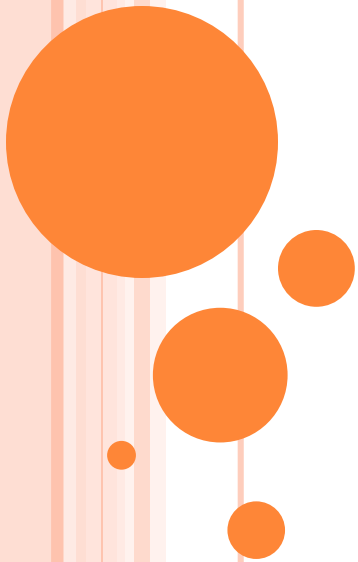


*How Christmas is celebrated
around the world!!!!*



CHRISTMAS IN SPAIN

- Christmas in Spain is not a huge commercial event like in many other countries. Christmas lights are usually lit in the main cities during the first week of December when the shops are stocked with Christmas supplies. Christmas trees are common at home but they don't appear until the second half of December. Also, there are miniature nativities called Belénes which show life in the village where Jesus was born.



CHRISTMAS EVE

- Christmas Eve is called Nochebuena in Spanish and it is the most important family gathering of the year.
- Most families eat their main Christmas meal on Christmas Eve before the Service.
- Most people in Spain go to Midnight Mass or 'La Misa Del Gallo' (The Mass of the Rooster). It is called so because a rooster is supposed to have crowed the night that Jesus was born.
- After the midnight Service, part of the tradition is for people to walk through the streets carrying torches, playing the guitar and beating on tambourines and drums.



CHRISTMAS EVE

- On that evening people meet early for a few drinks and then they return home to enjoy a meal with the family.
- Most bars and restaurants close in the evening. Prawn starters and roast lamb would be a typical meal rounded off with Christmas sweet called turrón. Another festive sweet is called Polvorones. With their food they drink Catalan champagne, or good Spanish wines.



SPAIN

- The traditional Spanish Christmas dinner is 'Pavo Trufado de Navidad' (which is turkey with truffles). In Galicia the most popular meal for Christmas Eve and for Christmas Day is seafood. This can be different kinds of it, from shellfish and mollusks, to lobster and small edible crabs.



CHRISTMAS DAY

- Children may receive a small gift on Nochebuena or in the morning. Christmas Day is a national holiday in Spain so shops are closed. Nonetheless, it isn't a day of great celebration, but a calm day when people go out for a walk.



NEW YEAR'S EVE

- New Year's Eve is known as Noche Vieja. It is a big celebration all around the country with parties and special nights in hotels and clubs. Until midnight people stay at home. The tradition is to eat 12 grapes, one on each stroke of the clock to bring good luck for the coming year.

1st January – A low key public holiday with many people sleeping until late!



EPIPHANY

- The 6th of January is the Feast of the Epiphany, Día de los Reyes Magos. That's when the Three Kings arrived in Bethlehem. For Spanish children this is the most important day of the year because when they wake up they find that the Three Kings (Los Reyes Magos) have left gifts for them. The Three Kings are their favourites, particularly Baltasar who rides a donkey and is the one to leave the gifts. All day, the Reyes Magos continue their good work and give gifts to children in hospitals all over the country.



Los Reyes Magos



<https://www.spanish-fiestas.com/festivals/christmas-in-spain/>

<https://www.whychristmas.com/cultures/spain.shtml>

Time

end

Panagiotis Hamodrakas
Panagiotis Bobos

