

Christmas Around the World



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India

In India, people like to decorate their houses and streets with colourful, folded paper stars.



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Ireland

In Ireland, people like to light candles in the windows of their homes to act as a guide for Joseph and Mary to travel to their resting place.



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USA

In the south-west of the USA, people display 'luminarias' or 'farolitos' to celebrate the birth of Jesus. These are small paper lanterns with a candle inside.



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Brazil

Each Christmas, thousands of people go to see the world's tallest floating Christmas tree on water in Rio de Janeiro. It is 85 metres tall and contains 3.1 million bulbs.



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Australia

As well as Christmas trees and other decorations, Australians decorate their houses with 'Christmas Bush'. This is an Australian plant with white flowers that turn a deep, shiny red at Christmas time.



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Guatemala

Most Guatemalans plan and build a nativity scene with their family. The nativity scene is called a 'Nacimiento'.



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Sweden

In Sweden, the biggest celebrations around Christmas time is St. Lucia's day, on December 13th. A girl is dressed up in a white dress with a red sash around her waist and a crown of candles on her head. The food eaten for breakfast on St. Lucia's day is a saffron bun called 'Lussekat', which means 'Lucia's cat'.



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Mexico

Just before Christmas, during the 'Festival of Radishes', Mexican farmers carve radishes to make nativity scenes.



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Italy

Italian children are very lucky because they receive presents twice during the Christmas period. On the 6th of January, they are visited by the Befana, a good, magical old lady which brings sweets and small presents and stuffs them in stockings. If the children have not been good, Befana will bring only coal and garlic.



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United Kingdom

In the United Kingdom, people decorate their homes and towns with Christmas lights. Lots of people also attend Nativity plays and carol services.

