



The popular Christmas train returned to Colombia's capital Bogota, after a one-year break because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The train is 400 meters long, and it has 14 cabins which can carry up to 600 passengers. Once a year, it uses old travel **infrastructure**, which modern trains have not used for more than 30 years. Santa Claus and **nutcrackers** welcome passengers at the train station, and then, they walk through the train, speak to people, and give gifts to children.

The train runs all of December, and it brings the holiday **spirit** to the city. Every night, people come out to see it, and to enjoy the moment. According to authorities, the train also interests tourists, and some of its passengers are foreigners.

Difficult words: **infrastructure** (the systems and services of a city such as transport or power supply), **nutcracker** (a traditional wooden figure and Christmas decoration in some countries), **spirit** (a mood or feeling).

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

1. Define the following words: *infrastructure, nutcrackers and spirit*
2. Why did the popular Christmas train in Colombia take a break for a year?
3. What makes the Christmas train different from the modern trains they have?
4. What do Santa Claus and nutcrackers do to entertain the passengers?
5. How does the Christmas train in Bogota, Colombia help the tourist industry of the city?

Express Your Thoughts

1. What kind of things can people in your country look forward to every Christmas season?
2. How do most people in your country celebrate Christmas?
3. Do children in your country believe in Santa Claus?
4. Has the COVID-19 pandemic changed the way people celebrate Christmas in your country?