

# AMERICAN TRADITIONS



# Christmas in USA



It is evident that , every year in USA , there is a huge variety of Christmas traditions because of it's multi-cultural nature . Many customs are similar to ones in the UK, France, Italy, The Netherlands, Poland and Mexico. The traditional meal for Western European families is turkey or ham with cranberry sauce. Families from Eastern origins favour turkey with trimmings, keilbasi (a Polish sausage), cabbage dishes, and soups; and some Italian families prefer lasagne!

Some Americans use pop-corn threaded on string to help decorate their Christmas Tree. Making gingerbread houses is also popular to make and eat at Christmas! Eggnog\_ is a 'traditional' Christmas drink in the USA.



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- ❧ Many Americans, especial Christians will go to Church to celebrate the birth of Jesus at Christmas. Many churches have special Christmas Carol services and events where the story of Christmas is told.
- ❧ In New England (the American States of Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine), there are shops called 'Christmas Shops' that only sell Christmas decorations and toys all the year round!
- ❧ Americans also send out Christmas Cards, like Carol singing and there's the unusual custom of the Christmas Pickle!
- ❧ People in America like to decorate the outsides of their houses with lights and sometimes even statues of Santa Claus, Snowmen and Reindeer. Some cookies and glass of milk are often left out as a snack for Santa on Christmas Eve!



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- ❧ Towns and cities often decorate the streets with lights to celebrate Christmas. Perhaps the most famous Christmas street lights in the USA are at the Rockefeller Center in New York where there is a huge Christmas Tree with a public ice skating rink in front of it over Christmas and the New Year.



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- ❧ The association of gift-giving with Christmas goes back to the original Christmas when the Magi brought gifts to the Christ child. These gifts – frankincense, gold, and myrrh – were given to the baby Jesus for his security and in goodwill.
- ❧ Today, those who celebrate Christmas carry on the tradition of giving to others for the joy of giving. Many believe that the Christmas holiday has become so commercialized that there is no longer the altruistic purpose behind the practice of giving. As you buy gifts and give during Christmas, do so in the spirit of etiquette and the Golden Rule of doing unto others as you would have them to do unto you.



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**Advent Calendars** - Early versions of this tradition, started in Germany in 1903 by publisher Gerhard Land, offered a way for children to count down to Christmas by opening one “door” or “window” a day to reveal a Bible passage, poem or small gift. Since gaining mass popularity by 1920, the calendars have evolved to secular calendars that include daily gifts from mini bottles of wine to nail polish to chocolates to action figures.



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❧ *The Nutcracker* - For many, the holiday season is not complete without a trip to watch this ballet. With music by Pyotr Tchaikovsky and originally choreographed by Marius Petipa, the romantic tale of the young Clara's Christmas Eve premiered. 18,1892, in St. Petersburg, Russia. It was performed for the first time outside of Russia in 1934 in England, and made its way to the United States in 1944 when it was performed by the San Francisco Ballet. It became a must-see event in America in the 1960s, as performances spread across the nation.



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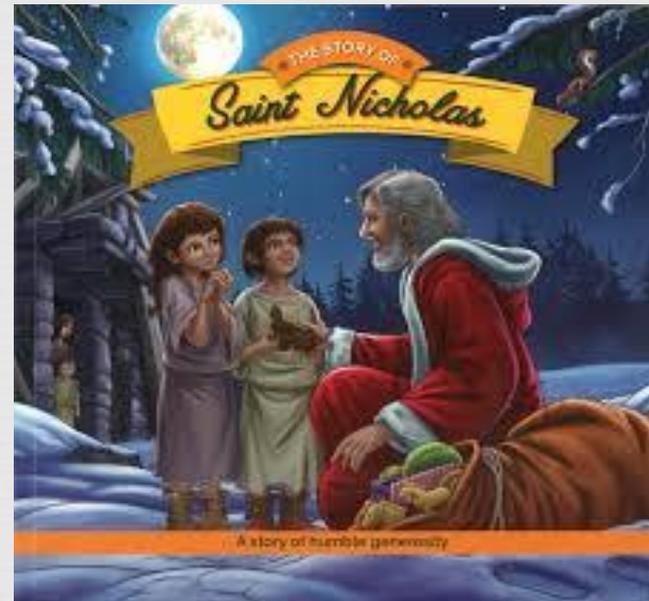
❧ **Door Wreaths** - Wreaths have been around since the ancient Greek and Roman times, but the evergreen Christmas wreath, often adorned with boughs of holly, eventually took on Christian meaning, with the circular shape representing eternal life and the holly leaves and berries symbolic of Christ's crown of thorns and blood, according to the New York Times. Today's wreaths, which come in all varieties, from flowers and fruit to glass balls and ribbon to artificial and themed, are most often seen as a secular winter tradition



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- ❧ A Visit from Saint Nicholas - Best known as *The Night Before Christmas*, the reading of this classic by poet Clement Moore is an American holiday tradition. Believed to have been written on Christmas Eve of 1822, the *New Yorker* is said to have been inspired by his sleigh ride home. According to the U.S. Library of Congress, Clement, a professor at the General Theological Seminary in Manhattan, was "embarrassed by the work, which was made public without his knowledge in December 1823. Moore did not publish it under his name until 1844."



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Ugly Christmas Sweaters - You can blame our neighbors to the north for this silly, ironic tradition that really gained steam in the 1980s. According to the Ugly Christmas Sweater Party Book, the sweaters became a party trend in Vancouver, Canada in 2001. And the trend is seemingly here to stay. According to Fox Business, the ugly sweater industry is a multi-million business, with websites such as Topsy Elves, retailers including Macy's, Kohl's and Target, and even food chains jumping on the ugly bandwagon.



# HERE SOME LINKS FOR CHRISTMAS SONGS



☞ <https://youtu.be/aAkMkVF>  
<https://youtu.be/8xPvZEogT>

<https://youtu.be/SMbwICGdc70>

<https://youtu.be/Z0ajuTaHBtM>

<https://youtu.be/JRNs1yGfbsU>

<https://youtu.be/pMxrNW0voqc>