad things that happened during the year gone, and it is hoped that the new year will be better. In addition, there are many fireworks in the cities.

## Activities

### 1. Circle the correct answer.

- a) The Indians disguised themselves as devils in rejection of the Catholic religion because of abuses they suffered at the hands of the **English / Spanish**.
- b) The Guaranda's Carnival was in honor of nature and the **King of Spain / Cacique Guaranga**.
- c) processions and people dressed in purple costumes on the streets holding a statue of Jesus to celebrate the **Mama Negra / Holy week**
- d) Ecuadorians bake "Guaguas de pan" and cook "Colada Morada" to celebrate the **Inty Raymi / Dia de los difuntos**
- e) Before the new year, the Ecuadorians burn the "año Viejo" at **midnight / noon**
- f) Inti Raymi is a festival that celebrates the **moon / sun**.
- g) Another name, to refer to the celebration that occurs on November 2<sup>nd</sup> is **the All-Saints Day / Day of the Gone Ones**.

### 2. Look at the picture and complete the paragraph with the words in the box

Dances      Costumes      Ecuador      characters      Guitar



This picture is a traditional celebration in

..... where the woman .....

While the man dances and plays the .....

Both ..... usually wear colorful traditional .....

3. Match the festivities with the right picture.

Mama Negra

Holy Week

Diablada de Pillaro

Christmas

Guaranda's Carnival



  
**¡Buen trabajo!**