



MundoMaya

News

NOVEMBER

Traditions wear color to november

Guatemala's most deeply-rooted traditions take on a particular significance this month.

Tape Race

The Tape Race, held in Todos Santos Cuchumatán, Huehuetenango, is also known as the Game of Cocks, is held after a ceremony, where the brotherhood asks permission from the Saints and Mother Earth to run. The origins of this race date back to the time of the Conquest, when the Spaniards introduced horses to these lands, but the Indians were not allowed to ride. However, several years later, this tradition was implemented as a sign of courage, according to the Huehueteco historian Fermín Herrera.



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Fiambre

It was derived from the ancient Mayans who commemorated their dead by gathering as a family around the tomb, eating dishes that did not need to be heated. Fiambre is a mixture of meat and sausages from Spanish cuisine and vegetables from Guatemala. It emerged at the end of the 19th century, in the central area of the republic. It is unique in the world.



Commemoration of the deceased

Also known as All Saints' Day, it is celebrated with visits to the cemeteries, where hundreds of families gather to leave flowers for the loved ones who have already passed away. Kites are also flown with the November winds that characterize this time of year



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The Legend of Vanushka

This legend originated in the city of Quetzaltenango, which is three hours away from Guatemala City. A beautiful gypsy woman named Vanushka Cárdenas Barajas, who came to this city with a circus of Hungarian origin, ended up dying of love. Legend has it that one day the governor's son attended the circus performance and was immediately impressed by the beauty of the gypsy. In her performance Vanushka commonly requested the help of a brave person from the audience, to help her in her act.

The son of the governor was the one who in this occasion decided to help the gypsy in the circus ring. After this fortuitous encounter, he visited her several times in secret and they shared a passionate love. The young man's father, realizing the seriousness of the affair and unable to persuade his son to leave Vanushka, decided to send him to Spain, which caused the beautiful gypsy woman great sadness. Legend has it that Vanushka's agonizing crying made her heart stop beating and now from her grave she helps people who ask her to find their lost loves.



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