



# Christmas

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Christmas - the great Christian festival, established in memory of the birth of Jesus Christ in Bethlehem. Currently, almost all Christians celebrate it on 25 December (in most parishes of the Russian Orthodox Church is January 7, new style).



# liturgical celebration

- Christmas Day was considered the second after Easter in the early Church, and so revered in the East to this day. Christmas in the Orthodox tradition, Christmas is preceded by a forty or Filippov post [with 14 (27) November to 24 December (January 6)]. Christmas holiday has five days Forefeast (from 20 to 24 December) and six days and ends Afterfeast holiday Circumcision of the Lord. Eve or Day Vigil celebration is held in strict fasting and called Eve (sochevnikom) this evening, according to church regulations, eaten sochivo (dried corn bread, soaked with water).

# *More about Christmas from another source:*

- Christmas Day is a great place in the life of the world. Throughout the world, where only the name of Christ is preached, celebrated the big day, and every year, with each repetition of the holiday, he brings with him a fresh approach to love and light. In every house, every family every year are preparing for this day, children expect it to look happy, the parents with love thinking about the upcoming children pleasure, the idea of a festive Christmas tree fills the heart.





- But we must not forget that Christmas is above all a holy day, a divine day we honor the memory of that for infinite love, not saved his Son for the salvation of the human race. So in order to adequately meet and spend the holiday, everyone should be filled reverence Fairest way Baby Jesus. Without that thought all the difference disappears holiday. Celebrating the birth of Christ, we pray that the spirit of his love awakened and kindled in our hearts. Let us all strive to implement in our midst in the true spirit of the birth of Christmas. ("*Day by Day*". Brief spiritual reflections by Mrs. J. M. W. Watersburg, 1908).



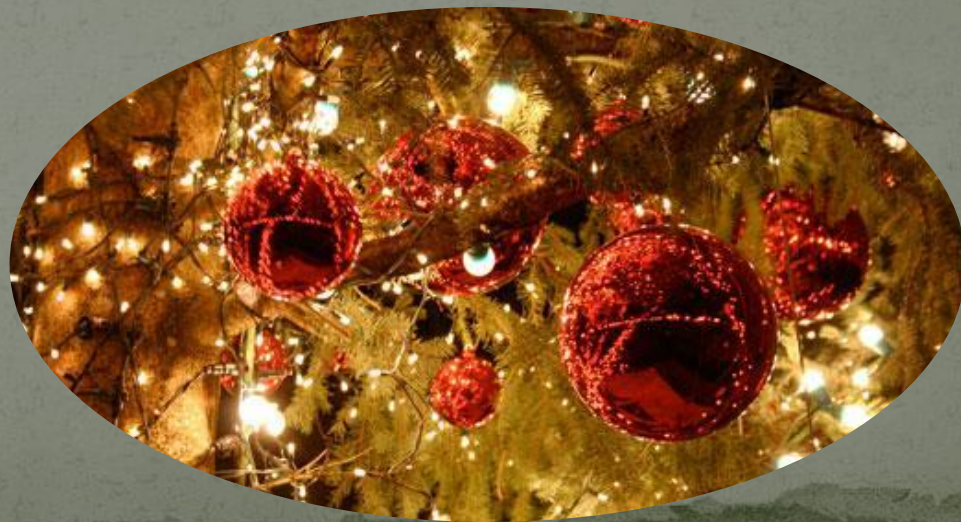
# Christmas in Spain

- Christmas - it is, without a doubt, the most important Spanish holiday. Preparation for it begins in November. Gradually, decorated streets, in shops and on the streets set trees, everywhere one could see the Pope Noel - brothers of Santa Claus and Santa Claus. Celebrate Christmas as well before the official start date. About a week or two at restaurants organized Christmas dinners for friends and / or colleagues. Traditionally, these dinners end towards the morning. Every Spaniard in average visits three such dinners. As a result, the entire second half of December, in essence, is not





