



# **Traditions and Customs of Great Britain**

- England is a country that knows how to celebrate well. In 2012 alone we have already witnessed the Olympics and Queen Elizabeth's Diamond Jubilee. In 2011, the world watched as Prince William wed Catherine Middleton in Westminster Abbey. In addition to these one-time special events that are broadcast around the world, England has many annual celebrations and traditions as well. Many are unique to individual towns and villages, but here we will just focus on more general practices. I'll start with Christmas described as "the pinnacle of the year"

# **Holiday and traditions**

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- The Christmas season in England is absolutely lovely! Since England does not celebrate the American Thanksgiving holiday, the Christmas season seems to begin much earlier and last longer than it does in the States. Christmas trees can be found in many city centres, with the most famous being the Norwegian tree in Trafalgar Square, London. Christmas carol services and nativity plays are popular. Many people buy disposable Advent Calendars where a small chocolate can be eaten each day of Advent. Santa is often known as Father Christmas in England, and he will come on Christmas Eve night. In contrast to milk and cookies traditionally left by Americans, traditional items left out for Santa in England include mince pies and an alcoholic beverage such as brandy or sherry. Later in the day, the Queen's Christmas message is broadcast on television and radio throughout England, the UK and the Commonwealth.

# Christmas

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- Mother's Day is perhaps the last holiday of the winter season. Almost always celebrated in March, Mother's Day in England generally occurs 3 weeks before Easter Sunday.

# **Mother's Day / Mothering** **Sunday**

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- Similar to Valentine's Day in America – a time of giving cards, chocolates, flowers and gifts to a significant loved one.

# Valentine's day

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- Traditionally an American holiday, Halloween is adopted to varying degrees throughout England. In contrast to the wide range of costumes in American celebrations, the emphasis on being something scary for Halloween is predominant in England. It is quite common to use white body paint all over and then use black and red on top of it to give a somewhat bloody or dead look. Childhood traditions such as trick-or-treating are common, but not as popular as in America.

# Halloween

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- Similar timing to Father's Day in America, Father's Day is perhaps the last spring holiday in England.

# **Father's Day**

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**Thank you for attention**

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