

Christmas Around the World



Christmas is celebrated in many different ways in many different countries around the world.

The United Kingdom

Christmas in the UK is celebrated with families and friends. Houses are decorated, Christmas cards are sent and presents are exchanged. Children believe that a man called Father Christmas delivers presents to them during the night on Christmas Eve.

The United States of America

Americans celebrate in a similar way to the UK. They also believe that Father Christmas delivers the presents, but they call him Santa Claus.

Americans enjoy a Christmas dinner but choose to eat beef or ham rather than turkey. For pudding they will eat pumpkin pie, fruitcake or apple pie; all washed down with a glass of eggnog.

France

In France, Father Christmas is called Père Noël and he delivers presents to the children.

The main Christmas meal is eaten on Christmas Eve or early Christmas morning, after people have returned from the midnight Church service. Dishes might include roast turkey with chestnuts or roast goose.

Poland

In Poland, Christmas Eve is a very important and busy day. It's tradition that no food is eaten until the first star is seen in the sky, so hungry children will look at the night sky to spot



the first star!

On the table there are twelve dishes and everyone has to eat, or at least try, some of each dish. Children in Poland open their presents on Christmas Eve, but aren't allowed to start until all twelve dishes of the meal have been eaten - that can take a long time!

India

For Christians in India, midnight mass is very important. After the whole family has attended the mass, they will sit down to a big feast of different Christmas dishes, and then exchange presents.

Churches in India are decorated with flowers and candles for the Christmas Eve service.

Banana or mango trees are decorated instead of the fir trees used in England. Sometimes people use mango leaves to decorate their homes.

Australia

In Australia, Christmas comes at the beginning of the summer holidays and the weather is often extremely hot.

Australians hang wreaths on their front doors and sometimes go out Christmas carol singing on Christmas Eve - some people even go camping!

Do you celebrate Christmas? What does your family do to celebrate?