- Christmas in Spain - is a quiet family celebration, held in the family. December 24 evening and all day on December 25 Spanish exchange gifts and eat clean Christmas products. First of all, sweetness: halva, marzipan, anise candy.
- In addition to sweets, always on the holiday table each Spanish family present marine crustaceans - shrimp, crab, lobster and champagne. In addition to the rich traditional Christmas holiday table attribute is bleached - the layout, the picture symbolizes the birth of Christ. Henbane can be a variety of sizes. They decorate the shop windows as well as urban areas. This is intriguing Spaniards and especially children.





# Christmas in Germany

- In Germany, the Christmas windows in conventional houses light up the Christmas lights of candles. This tradition goes back to the Middle Ages, when the candles were lit in the homes of poor villagers only on major holidays. At Christmas, each exhibited a candle in the window, and the dark streets were filled with light. The tradition of decorating the windows with lights kept alive to this day. Some Germans still put on a window sill is not new-fangled electric lamps, and arched carved candlesticks.





- A special day - December 24 (New Style). After lunch, life in most German cities freezes. About ten o'clock in the evening air is filled with the ringing of bells, ushers in the Christmas services. At the service of the day are even those who in other days of the year do not think about God. After the service is arranged lavish family dinner, and 25 and December 26, it is time friendly visits, meetings with friends, Christmas carols, tours, etc.



# Christmas in France

- Elevated pre-holiday atmosphere reigns in the streets of France before the main Catholic holidays - Christmas (Noel). On this day made sure to make gifts, especially to children. According to the old custom, they put their shoes by the fireplace to Santa Claus (Per Noel) has put it at night a reward for good behavior.
- Christmas Dinner "reveylon" (reveillion) under decorated fir tree - a purely familial, with consecrated tradition menu that is sure to be featured seven courses: soup with sage and garlic, spinach and baked cod, green and black olives, grilled fish, cauliflower, celery in anchovy oil, snails and traditional delicacy - goose liver. And dessert is amazing demanding French "Christmas log" (cake with candied fruit and raisins) and chocolate.





- French special tradition - preparing Christmas log. This was done in order to increase and improve the quality of the crop. For logs chosen the tree whose fruit was preferred. It was believed that sawed off tree trunk has magical properties and can affect the crop.





# Christmas in Italy

- Italy celebrates Christmas according to the Catholic calendar - December 25, and this is important for the Christian world event coincides with the most important holiday of the Roman Empire - Saturnalia. On this day, the ancient world was celebrating the winter solstice - the day on which the sun is reborn. Pagan holiday was not forgotten by the Italians, and still have a great Christmas set fire log, which should burn down to the New Year.





- Christmas in Italy - the most colorful festival and is strictly a family, a holiday for children as Christmas symbolizes the emergence of baby Jesus. Gifts are mainly related to the family comfort, interior decorations for the holiday table and - gold, yellow or red candles in candlesticks, decorated with artificial pine garlands with bows and berries. Italians love to decorate the house or apartment for Christmas. At the door they will surely hang a Christmas wreath. By December 24, even sidewalks adorn the red carpet and trees in large pots.

- One of the traditional Italian dishes this holiday is tagliatelle.

Tagliatelle - is about a centimeter, noodles, in our sense of the word. Interesting Christmas tradition is the fact that the table,

served on Christmas Eve, consists mainly of fish dishes, especially in the southern regions.



- Important figure Christmas is Babbo Natale - Italian cousin of Santa Claus. This character has been borrowed by the Italians from the Americans (along with the tradition of dressing the Christmas tree, which has spread in Italy just after World War II). Babbo Natale is virtually no different from Santa Claus - he also wears a luxurious red suit, he has such a big white beard, and he also lives in the Nordic countries and travels on a sled pulled by reindeer.





