

A vibrant collage of American symbols. The Statue of Liberty is the central focus, holding a torch. To her right is a bald eagle with its wings spread. The background is filled with the stars and stripes of the American flag, fireworks, and a silhouette of the Minutemen. At the bottom, there are more American flags and a building with columns.

*Traditions of America*



# New Year (on the night of 1st of January)

- The New Year is a state holiday and is celebrated on January 1, although the Americans are beginning to celebrate it on December 31. On this day, sometimes arranged for masquerade balls, in which people dress up in costumes with masks. Masks are removed at midnight. Many people watch the New Year celebration on Times Square in the center of New York on this day. On this square, one minute before midnight, from the top of one of the buildings the illuminated sphere slowly descends. At the moment of touching the ground, the inscription "New Year" lights up. In many cities in the night from December 31 to January 1, colorful fireworks are held.



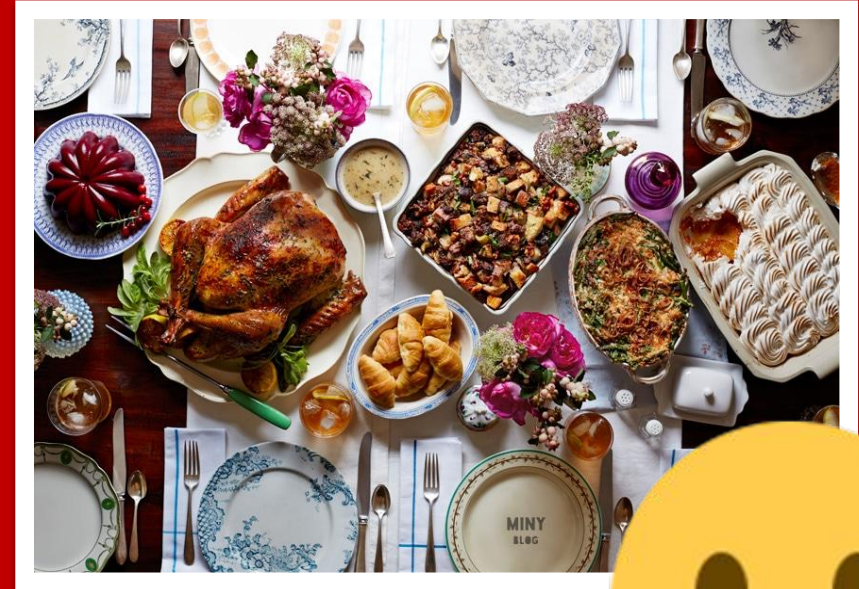
# Independence Day (4th of July)

- On that day, the final version of the Declaration of Independence was adopted. It became a state holiday in 1941. For Americans, it's also a day of picnics and patriotic parades. In many cities, fireworks are held this day. Many hang out American flags.



# Thanksgiving Day (fourth Thursday in November)

- Thanksgiving is always a day off, in many institutions and Friday is a day off. Many Americans use four days off to travel to relatives or friends. On this day, the turkey, cranberry sauce, potatoes and pumpkin pie are necessarily served on the table. On the eve of Thanksgiving, charity flourishes: Americans are trying to feed and somehow please their neighbors who have not been lucky in life. On the eve of the holiday, charitable organizations distribute gifts collected to the needy and organize lunches.





# Christmas Day (25th of December)

- Returning home for Christmas is one of the main American traditions. No matter where the Americans are the rest of the year, they tend to come home, and meet their relatives and friends for Christmas. Thanksgiving and Christmas are the busiest seasons at airports, train stations and bus parks. It seems that all of America is on the move, and Americans are finding a way to spend the weekend with their loved ones. Christmas means that the house will be full of cousins, aunts and uncles who can not be seen for a year. Everyone helps in the preparation of festivities. Some go to choose a Christmas tree, others decorate the house or wrap up gifts. And of course they prepare a lot of food!





# Easter

- Easter is a church holiday, so people celebrate it according to their beliefs. In America, on the first day of Easter, the children wake up and find in their baskets the sweets that the Easter Bunny left them. He also hid the eggs (in the plastic shell of the egg, like a kinder-surprise, they put in various sweets, chewing gums, small money, small toys), which they decorated last week. Children hunt for eggs all over the house. Many organizations organize Easter eggs hunts, and the child who finds most eggs gets a prize.





# Halloween (31st of October)



- To this day, the houses inside and outside are decorated with all sorts of horror stories, skeletons, ghosts, the worse it turns out, the better. Halloween is a holiday mainly for children. A lot of children dressed in costumes knock on doors to neighbors, and when the door opens, shout "Trick or Treat" ("Trick or Treat"). Pirates and princesses, ghosts and popular heroes, everyone keeps bags open to catch sweets or other small gifts. And when children with full bags of sweets come home, they first recount them to the next day to tell their friends how many sweets they have collected. Another tradition of Halloween is an empty pumpkin, with carved eyes and mouth, inside which is put a lit candle.

