

Christmas in Britain and in Hungary



Christmas around the world

- ▶ Christmas, which is celebrated on December 25, is one of the biggest fests of the year in many countries around the world.
- ▶ Christmas is a very important day for the members of the Christian religion because it celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ. At church services around the world, people retell the story of the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem.
- ▶ In many countries the Christmas season actually lasts for almost a month. Streets, squares, homes and shops are decorated and illuminated everywhere.



Christmas in Britain

- ▶ Most people are on holiday in the UK and stay at home with their families on Christmas day, when the family members gather to have a Christmas dinner at midday.
- ▶ During the weeks before Christmas, people send cards and go to Carol services and put up Christmas decorations in their homes.
- ▶ There is one very British Christmas ritual, which is watching the Queen's message on TV. The tradition began in 1932 with King George V. The broadcast was an enormous success.
- ▶ Queen Elizabeth II continues the tradition to this day. Every year she broadcasts her message on Christmas Day, and it is heard by millions of people all over the world. In England most people watch or listen to it after their Christmas Dinner!





Christmas Crackers

- ▶ Pulling a Christmas cracker is also a popular British tradition. But what is a Christmas cracker?
- ▶ Christmas crackers are tubes made of brightly coloured paper. When pulled apart, it makes a pop sound. Crackers usually contain a small gift, a paper hat and a joke. Crackers are famous for their very bad jokes!
- ▶ The party hats look like crowns, similar to the ones worn by the Wise Men. There is normally a cracker next to each plate on the Christmas dinner table.



Christmas in Hungary

- ▶ In Hungary the Christmas tree is decorated on Christmas Eve. Hungarians also put fondant candies on the tree.
- ▶ According to the Hungarian tradition, the Christmas presents are brought by baby Jesus.
- ▶ As for Santa Claus, he visits on December 6 bringing sweets and presents for those well-behaved children who put their clean shoes on the windowsill the night before.
- ▶ As far as Christmas fairs are concerned, one of the most popular market is held on Vörösmarty Square, in the heart of the city's 5th district. This traditional Budapest Fair is a great place to get your unique Christmas presents, as here you can always find some exclusive and hand-made art products and all kinds of decorations, made with authentic techniques.

Hungarian Christmas Dinner

- ▶ Typical Hungarian Christmas dishes are: fish soup,
- ▶ stuffed cabbage,
- ▶ roast turkey with stuffing,
- ▶ and the famous poppy seed or walnut rolls, which is a traditional Hungarian pastry, mostly eaten during the winter holidays.
- ▶ It is basically a kind of sweet bread, known as 'beigli' in Hungary. During the last few decades other variants (such as chestnut, plum jam, prune, or even cocoa) have become popular, too.



The End