# Christmas in the USA

- In some U.S. states the celebration of Christmas for a long time was banned Protestants. But by the middle of the XIX century, the situation changed. The celebration begins on the night of December 24 to 25 with a midnight service, followed by a festive meal. But it is only a common tradition, as America - a multinational country.



- Americans with Hungarian roots differ from other citizens special attention to religion and church services. Christmas table their rich richly flavored food - it rolls with walnuts and poppy seeds, dumplings with honey and poppy seed biscuits with caraway seeds, sesame seeds and anise seeds, etc.
- In the south of the U.S. celebrate Christmas especially noisy with fireworks and fireworks. Early settlers exactly greeted their neighbors. Another tradition in the cold Alaska. On Christmas Eve kids with flashlights in hand is out of the house to the house of a large cardboard star, decorated with pieces of colored paper. Children sing happy songs, and the people treat their Christmas meal.
- In New Mexico, the streets and the flat roofs of houses at Christmas lighted candles in sand-filled paper bags. This is in order to light the way newborn Christ.





# Christmas in Brazil

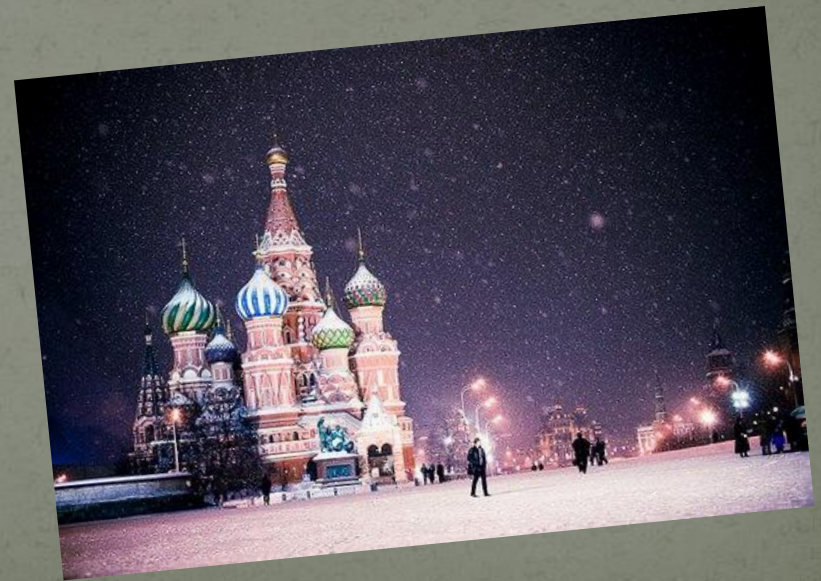
- In Brazil, Christmas is celebrated in 35-degree heat. Therefore the inhabitants of the country, deprived of "snow" treats, decorate the Christmas tree flakes of wool. However, in the recent sale there was fake snow, which can be bought in any shop, selling Christmas toys and gifts.
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- Brazilians are mostly very pious and try to attend festive church services. In many Catholic churches served a traditional Christmas Mass - it is also called "Messiah Rooster" in honor of the bird that his crow heralds the arrival of Christmas morning.





# Christmas in Russia

- January 6 at 12 am, starts solemn liturgy in the Orthodox churches. A January 7 decided to greet friends and family with this bright holiday. Unlike the Europeans who want to celebrate Christmas with his family, and even the door closed, in Russia to keep the door open, went to all who want to celebrate Christmas, to share the festive joy.





- At Christmas time in Russia for centuries was made to dress up, organize fun games, going from house to house to wake the sleepers, to congratulate all counter-rotated the sun in the summer, and later, after the adoption of Christianity, Christmas, joke, sing songs. Ended carols general fun, riding a rollercoaster, a common feast.
- Christmas divination are varied and numerous. Engaged them girls, sometimes under the direction of senior women. And they were interested, first of all, they would come out in the next year married or remain "on the shelf", whether rich or poor, in general, whether alive or dead. So many divination related to the search betrothed.

