

Odd Holiday Traditions



Around the world

However you choose to celebrate, Meridian Title wishes you the very best of holidays!

Finland

Many people in Finland use Christmas Eve to honor those they have lost. Cemeteries are often filled with glowing light from all of the candles left burning on the graves of loved ones.

Germany

In Germany, families will hide a pickle in the Christmas tree on Christmas Eve. The first child to find it the next morning will be rewarded with a gift. Wonder if that gift is a pickle?

Norway

Brooms in Norway are all hidden on Christmas Eve to prevent them being stolen by witches or evil spirits. Just to be safe, maybe keep them hidden all year.

Cuba

The Cuban city of Remedios host the Parrandas festival. The celebration is basically a multi-day party filled with music, dancing, parades and some amazing fireworks & electric light shows.

Austria

Naughty or Nice? - In Austria, legend has it there are consequences for being bad in the form of Krampus - a goat/demon hybrid that punishes the children who misbehave.

United States

For a more modern tradition, look no farther than the good old USofA. In recent years, many large US cities have adopted the Running of the Santas. A large, city-wide pub crawl with scores of people dressed as Santa Claus. A tradition that is surely bound to catch on globally.



Italy

Season of the Witch - In Italy, instead of Santa Claus, children are visited by a friendly witch who delivers treats and gifts on the 5th of January. Bet Hansel wishes he was Italian.

Czech Republic

Unmarried women in the Czech Republic will throw a shoe over their shoulder while standing by a doorway. If it lands with the toe pointing toward the door, they will be married within the next year. Can't argue with that science.

Greece

In Greece, a race of evil underground goblins are said to surface during the 12 days of Christmas to enact chaos during the holiday. Merry Christmas, kids!

Japan

Thanks to a 1974 marketing campaign, Kentucky Fried Chicken has become a wildly popular Christmas day tradition in Japan.

Germany

Children in Germany will leave a shoe outside of their homes on December 5th. The good children can expect a small candy or prize. Naughty children are left with a small twig or branch.

South Africa

Delicacy? Come Christmas day some folks in South Africa will dine on the fried caterpillars of the Emperor Moth. Sounds like a good time to visit Japan.



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