



CHRISTMAS IN THE USA

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays from the United States of America! Here in the US we have customs, traditions and legends from many cultures. We celebrate Christmas in every possible way!

Sometimes we form new traditions too, like *Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer* and *Frosty the Snowman*. We have also created new Christmas symbols like the Coca-Cola Polar Bears.

But we do many of the Christmas preparations that people in the world do. We have a *Christmas tree* that we decorate with ornaments and lights, topping it with a star or angel. When it snows, we build snowmen. We hang mistletoe under the doorway. When you are under the mistletoe, somebody kisses you! We make a list of presents and send it to the North Pole for Saint Nicholas. We have advent calendars that help us to count down to *Christmas' Eve*. Groups of carol singers go from door to door singing traditional Christmas songs.

On December 24th, *Christmas' Eve*, children hang stockings upon their beds or the fireplace. Children also leave a glass of brandy and cookies for Santa and a carrot and a bowl of water for the reindeer. Roman Catholic families attend Midnight Mass on Christmas' Eve.

The tradition says that, during the night, Santa comes on his sleigh of reindeer, gets into the houses through the chimney, and leaves the small gifts in the stockings and the big ones underneath the tree. But only if you have been good!

On *Christmas' Day*, December 25th, the first thing to do is to come to the Christmas tree and open your presents. Many families attend religious services in the morning. Then families gather to have a Christmas dinner. The typical food for Christmas day is roast turkey and for dessert there are Christmas cake and gingerbread cookies.

How do you celebrate Christmas in your country?

Answer these questions:

- 1) When is celebrated Christmas Eve?
- 2) Where do children hang their stockings?
- 3) Where do children send their letters to Saint Nicholas?
- 4) What's the name of the reindeer that has a red nose?
- 5) What are the famous Christmas cookies made of?
- 6) Where can you be kissed?
- 7) What's the typical food for Christmas dinner?
- 8) How does Santa get into the houses?
- 9) Where does Santa put the presents?
- 10) What do people sing on Christmas?