

Christmas in Bulgaria



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Christmas is my favourite time of the year. Not because of the presents! Not at all! It is because all the people around me look happy and relaxed , because the atmosphere is festive and the decorations are amazing.



Christmas in Bulgaria is officially on December twenty fifth. The real celebration starts on December 20-th-a day Ignazden. It is believed that the first person who enters your home is a like a messenger , telling what the next year would be like.



The really important day is Christmas Eve. That is each family has a special family dinner. The meals that are served should be vegetarian. They have to be an odd number – 7,9 or 11. We usually have beans soup, stuffed cabbage leaves and peppers with rice , boiled wheat with sugar and walnuts and different kinds of pastries.



The most important element of the dinner is the special round bread that we call – “pitka”. There is a coin in the bread and we believe that who finds the coin will be lucky and wealthy. We never put away the food from the table after the end of dinner. We believe that the good spirits will come over to the house during the night so we live everything on the table.



The next day we have family gatherings. We exchange presents. We eat a lot. We have a lot of fun. And the best part is that we are together all day long-parents, children, pets. On Christmas Day my grandma prepares banitsa with lucky notes and lucky charms in it. I like to help my grandma with preparing the dish. We buy the baking pastry. We prepare a mixture of eggs, white cheese, some flour and some yogurt. We stuff the pastry with the mixture, roll them and arrange them beautifully in a tray. We put the lucky notes on random places and bake it for around an hour.

