

CHRISTMAS IN HAITI - NWÈL ANN AYITI

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The addition of Internet in our lives has brought people across the globe closer together through instant communication. Therefore, we are able to get an idea of one another's cultures, including Christmas traditions. In the following lines, you will have the opportunity to learn more about Haitian Christmas traditions.

These traditions vary by location in Haiti and how much extra income one has, yet all are just a glimpse of how special Christmas can be in such a place.

*This tradition of **Fanal** in Haiti originated from the people who used to work at night in the dark. In order to see where they were going, they used candles, and the fanal came as a way to protect the candle from the wind.*

The tradition evolved in Haiti and became a Christmas tradition. Others, are of the opinion that, the fanals are a century old tradition that many say were used to light worshipers' way to church.

The word fanal comes from the French word for lantern. Fanals are small lantern-like homes that are part of Haiti's Christmas tradition. A candle is placed inside that illuminates the craft and makes a stained-glass effect. These intricately designed paper boxes are cut and decorated with tissue paper before being placed on porches and in windows to light the way on dark evenings and to bring joy to onlookers passing by.



*Similarly, considering decoration ornaments, Pi detwal or Peta are widely known among the locals as sparklers, or roman candles, that the children light at night-time in the backyard to watch as the bright lights dart across the darkness. **Pi detwal** translates as “rain of stars” / βροχή αστεριών .*



The youngest members of the family, usually have a blast playing Wosle or better known as Osselets during the Christmas holiday. It is similar to jacks and keeps children entertained while parents enjoy their Christmas meals and time together.



Moving forward, another major part of Haitian Christmas traditions is traditional food. Traditional foods can include rice with djon djon (Haitian

mushrooms),Pineapple Nog, rice and beans, chicken creole, fried accra, goat, pineapple upside down cake or orange cake ,fried pork or goat, pikliz (spicy pickled carrots and cabbage), pain patate(sweetened potato, fig, and banana pudding). This feast can last the entire night as people dance and sing in celebration.

