

# How Christmas is celebrated around the world

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# Christmas in Australia

- In Australia, Christmas comes in towards the beginning of the summer holidays! Children have their summer holidays from mid December to early February, so some people might even be camping at Christmas.



# Christmas in Australia

- Australians hang wreaths on their front doors and sometimes go out Christmas carol singing on Christmas Eve. People also decorate their houses and gardens with Christmas trees and Christmas lights. Neighbours sometimes have little competitions to see who has got the best light display. The neighbours often visit each other to look at the light displays at night. Sometimes the displays are put out as early as December 1<sup>st</sup>.

# Christmas in Australia

- Australians also decorate their houses with bunches of 'Christmas Bush', a native Australian tree with small green leaves and cream coloured flowers.



# Christmas in Australia

- Most families try to be home together for Christmas and the main meal is normally eaten at lunch time. Most people now have a cold Christmas dinner, or a barbecue with seafood such as prawns and lobsters along with the 'traditional English' food. On Christmas Eve, fish-markets are often full of people queuing to buy their fresh seafood for Christmas day.

# Christmas in Finland

- Finnish people believe that Santa Claus or Father Christmas lives in the north part of Finland. People from all over the world send letters to Santa Claus in Finland. There is a big tourist theme park called 'Christmas Land' in the north of Finland, near to where they say that Father Christmas lives.



# Christmas in Finland

- In Finland, Santa might also be known as Joulupukki! Joulupukki leaves gifts under the Christmas tree but if you have been naughty you could end up with a bag of coal!

# Christmas in Finland

- Christmas Eve is very special and the most important day over Christmas. It's traditional to eat rice porridge and plum fruit juice for breakfast. Then, the tree is bought and is decorated.

# Christmas in Finland

- As it gets dark very early in most parts of Finland around Christmas, it's now traditional to go to cemeteries and visit the graves of family members. Some cemeteries are enormous and police are on duty to manage the traffic, but everyone must walk the last few yards to the grave. Candles in hanging lanterns are left around the grave. The whole cemetery is alight with glowing lanterns shining in the snow - a winter wonderland.

# Christmas in Finland

- The main Christmas meal is eaten in the early evening. Lutefish (salt fish) is the traditional starter, but is not so common nowadays. The main meal is a leg of pork served with mashed potato traditionally cooked slowly in birch-bark boxes in the oven with similarly cooked mashed swede. Casseroles containing different vegetables including, rutabaga, carrot and potato are also common. Cured salmon is very popular and some people also have turkey. Desert is baked rice pudding/porridge eaten with spiced plum jam. An almond is hidden in the pudding. Whoever finds the almond will be lucky for the next year.

