

## Christmas Traditions

**Mexico:** Many celebrate Christmas from December 12<sup>th</sup> through January 6<sup>th</sup>.

Nacimientos (Nativity Scenes): A major Mexican Christmas tradition is Las Posadas, a nine-day celebration that symbolizes Mary and Joseph's search for a room at the inn where Jesus could be born. From Dec. 16 to 24, families will switch off hosting the Posada in their home, where a nativity scene is set up and neighborhood children and adults play the parts.

**Germany:** Ever wonder where the tradition of putting a Christmas tree up in your home comes from? We can thank the German! The Christmas tree in your living room is actually a tradition that originated in Germany. According to History.com:

Decorating evergreen trees had always been a part of the German winter solstice tradition. The first "Christmas trees" explicitly decorated and named after the Christian holiday, appeared in Strasbourg, in Alsace in the beginning of the 17th century.

German settlers brought the Christmas tree tradition over to America during the 19th century.

**Israel:** Parade in Jesus' Birth Town – Israel

In Bethlehem, the Church of the Nativity stands over the traditional site of the stable where Jesus was born. On Christmas, a massive procession is led by horseback through the city and a flame is passed throughout the crowd to light onlooker's candles.

## What Traditions do you have or follow?

Christmas Cards? Came from England in the 1800s, 1843. A way of showing appreciation for everyone you have in your life. In 1875, a Prussian immigrant is credited for creating the first Christmas card in America.

Caroling?

Feasting and presents?

We share the Christmas Story on Christmas Morning.