

# Christmas in Poland

I think that everyone loves Christmas. It is the favorite and most eagerly awaited holiday in the year. This is a unique time when people try to be kind, friendly and generous to one another. They seem to forget all their problems, quarrels and just enjoy being together. Christmas is preceded by many days of preparation. Streets are lit by colored lamps, shops are full of people buying presents, Christmas trees are set up in every home and decorated with sparkling tinsel and chains.



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The atmosphere of excitement and expectation can be felt almost everywhere. The day preceding Christmas Eve is a unique one it is believed that every thing that might happen on it might influence the whole year to come.

Christmas Eve dinner always consist of fast dishes dishes should be 12. Each should be tried which will ensure happiness through out the year.

Among the most typical are borscht with dumplings in various ways (the most traditional is carp) cabbage with peas, dumplings with cabbage noodles with poppy seeds compote of dried fruit and kutia.



In Christmas Eve some people say that if you ask for food on that day, you will be hungry throughout the year.



When the first star appears in the sky, people take seats at the Christmas table. They do not forget about leaving an empty place for an unexpected guest. The table is covered with white tablecloth and hay is spread on it.

There is also a custom of giving presents and everyone may find something nice under the Christmas tree



At midnight many people go to church to attend a special mass during which Christmas carols are sung. This night is miraculous because it is believed that animals can speak with human voices.



The first day of Christmas, 25 December, is usually spend at home.

On that day carol – singers dressed as an angel, a devil, King Herot or Death visit people's houses





The second day of Christmas is spent in a different way. People pay and receive visits, spend much time at the table talking or singing carols.



Christmas in Polish people is now only the yearly celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ but also the most familiar traditional and joyful time of happiness and reconciliation.

