

A large, brightly lit Christmas tree stands as the centerpiece in a public square at night. The tree is densely covered in warm white lights, with a single bright star at the top. In the foreground, several smaller, similarly lit trees are visible, creating a festive atmosphere. The background shows the dark silhouettes of buildings and streetlights, with some light trails from passing vehicles. A prominent red banner with white text is superimposed over the middle of the image.

Christmas in Poland.



CHRISTMAS EVE DISHES

In Poland we have a tradition to have 12 dishes on Christmas table, as a symbol of 12 Apostols. People have to try every dish.



1. Mushroom soup

Mushroom soup is a soup made with mushrooms and without any animal fat.

Many years ago people believed that mushrooms have magical power and give strenght and health



2. *Fried carp*

Carp is fish which lives in sweet waters. Before Christmas Eve a lot of people buy it or another fish and then they fry it. This is the most popular Christmas dish in Poland.



3. *Dumplings with cabbage and mushrooms*

Dumplings one of the most popular Polish dishes.

On Christmas Eve in Poland people eat dumplings with cabbage and mushrooms or “Russian dumplings” (which have nothing to do with Russia). Many people make dumplings at home but a lot of buy them.



4. Poppy-seed cake

In Poland people believed that poppy-seed brings richness, so it was important to make something made with it. In Silesia people eat Silesian Christmas poppy seed-based dessert.



5. Dried fruit compote

Dried fruit compote is a drink made with dried apples, plums, apricots, figs, cinamon, oranges and pears, less with dried bananas or pineapples.

Formerly people believed that apples give love and health, pears give longevity and plums fight with dark powers.

The compote supports digestion after full supper.



6. *Gingerbread*

Gingerbread is a cake made with spices and marmalade.

It has very characteristic taste and is the most popular

Christmas dessert. Gingerbread symbolized prosperity and was associated with a higher social status.



7. Borsch

The most famous Christmas Eve soup is borsch.



8.Herring

Herrings live in the sea.They can be prepared in many ways.



9. Greek-style fish

Greek-style fish is fish (cod) with vegetables in sauce.

It's a popular Polish dish which has nothing to do with Greece (like dumplings with Russia;)



10. Cabbage with peas and mushrooms

Cabbage with peas and mushrooms is a special Polish dish made with sauerkraut. This is an addition to fish.



11. Carp in jelly

Carp in jelly is made with vegetables and gelatine.



12. Gingerbread cookies

Decorating gingerbread cookies is the biggest fun for children during the holidays.

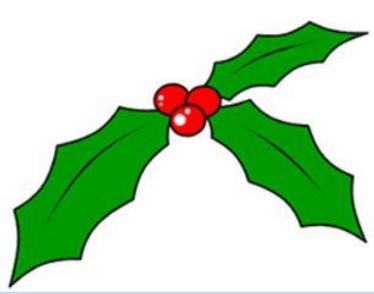


CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS

Sharing the wafer

Poles share the wafer on Christmas Eve. The wafer is a symbol of reconciliation and forgiveness, and people who are in conflict with each other cannot sit at the table on Christmas Eve. A seemingly small gesture shows that people feel affectionate, do not hold grudges against each other, and feel united with each other.





CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS

Additional place setting

The hostess places an additional place on the table, one more than the participants of the supper. It is symbolically intended for an unannounced visitor. It is also an expression of remembrance of our loved ones who are absent, who could not reach the supper, e.g. from abroad. The blank cover also remembers a family member who has died



CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS

Hay under the tablecloth

This custom dates back to pagan times and is related to an old agrarian festival. Traditionally, hay should be placed under the tablecloth. This symbolizes the birth of Jesus in poverty



CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS

The First Star

Traditionally, the Christmas Eve supper begins with the first star in the sky. It is a symbolic reference to the Star of Bethlehem, meaning the birth of Jesus, which, according to the Bible, was seen by the Three Kings on the eastern side of heaven. Entrust the task of spotting the First Star in the sky to your children





CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

CHRISTMAS TREE

The most important decoration on Christmas is a Christmas tree. Everyone in Poland has a Christmas tree decorated with colorful lights.

At the top of the Christmas tree there is always a star of Bethlehem which is supposed to help in finding the way back from distant place.



Mistletoe

Mistletoe is hanging over the table or the door.

Mistletoe is supposed to bring happiness to all household members.

In many films, actors kiss under the mistletoe.



Christmas Stable

Christmas stable presents the birthplace of Jesus Christ. In each nativity scene there is a representation of the Holy Family (baby Jesus, Mary and Joseph), there are also figures of the Three Kings, shepherds, and cattle.





New Year's traditions

PARTY/EVENTS Farewell to the old year of origin piano at games. In some regions of Poland, Christmas carols were also performed on New Year's Eve. The louder and happier people behaved that night, the happier the next year would be. It is worth adding that it was only in the 19th century in the Austrian and Prussian partition that the New Year's Eve appeared, which consisted in organizing New Year's Eve parties and balls.



New Year's resolutions

How to write New Year's resolutions?

until New Year's Eve, there are still some things to plan, such as New Year's resolutions.



New Year's Eve is also an occasion for virgins to divine whether they will be successful with the opposite gender. Putting something new on the New Year's Eve and taking special care of the appearance was to guarantee love conquests.



New Year's jokes

- What are you doing on New Year's Eve
- I go to the prison.
- Did they catch you again?
- No, but I want to spend New Year's Eve with family.

One blonde says to second blonde:

- You know, New Year's Eve is on Friday this Year.
- Gosh not only the 13th.



BAD MEMORIES

Everything that has happened in the end of the year should be forgotten with the changing date. Good memories are worth keeping, but the New Year's Eve custom applies to those moments that were bad. In order not to enter the new year with the baggage of bad experiences, write them all down on a piece of paper and then burn them on the last day of the year.



There were Polish Christmas and New Year's traditions and dishes.

We wish you Merry Christmas and happy New Year. May all your dreams come true

With love students from Poland

