

Traditions

Christmas

Christmas is important Christian holiday and it celebrate born of Jesus Christ.

We celebrate Christmas Day on 24th December. Whole day nothing happens. Important is evening. In the evening we have Christmas dinner. For the dinner we have fried carp with potato salad. After dinner we go to the Christmas tree, Christmas tree is often in living room. Under tree there are presents and we start giving each other presents, somewhere presents giving is on 25th December in the morning.



Before or after presents giving there are some traditions. For example lead pouring, apple slicing, Christmas tree decorating, carol singing, shoe throwing, golden pig, kissing under mistletoe and more.

Golden pig. It is tradition with fasting. If you don't eat whole Christmas day, you will see golden pig in the evening.

Apple slicing in half. When you slice it and core is in shape of star, next year will be happy. But if it is rotten or in shape of cross, in next year will be dead or something bad happen.

Shoe throwing is tradition for girls. Girl takes shoe, stands with her back to the door and throws shoe. If shoe fall toward door, girl will have wedding next year.



After dinner, presents giving and some traditions you can go sleep or you can go to the church at midnight.



For Christmas is typical decorating house/flat. In Czech Republic people decorate their homes with lights and Christmas decorates. Doors are often decorated with wreaths or mistletoes. Some houses with their decorates are very crazy.



Boys wear shirt with trousers and girls wear white dress.

There are some differences at the present time, in contrast with the past. In the past carp wasn't so often on tables of normal people. Carp was expensive and people ate less expensive fish (catfish or other freshwater fish). Also they made fish with sweet sauce and instead potato salad there were dumplings. In the past Christmas tree wasn't so often, too. Present form of Christmas day started in 19th century.

Easter

Easter is another important Christian holiday and it celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

We celebrate Easter on Sunday after the first spring full moon. If the full moon is on Sunday, we will celebrate Easter next Sunday. Before this Sunday is Zelený čtvrtek (Green Thursday), Velký pátek (Big Friday) and Bílá sobota (White Saturday).



On Green Thursday, Big Friday and White Saturday we go whinny, because bells from churches fly on Thursday to the Rome until Saturday, when they come back. On Saturday at 10 am we go carolling. On Sunday (Boží hod velikonoční) we bake Easter meals (Mazanec – Easter cake, Beránci – Lambs).



On Easter Monday (Velikonoční pondělí) boys whip with „Pomlázka“ girls or women (Pomlázka is made of twisted osier). It makes girls or women fresh and healthy. Boys get for whipping from girls/women eggs.

Typical Easter meals are Easter stuffing with potato salad, lamb made of sweet dough, mazanec, spring soups and some legumes meals.



We don't wear anything special for Easter, but in some regions of the Czech Republic people still wear costumes (Moravia and Silesia).

We don't decorate our homes as much as in Christmas. We use a lot of green colour, spring flowers, eggs, wicker with cats.



Other traditions and holidays

April 1st

On this day we make jokes on our friends and family members. It is quite a popular tradition in the Czech Republic, but it isn't a Czech tradition.

May Day – Time of Love

On May Day girls must get a kiss under a blossoming cherry tree in order to stay beautiful. We celebrate May Day as International Labour Day, too.

Dušičky – 1st to 2nd November

It is similar to Halloween, but we don't wear masks and don't carol. On this day we remind memory of the deceased. We put flowers, wreaths and lighted candles on graves.

Saint Martin – 11th November

„Sv. Martin přijíždí na bílém koni.“ (Saint Martin is coming on a white horse.) This saying is about the holiday of Saint Martin as a day, when the first snow falls.



Tři králové (Three Kings) – 6th January

We put on costumes of the three kings – Kašpar, Melichar a Baltazar. Three kings go from door to door and write on doors with chalk K+M+B. It is short for „Christus mansionem benedicat“ - that means: Christ bless this house.

National holidays

Den obnovy samostatného českého státu – 1st January

- Restoration Day of the Independent Czech State

It happens on 1st January in 1993. This is day of separation Czech Republic and Slovak Republic.

Svátek práce – 1st May

- Labor Day

Den vítězství – 8th May

- Day of Victory

This is important day for whole Europe. It is day, when WW2 ends in Europe.

Den slovanských věrozvěstů Cyrila a Metoděje – 5th July

- Day of St. Cyril and St. Methodius

Day, when Cyril and Methodius come on Czech territory.

Den upálení mistra Jana Husa – 6th July

- Day of Jan Hus

On this day was burned preacher Jan Hus. He was a reformer of Catholic church and was one of the predecessors of Protestant church.

Den české státnosti – 28th September

- Czech Statehood Day

Den vzniku samostatného československého státu – 28th October

- Day of the independent Czechoslovak state

On 28th October in 1918 we form Czechoslovak state and finally separate from Austria-Hungary. Our first president was Thomas Garigue Masaryk.

Den boje za svobodu a demokracii – 17th November

- Day of Struggle for Freedom and Democracy

This date is for two things. In 1939 our universities were closed by Nazis. Second in 1989 for Velvet revolution.

