
CHRISTMAS

IN POLAND





Everyone loves Christmas. It is favorite and most eagerly awaited holiday in the year. This is a unique time when people try to be kind, friendly and generous to one another.



Christmas Eve

December 24th is a very important day for Polish Christian people.

On this day families decorate Christmas tree - fir or pine trees with paper stars, angels, toys, nuts and glass balls.





When the first star appears
in the sky, people take
their seats at the
Christmas table.

They do not forget leaving
an empty place for an
unexpected guest.



The table is covered with
white tablecloth and hay
is spread on it as a
reminder that Christ was
born in a manger.



They share Oplatek - a thin
wafer and wish one
another whatever the
heart dictates: happiness,
good health, lots of
money etc



This day was spent quietly with in the intimate family; visiting with friends and relatives would begin the following day, St. Stephen's day.

Christmas day was traditionally free of unnecessary work.

The menu concentrated on meat, which is probably why the most popular dish on this day was bigos or hunter's stew.

This dish can and should be prepared ahead of time.

At midnight many people go to church to Pasterka or Midnight Mass .



St. Stephen's Day

This day spent on visiting relatives and friends is the second day of Christmas, which is also celebrated as a holiday in Poland.

After mass, people threw wheat or rice at each other, to ensure good harvest and wealth in coming year.



following year.

On this day domestic help was hired or rehired for the coming year and the hostess prepared an excellent meal for her domestic staff. When one of the staff left the table and did not eat, he indicated he was leaving for employment somewhere else. For the rest of the staff a new contract was sealed for the

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Nativity scene

A nativity scene may be used to describe any depiction of the Nativity of Jesus in art, but in the sense covered here, also called a crib or manger in the UK and crèche in France, it means a three-dimensional commercial or folk art depiction of the birth or birthplace of Jesus, either sculpted or using two-dimensional



The End

