

# Guide To Christmas





Christmas is the time of year when many families get together. It is a time for eating, drinking and relaxing. Families, who haven't seen each other in months, meet up and spend time together. So what are the typical traditions and foods that we have at Christmas?



# Decorations

Christmas is the time of year when people decorate their houses and local forms of government decorate the streets. So what are the typical Christmas decorations?



# Christmas Tree

Christmas trees first appeared in Germany. Soon they have become common in homes and public places. Some families even have two, one in the garden, one in the house. People put all types of decoration on the trees, including lights, balls, tinsel and even popcorn.



# Other Decorations



**Holly is hung in homes. It is a symbol of truth.**



**Mistletoe is also hung up in houses and traditionally over doorways. If you meet someone under the doorway, tradition says you must kiss.**



**Christmas lights are hung around houses. Some people spend much money decorating the outside of their houses and in some places they hold an annual competition.**

# Typical Christmas Food & Desserts



**Turkey & Ham but in the US some people prefer goose at Christmas.**



**Roast Potatoes.**



**Vegetables such as carrots, turnips, broccoli and Brussels sprouts.**



**Cranberry Sauce is traditionally served with turkey and ham.**



**The most famous dessert is Christmas pudding. It can be made 4 months before Christmas.**

# Music



**One important Christmas tradition is Music. It can be traditional Christmas carols or children's Christmas songs.**



# Television

The most important event on TV every Christmas is the Queen's speech which is aired at 3pm on Christmas Day. The broadcast normally lasts 5 minutes and in it the Queen reflects on the previous 12 months of the year. Although it is mainly watched by those in the UK, it is also viewed around the world.





# Literature

## A CHRISTMAS CAROL

There are hundreds of stories and poems written about Christmas but probably the most famous is a Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens.

It is a story about a miserly old man, who is visited by three ghosts on Christmas Eve and his life is changed forever.



# Important Christmas Dates



There are 12 days of Christmas, so the song says, but not all the days are the same. So which are the important ones?

The weekend before Christmas is always the busiest for shops. Christmas Eve is the time for last minute shopping. Christmas Day is a day for family. In Ireland, bars and restaurants are closed.

# After Christmas Day



The 26th of December is **Boxing Day** in the UK and **St. Stephen's Day** in Ireland. It is a day when people go out and meet friends. It is also when the 'sales' officially start.



# Hogmanay



Possibly the biggest New Year's party in the UK is in Edinburgh on the 31st of December when Scottish people celebrate Hogmanay.

The city of Edinburgh have concerts and fireworks to say goodbye to the old year and hello to the new one. It has become tradition to sing the poem, Auld Lang Syne, by Robert Burns. The poem was originally in Scots but has been translated into many languages.

# Resolutions



So the New Year has started and so too has the final Christmas tradition: The New Year's resolution. Each year people promise to do different things in order to improve their lives. Very often they give up before February.





**Don't forget that Santa Claus is making a list of naughty and nice children!**

**What about you?**

**Have you been naughty or nice this year😊?**