

Christmas in the UK (1)



Father Christmas



Christmas cards



Christmas tree



Carol singers



Christmas sock



Snow



**Christmas message
from the King**



Presents



Midnight mass



Christmas lunch



Roast turkey (or goose)



Roast potatoes

Christmas in the UK (2)



Wishbone



Mistletoe



Holly



Cranberry jelly



Yule log



Brussels sprouts



Parsnips



Gravy



Mince pies



Christmas pudding



Christmas cake



Christmas crackers

Christmas crackers:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KqIs2Mwsd0o>

Christmas in the UK

Christmas is the UK's most popular holiday. Many of its traditions and ceremonies are rooted in pagan beliefs from hundreds of years ago. The Druids honoured the mistletoe in their religious rituals and holly was believed to protect people against witches. The Vikings introduced the "Yule Log" (Christmas Log), which used to be burned in honour of the god Thor.

The custom of giving Christmas cards to friends and family originated in Britain in 1843. The practice is now an established tradition. In the year 2015, 900 million Christmas cards were sold in the UK. Since 1840, decorated trees have been used in UK homes. Prince Albert brought this tradition from Germany.

On Christmas Eve, carols are sung by groups of people walking from house to house.

Children hang a sock on the fireplace or at the end of their beds for Father Christmas to fill with presents.

On Christmas Day, presents are opened in the morning. Then the family prepare a traditional Christmas lunch, consisting of roast turkey or goose, brussels sprouts, roast potatoes, parsnips, cranberry jelly and gravy. Dessert is usually mince pies or Christmas pudding. Traditionally, the pudding contained coins for children to find, but today the practise is banned. Christmas crackers are very popular – there is one for each person at the table. They are coloured paper tubes, twisted at the ends and filled with paper hats, jokes and small toys. Two people pull a cracker, and it breaks with a "crack", and the contents fall out. The person with the biggest half wins the contents. Kids love them! See video link above.

In the afternoon, everybody eats Christmas cake – this is a very rich fruit cake, with many ingredients, such as raisins, dried fruits, brandy, cinnamon, nutmeg, cloves, orange peel and sugar.

The King delivers a Christmas message to the people on Christmas Day at 3pm on BBC TV. King George started this tradition in 1932.

Boxing Day is on December 26th. This day takes its name from a old custom of giving a Christmas box to trades people who call regularly. Nowadays they just get a tip at Christmas for their good service throughout the year.

You can read more about Christmas around the world (France, Italy, England, Greece, Mexico, Costa Rica, Bahamas) in this link:

<https://edition.cnn.com/travel/article/christmas-feasts-world>