

# Christmas Traditions: England, the USA, and Australia

## England.

In England, Christmas is a time for family and tradition. On Christmas Eve, many families hang stockings by the fireplace for Father Christmas, who delivers gifts during the night. On Christmas Day, families gather to enjoy a large meal. The traditional Christmas dinner includes roast turkey, potatoes, and vegetables. For dessert, they eat Christmas pudding, a rich cake filled with dried fruits. Another popular tradition is pulling Christmas crackers during the meal. These crackers contain small gifts, paper hats, and jokes. The Queen's Christmas speech is also an important part of the day, broadcasted on TV in the afternoon.



## The USA

In the United States, Christmas is celebrated with lots of decorations and lights. Many families put up a Christmas tree in their living room and decorate it with ornaments and lights. On Christmas Eve, children leave cookies and milk for Santa Claus, who travels in a sleigh pulled by reindeer. He delivers presents by coming down the chimney. Some Americans attend midnight church services on Christmas Eve. On Christmas Day, families open their gifts and enjoy a meal together, which often includes ham, mashed potatoes, and pie. In big cities like New York, ice skating and visiting Christmas markets are popular activities.

## Australia

Christmas in Australia happens during the summer, so the celebrations are very different. Instead of snow and cold weather, Australians enjoy sunshine and warm temperatures. Many families celebrate with a barbecue on the beach, eating seafood like prawns and fish. Some also have a traditional roast dinner. Santa Claus is still an important part of Christmas, but in some stories, he uses kangaroos instead of reindeer to pull his sleigh! Australians sing carols by candlelight at outdoor concerts in the evening. Boxing Day, the day after Christmas, is also popular for watching cricket matches and shopping at sales.

