

Day of the Dead – Día de Muertos



Friday 2 November 17.00 – 22.00

The Day of the Dead is one of Mexico's major festivals. People believe that on this day the souls of the dead return to visit their families and friends to enjoy food, drink and other earthly pleasures. Many Mexicans make offerings and produce decorations for this event. Join us in this festival of joy, colour and imagination.

For all ages.

Events are free and drop-in (unless otherwise stated).

Places are limited for some events and are designated on a first-come, first-served basis.

Please note, if the V&A reaches capacity we will allow access on a one-in, one-out basis.

Photography will take place at this event.

#DayoftheDead

PERFORMANCES AND PROCESSIONS: FUNCIONES Y DESFILES:

Mestizo Folklore Group Dancers

Grupo de Danza Folclórica Mestizo

20-minute performances at 18.40, 19.40 & 20.40

Raphael Gallery, Room 48a

Watch dancers from the Mestizo Folklore Group perform traditional Mexican *zapateado* (foot tapping) dances with colourful and original costumes.

Mariachi el Mexicano

20.00–20.40, Grand Entrance

20.40–21.00, Raphael Gallery, Room 48a

With its live musicians and colourful costumes, mariachi is the unique and vibrant sound of traditional Mexican music. Come and enjoy this performance from Mariachi él Mexicano, the authentic sound of Mexican music here in the UK.

Day of the Dead Characters

Personajes de Día de Muertos

19.00–20.00, Day of the Dead characters in The Sackler Courtyard

20.30–21.00, Procession in The John Madejski Garden

(If it is raining, events will take place in the Grand Entrance)

Mandinga Arts will re-create the feel of a Mexican parade right here in the V&A – look out for the giant skeleton, the coffin on the move, the corn seller and the glamorous Catrinas.

Mexican Music

Música Mexicana

17.00–22.00

Grand Entrance

A special Day of the Dead DJ set by Oscar Arroyo, with contemporary sounds and rhythms from across Mexico and Latin America.

La Catrina

40-minute presentations at 17.00, 18.00, 19.00 & 20.00

Grand Entrance

La Catrina is a traditional character who serves as a reminder that no matter how rich or poor, death is the ultimate leveller. Mexican artist Humberto Spíndola has created a unique and intricate paper La Catrina outfit. See his interpretation of the character brought to life, maintaining its role against the influence of Halloween on the Day of the Dead.

Corrido – A Ballad for The Brave
Corrido – Una Balada para los Valientes

19.00–21.00

The Lydia and Manfred Gorvy Lecture Theatre

Enjoy an immersive audio-visual concert with internationally renowned violinist and vocalist Lizzie Ball and acclaimed Mexican guitarist Morgan Szymanski.

£20 per person (includes wine reception)

Finding Frida and Sartorial Skeleton
Procession and Prizes

Desfile y premios para las mejores Fridas y Calacas

20.45, Procession leaves Grand Entrance

21.00, Judging in Raphael Gallery, Room 48a

A V&A team will be inviting selected visitors who have come dressed as Frida Kahlo or a sartorial skeleton to take part in a procession and competition.

MAKING AND DOING:
MANUALIDADES Y ARTESANÍAS:

Drop-in Design: Make a Skull Mask
Crea un antifaz de Calavera

17.00–22.00

Raphael Gallery, Room 48a

Skulls (*calaveras*) feature prominently in the Day of the Dead. People often wear skull make-up or masks and make skulls from sugar to place on altars. Come and decorate a card skull mask to wear in tonight's celebrations.

Day of the Dead-Inspired Jewellery and Headwear

Joyería y accesorios inspirados en el Día de Muertos

17.00–22.00

Lunchroom 1 & 2, Sackler Centre for arts education

Create your own paper and card headwear or jewellery inspired by Mexican images from Loteria playing cards. Let your imagination run wild as you design your own wearable artwork!

Face Painting
Pinta-Caritas

18.00–22.00

Art Studio, Sackler Centre for arts education – limited places

Choose from glamorous or gruesome skull designs to transform your look for the evening with some colourful and ornate face painting.

Make a Skull Pendant
Haz un collar de calavera

17.00–22.00

Design Studio, Sackler Centre for arts education – limited places

Decorate a skull pendant to wear using paint pens to create a colourful design. Paint pens provided by Pebeo.

On My Ofrenda
En mi Ofrenda

17.00–22.00

Sackler Centre for arts education

Traditionally on the Day of the Dead, graves are decorated and ofrenda (altar) are made to remember loved ones who have died. These displays include objects, food and drink that were much enjoyed by the deceased. Draw or write about the things you'd want on your ofrenda to represent you.

Down Mexico Way – Quiz
Por los caminos de México – Concurso

17.00–22.00

Sackler Centre for arts education

What do you know about Mexico? Take our quick quiz about the country. Members of the Mexican community will be on hand to help you answer questions. You could win prizes!

Eyes Down – Play Loteria
En sus marcas – Juega Lotería

20-minute sessions at 18.00, 18.30, 19.00, 19.30, 20.00, 20.30 & 21.00

Digital Studio, Sackler Centre for arts education – limited places

Come and try your luck in Loteria, a Mexican game like bingo, to be in with the chance of winning a prize.

Take a Seat on the Selfie Bench
Ponte cómodo en el banquillo de Selfie

17.00–22.00

The Blavatnik Hall

Sit down with the skeletons and mark the moment with a selfie.

DEMONSTRATIONS AND DISPLAYS:
DEMONSTRACIONES Y EXPOSICIONES:

Ofrenda to Frida Kahlo and Friends
Ofrenda a Frida Kahlo y Amigos

17.00–22.00

Raphael Gallery, Room 48a

Internationally acclaimed Mexican artist Humberto Spíndola has created a spectacular and elaborate paper ofrenda dedicated to Frida Kahlo. The ofrenda (from the Spanish word for offering) features foods she served to visitors at her home, La Casa Azul, and photos of her friends and associates.

Corn for Thought
Maíz de reflexión

17.00–22.00

Sackler Centre for arts education

Join Sofia Casarin and Francisco Musi, co-founders of TAMOA, in the step-by-step process of hand-shelling Mexican heritage corn to make tortillas. Learn about Mexico's rich biodiversity of heirloom corn varieties and the importance of 'nixtamalization', the essential process behind tortillas.

Mexican Market
Tianguis Mexicano

17.00–22.00

Raphael Gallery, Room 48a

Browse and buy from this selection of traditional crafts from Milagros, a London-based Mexican shop, and modern Mexican-inspired prints from La Chuleta Press.

Mexican Paintings Display
Exposición de arte Mexicano

17.00–22.00

Sackler Centre for arts education

Visit this display of Mexican-inspired works by emerging contemporary artists Max Prus, Alicia Paz and Raul Piña, from the Chalton Gallery, London.

Day of the Dead Film
Cortometrajes de Día de Muertos

17.00–22.00

Sackler Centre for arts education and Raphael Gallery, Room 48a

Gain an insight into the history and cultural importance of the Day of the Dead through this film footage of traditional celebrations.

Food and Drink
Comida y Bebidas


17.00–22.00


Café, Dome, Grand Entrance and Sackler Centre for arts education

Sample a variety of traditional Mexican food and drink.

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