

CREMATIONS AROUND THE WORLD

UK

78% of burials are cremation

CZECHIA

Cremation is dominant funeral practise

CHINA

Around half of deceased are cremated

FRANCE

Cremation not really common due to religion (30%)

MEXICO

Cremations are unpopular - but are becoming more common

ITALY

Cremations are most common - very long tradition

HONG KONG

Mostly due to space reasons, cremation is most common

But what about animals?

In ancient Mexico dogs were cremated along with their owners; it was and somewhere still is believed that they help humans cross the last obstacle to reach the underworld.

Funerary rituals for dogs, and other pets today in Mexico

A cult has developed around dogs in which -along with other pets- they receive a funeral ritual and a space where they can rest eternally. When a pet dies it is possible to contract a funeral service, which may include the exposure of the body for a short wake. The body can be buried or cremated.



I'm fascinated by all of the new facts and views on cremation I got to explore.

-Anna

"I've joined the course just of curiosity and I was shocked - how many information there could be learned about cremation. Before it was just putting someone's burned body in the vessel, the end"

-Kate

"Cremations are not ashes! You can actually recognize parts of the skeleton, that could tell you a lot about the person who was cremated, or even on the population"

"Studies on cremations are getting really serious and they are helping to build and to reconstruct part of human history"

-Carlotta



France

Burning our dead is not custom, but more and more people are choosing it because of the cheaper cost. Due to the largest populations being Catholic or Muslim, cremation is not very common. Atheistic population is often still opting for inhumation, to follow traditions and expectations.

In my family Funeral has two services – first is long ceremony in the church and the second is a small ceremony at the gravesite. Afterwards we have a moment where we remember the dead, we have drinks and food, but only with close family.

Czechia

In Czechia both cremation and inhumation are common, in big cities 5 to 1 (respectively).

As a nonreligious family our close ones are being buried according to their preferences. I witnessed both inhumation and cremation funeral.

I never knew what is actually happening in a crematorium – there is a large stigma about discussing death openly. Until last week, I didn't even know, what actually is in a urn.

UK

In 2021, 78.40 % of the dead were cremated, there are 315 crematoria in Britain. Death is not widely spoken about, but in recent years talks about funerals (mostly costs) are often mention on tv and radio.

Half my family will discuss death, the other half do not like to. There is a wide range of variation and differences in funerals - in my community (a village in the South of England), many people choose to have a cremation at a crematorium with close family - then on another day a service at Church with wider family & friends - followed by a wake in a nearby Pub, Church Hall or home. People who choose inhumation have a funeral in the Church followed by a burial, then a wake.

Italy

In Italy the most common funeral practice is cremation, both for environmental reasons but also as a personal choice. On Italian soil this practice has a very long history, frequently practiced in the past, even beyond the advent of Christianity. Usually nowadays, only the close family members of the deceased gather after the funeral at the crematorium to retrieve the urn to be taken to the cemetery.

Hong Kong

In Hong Kong, we mostly use modern cremation to handle the deceased. The ceremony is usually held at the crematorium.

There are usually four ways to handle the ashes of the deceased:

1. Scattering ashes into the sea
2. Burial of ashes in a memorial garden
3. Columbarium (only small place is needed, but are scarcely located, quite expensive and often 4 year wait list)
4. Some families choose to keep the urn at home and burn incense sticks to worship ancestors everyday

Mainland China (Guangxi province)

1. Before cremation, the body is stored in a visible freezer. Coffin and metal decorations are not allowed, only the body and clothes are cremated.
2. The family is allowed to collect the remains after cremation but the staffs would help.
3. For burial in the ground, the body is first buried in a humid place to let the flesh be completely decomposed. After several years, the family collects the bones and host another funeral to rebury the bones.
4. To choose graves, generally 2 options: cemetery or a piece of land provided by their relatives at the home village.