

Mexico Independence Day

in 15 Facts



1. Say it: meh-HEE-koh. The day is Día de la Independencia (dee-ah deh lah een-deh-pen-DEN-see-ah)
2. The big day is September 16.
3. It remembers 1810, when Miguel Hidalgo rang a church bell in the town of Dolores.
4. That call is the Grito de Dolores—the “Cry for Independence.”
5. Celebrations start the night of September 15 with the Grito in town squares.
6. In Mexico City, the President shouts “¡Viva México!” and rings a bell from a balcony.
7. Crowds wave green–white–red flags and shout “¡Viva!” back.
8. The flag shows an eagle on a cactus holding a snake—a famous legend.
9. Streets fill with papel picado (colorful cut paper), lights, and fireworks.
10. Music time: mariachi bands and folk dances like the Mexican Hat Dance.
11. Favorite foods include chiles en nogada (flag colors!), pozole, and elote (corn with toppings).
12. Kids paint cheeks with flag colors and wear small sombreros or ribbons.
13. Many towns have parades, school shows, and band marches.
14. People say “¡Viva la independencia!” which means “Long live independence!”
15. Fun tip: This is not Cinco de Mayo—that’s a different holiday in May.