



The multicolored lights of Bogota's Christmas train have returned to Colombia's capital for Christmas after it was cancelled last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

400-meters-long and **comprised** of 14 cars, the lit-up train makes use of old railways that were **out of commission** in Bogota for more than three decades. The holiday express can carry up to 600 passengers at a time, some of which tend to be foreigners. Staff dressed up as nutcrackers and Santa Claus greeted passengers at the train station, and they passed cabin to cabin to visit passengers as the train **chugged** along.

The train follows a route through the South American capital, leading to Bogota's popular attraction, the Salt Cathedral of Zipaquirá.

The Christmas train will be running all through December, and according to the train's manager, besides being a publicity event, the attraction also helps bring joy to the people of Bogota who always come out to see it passing by every night.

**Difficult words:** **comprise** (to consist of), **out of commission** (not in working condition), **chug** (to move with repeated low sounds like that of a steam engine).

**Discussion Questions****Topic Talk**

1. Define the following words: *comprise*, *out of commission* and *chug*
2. Why was the Christmas train not able to return to Bogota in 2020?
3. How many passengers can the Christmas train carry at a time?
4. How do the members of staff entertain passengers on the train?
5. Which route does the Christmas train travel?
6. How does the famous Christmas train help the people in Bogota and its tourist industry?

**Express Your Thoughts**

1. What do you look forward to the most every Christmas season?
2. Does your country/town provide any entertainment for people during Christmas?
3. As a child, did you believe in Santa Claus? Do children nowadays believe in Santa Claus?
4. How did the COVID-19 pandemic change the way people celebrate Christmas and New Year in your country?