



***CHRISTMAS AROUND
EUROPE***





POLAND



TRADITIONS



- ***CHRISTMAS EVE (WIGILIA) IS THE HIGHLIGHT, STARTING WITH THE FIRST STAR'S APPEARANCE IN THE SKY.***
- ***A 12-DISH MEATLESS DINNER IS SERVED, REPRESENTING THE 12 APOSTLES.***
- ***SHARING OPLATEK (WAFER) AND EXCHANGING WISHES IS A CHERISHED CUSTOM.***





UNIQUE FEATURE

***EMPTY SEAT AT THE
TABLE FOR AN
UNEXPECTED GUEST
OR ABSENT LOVED
ONE.***





DECORATIONS



***TRADITIONAL NATIVITY
SCENES AND HAND-
DECORATED CHRISTMAS
BAUBLES.***





SLOVAKIA



TRADITIONS



- ***CHRISTMAS DINNER INCLUDES KAPUSTNICA (CABBAGE SOUP) AND CARP.***
- ***A PIECE OF WAFER WITH HONEY IS EATEN FIRST TO SYMBOLIZE SWEETNESS IN LIFE.***





UNIQUE FEATURE



***THROWING A SPOONFUL OF
LOKŠA (BREAD PUDDING)
ONTO THE CEILING FOR
LUCK.***





SPAIN



DECORATIONS




- ***CELEBRATIONS LAST FROM CHRISTMAS EVE TO EPIPHANY (JANUARY 6TH).***

- ***CHRISTMAS EVE IS MARKED BY LA MISA DEL GALLO (MIDNIGHT MASS).***








UNIQUE FEATURE




***CHILDREN RECEIVE
GIFTS ON EPIPHANY
FROM THE THREE
WISE MEN, NOT
SANTA.***








FOOD



***DELICACIES INCLUDE
TURRÓN (NOUGAT)
AND SEAFOOD
FEASTS.***





ROMANIA



TRADITIONS



- ***CAROLING IS CENTRAL, WITH GROUPS VISITING HOMES TO SING COLINDE.***
- ***CHRISTMAS DISHES INCLUDE SARMALE (CABBAGE ROLLS) AND COZONAC (SWEET BREAD).***





UNIQUE FEATURE

***TRADITIONAL GOAT
DANCES (CAPRA)
PERFORMED FOR
GOOD FORTUNE.***





DECORATIONS



***BRIGHTLY LIT
CHURCHES AND
HOMES ADORNED
WITH TRADITIONAL
MOTIFS.***





BULGARIA



TRADITIONS



- ***CHRISTMAS EVE IS MEATLESS,
WITH AN ODD NUMBER OF
DISHES LIKE BEANS, NUTS, AND
BANITSA (SAVORY PASTRY).***
- ***THE TABLE IS LEFT
UNDISTURBED OVERNIGHT FOR
THE SPIRITS OF ANCESTORS.***





UNIQUE FEATURE




***BREAKING A CHRISTMAS
BREAD WITH A COIN
INSIDE—WHOEVER
FINDS IT WILL BE LUCKY.***







RELIGIOUS ASPECT



***MIDNIGHT MASS AND
PRAYERS ARE VITAL
PARTS OF THE
CELEBRATION.***





LITHUANIA



TRADITIONS




- ***KŪČIOS, THE CHRISTMAS EVE DINNER, INCLUDES 12 VEGETARIAN DISHES, NO MEAT OR DAIRY.***
- ***FAMILIES REMEMBER DECEASED LOVED ONES WITH AN EMPTY SEAT AT THE TABLE.***







UNIQUE FEATURE



***STRAW
DECORATIONS
SYMBOLIZE THE
MANGER AND ARE
USED AS ORNAMENTS.***





RELIGIOUS ASPECT



***ATTENDING CHURCH
ON CHRISTMAS DAY IS
A DEEPLY ROOTED
TRADITION.***

