



*Welcome to Poland
At Christmas Time*



Christmas in Poland is one of the most important celebrations during the year. Nearly every Pole celebrates it, because it is a joyful , expected by everyone, event which allows us to meet all members of the family and old friends.

The Polish traditionally gather at the table when the first star appears in the sky. The table is set with special Christmas Eve food, which is made only for this evening. Up to the solemn supper there are no meat courses which is obvious, because the Christmas Eve supper consists of twelve dishes. It begins with breaking of the wafer. Then all the family gathered at the table share a piece with one another wishing all the best.

A dining table is set for a meal, illuminated by the warm glow of several lit candles. The table is covered with a white tablecloth and features various dishes, including a bowl of red soup, a plate of dumplings, and a bowl of dark meat. A teapot and a glass of water are also visible. The setting is cozy and traditional.

We have many traditions, here are some of them:

12 CHRISTMAS EVE'S DISHES



- ✘ In our tradition we have 12 Christmas Eve's dishes. According to a Polish Christmas custom, dishes served on Christmas Eve should be meat-free. Everyone should try all the dishes to have a lucky new year.



PIEROGI WITH CABBAGE AND MUSHROOMS

- ✘ Mushrooms and cabbage are associated with health and strength.



BORSCHT WITH RAVIOLI

- ✘ In the past, people believed that beets provide long life and beauty.



DRIED FRUIT COMPOTE

- ✘ Individual types of fruit are attributed to various features, apples provide love, health and peace, pears guarantee long life and prunes ward off evil forces.



POPPY SEED CAKE

- ✘ Tradition has it that poppy will bring prosperity to the house.



KUTIA

- ✘ It's made from wheat, poppy seeds, honey, a large amount of dried fruits and milk. On the Christmas Eve table it was to provide people favour from the creatures of the underworld.



STUFFED CABBAGE WITH RICE



BREAD

- ✘ Bread symbolizes prosperity and the beginning of a new life.



CABBAGE WITH PEAS



MUSHROOM SOUP

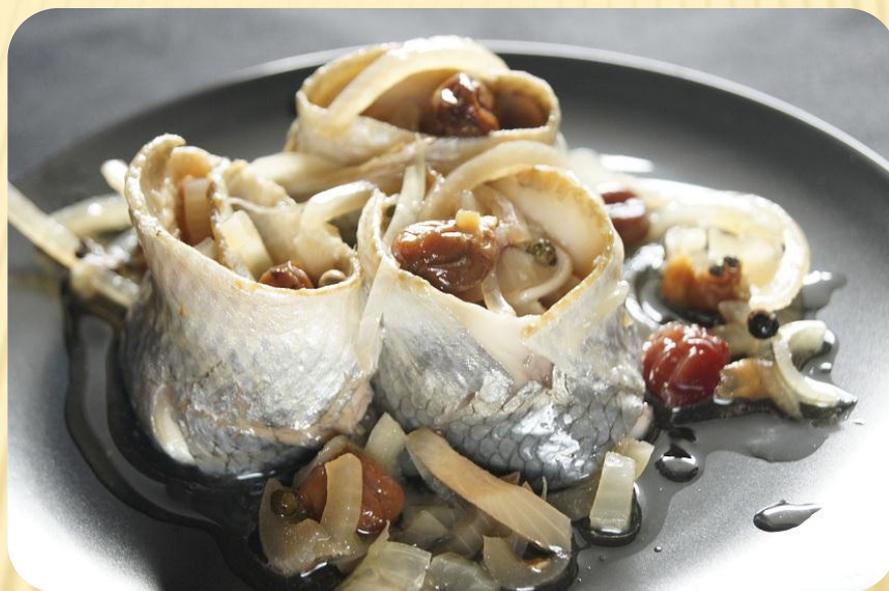


CARP

- ✘ Carp symbolizes Christ and the rebirth of life.



HERRING



GINGERBREAD



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Christmas is celebrated for two days in the Polish Church tradition. The Christmas Eve ends with the Midnight Mass at the local church. This custom appeared in Poland when Christianity was accepted. The next day (December 25) begins with the early morning mass followed by day time masses.

