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How Kids Celebrate Christmas Around the World

# HOW KIDS CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS AROUND THE WORLD

ALBATROS





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Everyone loves  
Christmas!

The smell of sweets and cakes all around, Christmas music filling the air, the whole house beautifully decorated, yummy treats being baked, and everyone looking forward to giving and receiving gifts. Have you ever wondered how Christmas is celebrated elsewhere in the world? Because although it is celebrated practically everywhere, each place is different. In some countries, for instance, children unwrap their presents in December, while others do so in January. In some countries Christmas is celebrated mainly for religious reasons, while in others it is more of a secular event.

Have you ever heard of the *kallikantzari*? And do you know who brings presents to children in Finland? What is *pan de jamón*? Where can people sunbathe and swim in the sea on Christmas Day?

What’s the same everywhere is that Christmas gives people the opportunity to spend quality time with their nearest and dearest. And isn’t that the nicest gift that Christmas can give?

Get ready to learn tons of interesting new things. Just look into the magic glass globe to see how Christmas is celebrated all over the world. It will take you wherever you want to go! The Christmas globe, if you look closely enough, is hidden in every picture. Can you find it? If you can, it will take you to the next place.





## Christmas in Australia & New Zealand

Christmas "down under" has many similarities with Christmas in the USA or Britain. The big difference is, here it's the height of summer, and many people spend Christmas Day at the beach, enjoying the sun. Because of the heat, some prefer a lighter meal to the traditional turkey. **Santa Claus** puts presents under the tree, and the children unwrap them on the morning of December 25th. Here in Australia, though, Santa's sleigh is sometimes pulled by kangaroos rather than reindeer, which aren't used to the summer weather. New Zealanders celebrate in a very similar way, with one peculiarity. Their local symbol for Christmas is the pōhutukawa tree, whose red flowers are sometimes included in holiday decorations.

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## Christmas in Finland

**F**innish children don't need to worry that they won't get any gifts, as gifts are brought on Christmas Eve by **Joulupukki** (the Finnish name for Santa Claus), who lives practically around the corner—in Lapland, near the Arctic Circle, where his workshop is located and the elves help him make the presents. Joulupukki is an old man with a white beard, dressed in red and white and holding a walking stick.

Before the children receive their presents, they manage to do many things—take a sauna, feed the birds, and perhaps go to the cemetery to light a candle for the departed. After that, the whole family gathers for a lavish dinner.



We Ethiopians have so much fun  
playing a game called ganna,  
similar to field hockey!

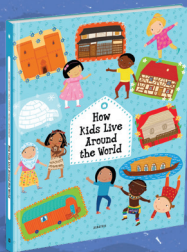
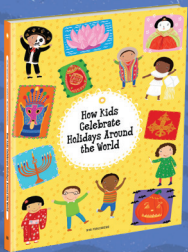
In Venezuela, we roller-skate  
through the streets!

In Russia, we don't  
celebrate Christmas  
until January 7th!



Did you know that in Australia you  
can spend Christmas Day on the  
beach? And you won't even be cold!

Check out other releases in this series:



Home sweet home . . .  
We love our gingerbread!



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