

Celebrating Christmas in Slovenia

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When do Slovenians celebrate Christmas?

- Celebrating Christmas in Slovenia depends on the religion, but generally it is celebrated on **December 25**.
- Christians prepare for Christmas – The longer preparation is called **advent**. The more active preparation begins **nine days before Christmas**.
- There are **three masses on Christmas Day**:
 - The midnight mass
 - The morning mass and
 - The daily or the great mass

The Advent Garland



Christmas in Slovenia

- Like everywhere around the world, Christmas is a **family holiday**.
- Time to visit relatives for Christmas is on 26th of December.
- Slovenia celebrates the Independence Day on 26th of December. It is also St. Stephen's Day. It is a tradition to bless the horses and salt on that day.
- From 25th of December until 2nd of January Slovenian children have holidays.

Horse blessing



Nativity

- Nativity is a model of Jezus's Birth.
- St. Frances from Assissi invented them.
- We can see them in churches by Christmas time.
- Slovenians put on Nativity first, then they put on the Christmas tree and everything else.
- The most common material for Nativity figures nowadays is plastic.
- The oldest Slovenian Nativity figures are in Velesovo Monestry. They are made of wax and dressed into silk.

Typical Nativity



Christmas Tree

- Christmas trees are a new thing in Slovenia – they accepted the newest form of Christmas tree in 20th Century.
- On old farms they accepted it after World War 2.
- Before that they hung little pines up-side down and decorated it with things they could find in the forest or at home (beans, corns ...)
- They represent their gratefulness for food that they had produced.



Typical
Christmas
tree

St. Nicholas

- He comes from Turkey. He lived in 3rd Century.
- He was very good. He was shareing presents with children.
- When he died, he was announced as a saint.
- He gives presents to good children and punishes the bad.
- He gives presents on night from 5th to 6th December.
- In Slovenia he is the most popular good man at Christianian children.
- In Slovenia we know him for about 200 years.



St.
Nicholas

Santa Claus

- His character was created in the USA.
- He was created by European St. Nicholas with some Scandinavian adds.
- He was first mentioned in a poem titled *The Night Before Christmas*.
- In it, Santa Claus is travelling around in sleight with raindeers.
- Rudolf, the famous raindeer was mentioned later.
- Santa is popular in non-christian families.
- His image first appeared in a Coca – Cola commercial show.
- Slovenians first heard of him after World War 2.

Santa Claus



History of Christmas

- Christmas means “little God” in Slovenish.
- Slovenian began to celebrate Christmas with Christian religion.
- For Christians, the main meaning of Christmas is Jesus’s Birth.
- By a legend, Jesus was born in a stable near Betlehem, because Joseph and Mary couldn’t find shelter in the city. This is what nativity presents.
- Date of Christmas was picked by the Empror Justinian.

For the end ...

These are the most common forms of celebrating Christmas in Sloveina. We hope, you liked it!

