

# Christmas in...



# The United States of **AMERICA**





# Christmas in America!



Our names are Ryan and Haley and we live in Washington D.C! Christmas in America is a time for family and friends to come together and for people to spread the "Christmas Spirit" which is basically love, laughter and good cheer! Come with us and we will show you all the wonderful Christmas traditions we have in the United States of America!





# Where is America?

The United States of America is located in North America. Along the northern border is Canada and the southern border is Mexico. It has the Pacific Ocean to the west and the Atlantic Ocean to the East. The USA is made up of 50 states and the District of Columbia.





# Black Friday Shopping!



The holiday season officially begins for us the day after Thanksgiving on a day called Black Friday! Stores around the country will offer crazy discounts and specials to urge shoppers to buy their stuff! Some people stay out ALL NIGHT shopping! People will wait in line for HOURS and HOURS for the stores to open so they can rush to buy presents for family and friends for Christmas!



Those who don't want to deal with the crowds on Black Friday usually wait a few more days for Cyber Monday. That's when all the stores online have huge sales and people do a lot of their online shopping for Christmas!



# Christmas Decorations



Americans love decorating to bring the "Christmas Spirit" into their homes! Stockings will be hung from the fireplace, the Christmas tree is decorated with both traditional and new ornaments and many homes will decorate the outside of their homes with thousands of twinkling lights. We LOVE decorating our home at Christmas, it's one of our favorite traditions!





# Christmas Decoration



Each year, they have a big ceremony when they light the huge tree for the first time! The original tree was lit in 1933 and was just 20 feet tall. Now, the tree is usually between 75-90 feet tall and there are over 30,000 lights making it sparkle...that's about 5 miles of lights! Since the tree is real, a new one must be selected every year. It's a big honor to have your tree chosen!





# Christmas at the White House

In addition to the beautiful holiday decorations, another highlight is the white chocolate replica of the White House created and displayed every year. Each year it's different and displayed in the State Dining Room. It can take months to create and weigh up to 300 pounds!



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# Nativity Scenes



We also like to remember the reason for the holiday season by creating nativity or manger scenes in our homes and churches.



The scenes often include Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus as well as angels, shepherds, farm animals and the Star of Bethlehem (or Christmas Star) that leads the Three Kings to the newborn.





# Pictures with Santa Claus!

One of the highlights for young children at Christmas is going to the local shopping mall and meeting Santa! Children wait in line to sit on Santa's lap and tell him what they want for Christmas this year! They will usually get their picture taken with Santa and he gives them a small treat and tells them to be good until Christmas!

Most of the children are really EXCITED to see Santa Claus each year...

...but some not so much.





# Making Christmas Cookies



**Gingerbread**

Another tradition is making Christmas cookies each year in America...you can find many recipes when it comes to holiday baking. It is a favorite with young and old alike.

**Chocolate Chip**



**Oatmeal Raisin**



**Shortbread**



**Peanut Butter**



**Snickerdoodle**



**Sugar Cookies**



# Santa Claus

Santa Claus brings gifts to the good boys and girls each year. He is a large, jolly man with a long, white beard dressed in a red and white suit.



He lives in the North Pole with his wife, Mrs. Claus.



Santa climbs down our chimney to leave us presents under the tree.



Santa's sleigh is driven by 8 reindeer across the night sky as he delivers toys.



# Santa's Reindeer

Santa Claus has 8 reindeer who pull his sleigh through the night sky to help deliver gifts to children on Christmas Eve! Here are their names...



Dasher  
Dancer  
Prancer  
Vixen  
Comet  
Cupid  
Donner  
Blitzen



And we can't forget...





# Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer!



Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer has a shiny red nose that helps Santa guide his sleigh through harsh winter weather! We enjoy watching this Christmas cartoon on TV every year and we also sing the song together on Christmas Eve!

**RUDOLPH**  
THE  
RED-NOSED REINDEER®





# Christmas Eve in America

Families travel from near and far to be together for Christmas! Everyone wants to be home for the holidays. Christmas is the busiest time of the year at all the airports in America!





# Christmas Eve in America

FINALLY...Christmas Eve arrives and we are so EXCITED! While Santa is preparing for his big trip, here are some traditions we have on Christmas Eve.

It's finally time for bed but first we put out a plate of cookies and a tall glass of milk for Santa when he delivers our presents! We also leave carrots for Santa's reindeer!

Marshmallows and whipped cream: Yummy!





# Christmas Eve in America

Many people enjoy participating in Midnight Mass at their local churches. They dress up in their best clothes and attend church with families, friends and neighbors to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ to Mary and Joseph. They will sing songs of praise, pray and enjoy the company of their loved ones and special friends during this joyous time of year.





# Christmas Day in America

We wake up bright and early on Christmas Day to see what special treats and presents Santa Claus has left in our stockings and under our Christmas tree!



Some people enjoy watching sports with their families on Christmas Day! The LA Lakers basketball team plays a game at home every Christmas Day and their fans love to watch it!

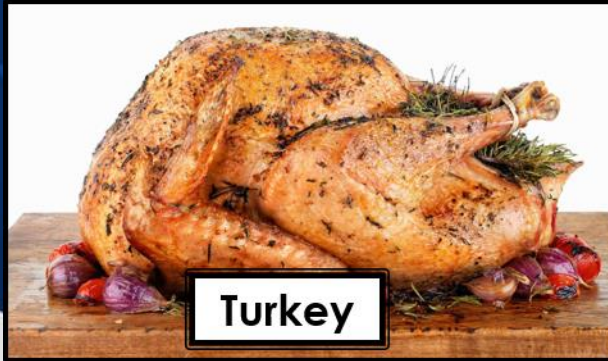




# Christmas Dinner



Families love to gather for the holidays in America and Christmas is no exception! We usually have a big dinner or late lunch on Christmas Day. Many of the traditional foods served on Christmas Day include...



**Turkey**



**Stuffing with gravy**



**Ham with cranberry sauce**



**Apple Pie**



**Egg Nog – a drink made of cream, milk, sugar and beaten eggs.**

However, the USA is a melting pot where all traditions and customs blend and that is found in our food as well. Depending on the region of the USA you live in, your traditional Christmas dinner may look different...



Oyster Stew might be served on Christmas day in Washington.



Montana is known for their delicious prime rib.

They love to eat clam chowder or corn chowder up north in Maine.



In Maryland, they love to eat crab cakes!



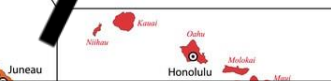
Christmas dinner will include biscuits, casserole, macaroni and cheese and coconut cake in South Carolina!



Tamales and caramel flan will probably be on the menu in New Mexico.



In Texas, they love their cornbread dressing, smoked turkey, mashed potatoes and pecan pie!



In Louisiana, they may be serving jambalaya, chicken and sausage gumbo and bread pudding.





We had a great time sharing our American Christmas traditions with you! Americans believe Christmas is an important time to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ as well as a special time to get together with family and friends and spend time with those you love. Which American tradition was your favorite?



**MERRY CHRISTMAS**

