

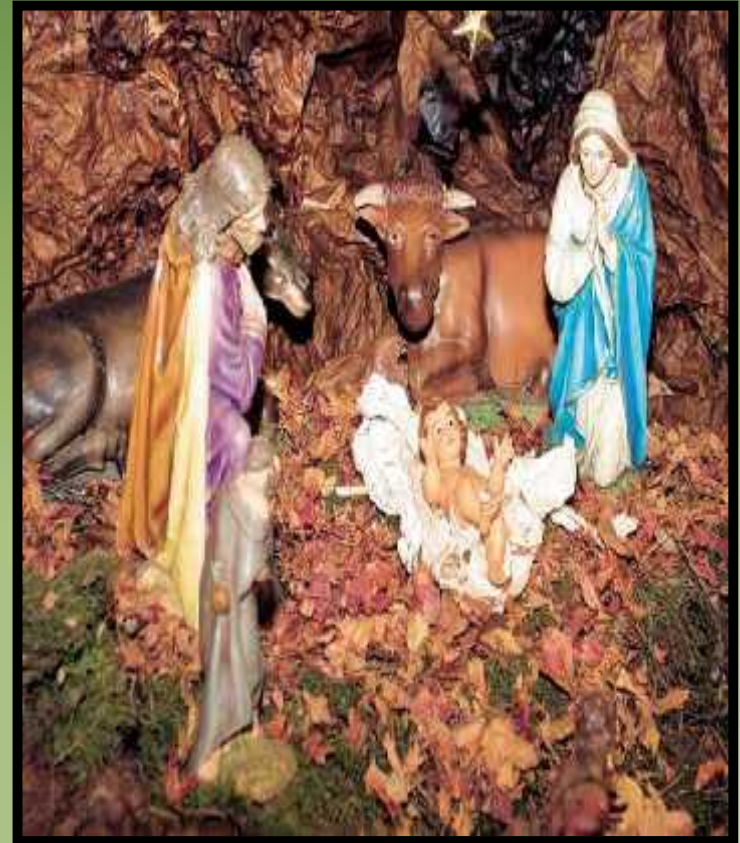


Christmas

Portuguese Christmas traditions

In Portugal Christmas is the most celebrated family festivity. Weeks before the houses are decorated with trees full of lights, wreaths and decorations.

The crib is essential. People make huge cribs with moss and stones, and display figures like Our Lady, St. Joseph and Jesus Child. You also can find shepherds, flocks, and the Three Wise Men.



Tree decoration

- Christmas garland;
- Colourful ribbons;
- Balls;
- Lights;
- Stars;
- Bells;
- Angels;
- Candles.



Midnight Mass

- The Midnight Mass is celebrated because tradition says that Jesus was born at midnight.
- For Roman Catholics, this custom to attend Mass began in the year 400.
- In Latin countries, this mass is called Midnight Mass, because, according to the legend, the only time a rooster crowed at midnight was the night that Jesus was born.



Christmas Eve

- It is the most exciting part of the holiday season, because it announces the celebration of Jesus' birth.
- The family celebrates Christmas with a rich table of sweet cakes and biscuits, dry fruits and good wine and liquors.
- Around the Christmas Tree children play and the adults talk and hear Christmas music.
- At midnight the family goes to the midnight mass and when you return home Christmas presents are exchanged.
- The following day the family comes together again to share a family lunch.



Christmas Meals

- Sewn cod with potatoes and cabbage;
- Turkey stuffed with chestnuts;
- Beef and Lamb with Roasted Potatoes;
- Fried octopus.



Drinks

- Whiskey;
- Champagne;
- Coca-Cola;
- Red wine or white;
- Ice tea;
- Sangria;
- Apple juice;
- Bitter almond drinks;
- Spirit drinks;
- Moscatel sweet wine.



Sweet Christmas Desserts

- “Bolo Rei” ('King Cake') is placed in the center of the table. It's a wreath like fruit cake laced with crystallized fruits and pine nuts. There is tiny present inside the cake and a broadbean. The person who finds the broadbean in one slice will pay the next "King Cake"!
- Rice pudding with cinamon;
- “Filhós” - fried desserts;
- “Broas de mel” - pastries made with honey;
- “Sonhos” - pumpkin fried sweet;
- “Rabanadas” – sweet fried bread with cinamon;
- ChristmasTrunk ;
- Lamprey yarn eggs.



Sweet Christmas desserts



Dry Christmas Fruits

- Nuts;
- Pine nuts;
- Almonds;
- Figs;
- Raisins;
- Sultanas;
- Pistachio;
- Hazelnuts;
- Candied and crystallized fruits.



Janeiras

- The Janeiras is a catholic celebration where a group of people stroll the streets of a town singing in the New Year.
- Janeiras is like Christmas caroling as it involves a group of friends or neighbors going from house to house singing and sometimes playing instruments.
- Once the song is done the singers are rewarded with chestnuts, nuts, apples, and cured sausages. These days, chocolates are often offered too.



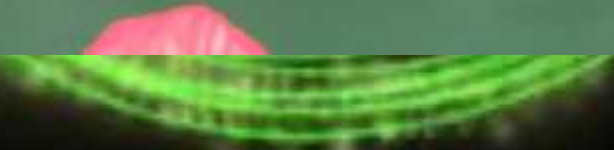
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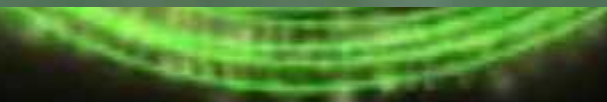


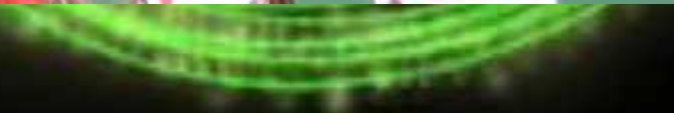
A glowing green Christmas tree with a yellow star on top, set against a black background. The tree is composed of multiple concentric, glowing green rings that form a conical shape. At the very top is a bright yellow five-pointed star. The overall effect is a digital, ethereal representation of a Christmas tree.

Christmas at school



















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**Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year**