

The National Day of Spain

HOLIDAYS AND FESTIVALS

Restoration Day of the Independent Czech State

This day is celebrated on 12th October. It commemorates the day Christopher Columbus discovered the America in 1492, and Armed Forces Day.



Always celebrated on 1 January. This holiday marks the date in 1993 when Czechoslovakia split into the Czech Republic and Slovakia.

Spanish



Christmas



Czech



Most people in Spain go to Midnight Mass. It is called this because a rooster is supposed to have crowed the night that Jesus was born. Christmas Eve is known as Nochebuena.

In the days before Nochebuena, children might take part in 'piden el aguinaldo' where they go and sing carols around their neighbors hoping to get some money!



December 24 is Adam and Eva's name day. The Christmas tree is decorated with traditional Czech Christmas ornaments in many households and preparations are made for the most festive dinner of the year.

Christmas Eve is associated with many superstitions that usually relate to life, love, and destiny that awaits one in the year to come. One Czech Christmas custom: one is supposed to fast all day to see the "golden piglet".

In Spain



Locally known as **Semana Santa** (Holy Week), Easter is the most important celebration in Spain, and stands out for its epic brotherhoods' processions and unique, age-old traditions specific to each region.

EASTER in Spain and in Czech Republic



In Czech Republic



It is traditional for boys and men to chase girls and women around and hit them with wooden whips (gently, don't worry!) Or they douse them with cold water.

In return, the females give them decorated eggs, plum brandy, candy, ribbons for their whips and even money. This is done to guarantee the woman another healthy year preserving her youth and beauty.

Spain

**San
Juan
bonfire**



The Feast of Saint John closely coincides with the June solstice, also referred to as Midsummer in the Northern Hemisphere. The Christian holy day is fixed at 24 June.

OTHER TRADITIONS



Czech

**Walpurgis
Night
(Burning of
the witches)**



Huge bonfires up to 8 metres tall with a witch figure are built and burnt in the evening, usually on top of hills. An effigy of a witch is held up and thrown into a bonfire to burn.