

**DECEMBER 24:** In Romania, children walk from house to house carrying a colored star on a long pole while singing carols and sometimes dancing.

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**DECEMBER 17:** In China, apples are a common Christmas gift because the Chinese word for apple, *ping guo*, sounds similar to the word for Christmas Eve, *ping'an ye*.

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**DECEMBER 18:** In Denmark on Christmas Eve, they eat *risalamande*, a rice pudding with an almond hidden inside. Whoever finds the almond in their bowl gets a gift!

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**DECEMBER 14:** At Christmastime in Canada and the United States, many people honor the Savior by giving food and clothing to those in need.

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**DECEMBER 23:** In the Czech Republic, families set an extra place for the Christ Child at their Christmas feast.

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**DECEMBER 20:** In Ukraine they decorate Christmas trees with fake spider webs because of an old folk tale about a spider that spun a beautiful web so a poor widow and her children would have decorations on Christmas.

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**DECEMBER 13:** In Poland, families decorate booths in the town square with scenes from the Christmas story and give small gifts to people passing by.

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**DECEMBER 19:** In Mexico, children celebrate Three King's Day (January 6th) by leaving their shoes outside along with hay and water for the Magi's animals to eat. When they wake up, there's a gift in the shoe!

**DECEMBER 15:** In India, families decorate their homes with mango leaves, strings of lights,

orange leaves, strings of lights, and an ornament to represent the Star of Bethlehem.

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**DECEMBER 16:**

In Italy they build big nativities (called *presepi*) early in December with a crib for baby Jesus. On Christmas Eve they add the baby Jesus.

**DECEMBER 21:**

In New Zealand, people often have barbecues and celebrate Christmas on the beach in the warm summer weather.

# CHRISTMAS *around the World* .....