

Christmas in Poland



*Christmas is the best time of year.
In Poland, Christmas is celebrated in a very special way. People begin to think about
Christmas and prepare carefully for it since early November.
Even in Advent we can observe the signs of Christmas coming - the cities, the shops,
the streets are decorated elaborately.*



In Advent children get an advent calendar and they have to open a little window and eat a small candy each day.



Then, finally, the Christmas Eve comes. In the morning we decorate the Christmas tree with stars, glass beads, chains, tinsel and candies. A typical Polish Christmas tree is very colourful.



When the first star appears on the sky (which is about 5 o'clock) everyone gathers around the table. First we pray, share the wafer and wish each other a Merry Christmas. It is celebrated mainly in the family circle.



On this day, many national meals are served (traditionally 12 meals), including borsch (beetroot soup), cabbage with mushrooms, carp, herring and poppy cake.



We put some hay under the table-cloth what symbolizes the place where Christ was born. Traditionally, one place at the table is left for an unexpected guest. After dinner we sing Christmas carols and children wait for Star man, who brings gifts. The presents are placed under the Christmas tree.



At midnight, many people traditionally go to church to attend matins. In the church, the manger is particularly popular with the children.



There is also a tradition to have a Christmas dinner at school. Students make pies, bake cakes and prepare salads. We cover the benches and decorate the classroom. Then we share the wafer and after the dinner we sing Christmas carols.



On New Year's Eve we go to the party or spend the evening at home with friends or family. At midnight we drink champagne and wish each other a Happy New Year. Then we go outside to see fireworks.

