

Christmas in Germany

Look at where Germany is!



Look at the flag of Germany. What colors do you see?



The most common language in Germany is German. “Merry Christmas” in German is “fröhliche Weihnachten” (fro-leesha Vi-nahk-tin).

How do they celebrate Christmas in Germany?

The German Christmas season officially starts with the first Sunday of Advent (the period beginning four Sundays before Christmas). An Advent wreath (*Adventskranz*) is adorned with four candles, one of which is lit on each of the four Sundays preceding Christmas. People use an Advent calendar (*Adventskalender*) to count the days. Advent calendars are often made of cardboard with 24 flaps or windows, one of which is opened each day leading up to Christmas. Behind each window is a Christmas scene or motif, and sometimes even a chocolate candy or small toy.



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St. Nicholas Day is celebrated on December 6 in Germany as well as in other European countries. On the eve of December 6, children place their newly cleaned shoes in front of the door in hopes that St. Nicholas will fill them with nuts, sweets, chocolates, and fruits. Of course, that all depends on whether the children have been good.

Santa Claus, known as Weihnachtsmann, is depicted as a jolly old man with a white beard who is wearing a red fur-trimmed suit and carrying a sack of presents and a switch. On Christmas Eve, he gives presents to children.

The Tannenbaum (Christmas tree) is usually put up and decorated with tinsel, glass or straw ornaments, and candy on Christmas Eve. The tree is topped with a star or angel. Many Germans today still use candles instead of electric lights on the tree. Gingerbread, another symbol of Christmas, is particularly popular in Germany. Nuremburg is the gingerbread capital of the world.

Decorate a Gingerbread Boy/Girl