25 December is the day in which Christ's birth is celebrated. In general people visit their families and the closest relatives. The second day of Christmas is also a holiday in Poland, to commemorate Saint Stephen who is considered the first martyr in the Christian world. This day is also often set aside to meet friends or to enjoy and relax at home.



Decoration of our houses...



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The most interesting thing for children is the Christmas tree, which is decorated with baubles and lights. Under the tree there are usually gifts for those who were kind and polite during the whole year.

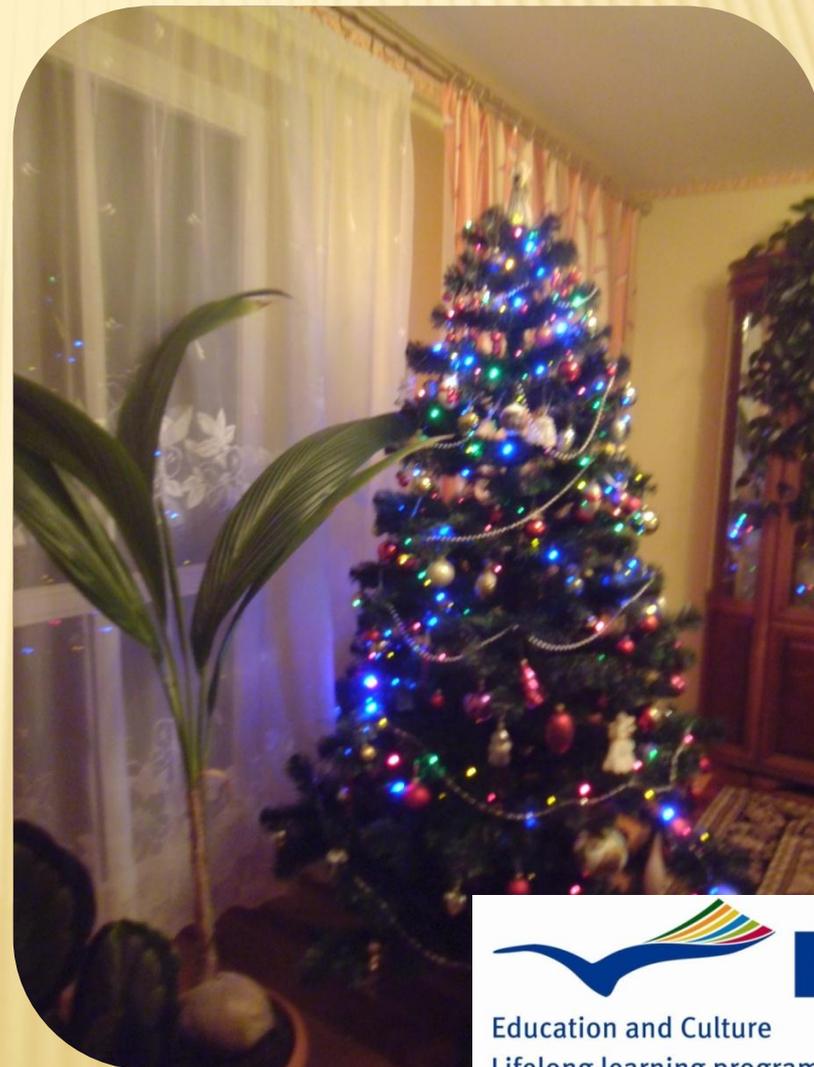




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...and our city, Przemyśl



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We also celebrate Christmas at school...





On 6 December we give each other small gifts, just like Santa Claus.

The beautiful custom of singing carols is also connected with Christmas time. At that time groups of carolers visit every house, singing carols and playing a short show about Christ's nativity.

One of the school traditions is carols' competition.

Students willingly take part in many charity actions.



There is a reason to write about the magic of Christmas. There is no time like Christmas to find love, forgiveness and happiness.



Wesołych Świąt

* [eng] – Merry Christmas