

A scenic winter landscape featuring a snow-covered mountain range in the background. In the foreground, a wooden cabin with a snow-laden roof is nestled among evergreen trees. The sky is a soft, warm orange and yellow, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and festive.

# CHRISTMAS IN THE UK

Christmas Day is celebrated  
in the United Kingdom on  
December 25

Families often celebrate  
Christmas together, so  
they can watch each  
other open their presents!

Most families have  
a Christmas Tree in their  
house for Christmas. The  
decorating of the tree is  
usually a family occasion,  
with everyone helping.

Christmas Trees were  
first popularised the UK  
by Prince Albert, the  
husband of Queen  
Victoria.





JOHN GRAHAM  
STIKES

Most villages, towns and cities are decorated with **Christmas lights** over Christmas. Often a famous person switches them on. The most famous Christmas lights in the UK are in Oxford Street in London. Every year they get bigger and better and thousands of people go to watch the big 'switch on' around the beginning of November.





Children believe that **Father Christmas** or **Santa Claus** leaves presents in stockings or pillow-cases. These are normally hung up by the fire or by the children's beds on **Christmas Eve**.

Children sometimes leave out mince pies and brandy for **Father Christmas** to eat and drink when he visits them. Now, some people say that a non-alcoholic drink should be left for Santa as he has to drive!





In the UK, the main Christmas Meal is usually eaten at lunchtime or early afternoon on Christmas Day. It's normally roast turkey, roast vegetables and 'all the trimmings' which means vegetables like carrots, peas, stuffing and sometimes bacon and sausages. It's often served with cranberry sauce and bread sauce.





Dessert is often Christmas Pudding. Mince pies and lots of chocolates are often eaten as well! The dinner table is decorated with a Christmas Cracker for each person and sometimes flowers and candles.



Nearly all organizations, except hospitals and shelters for the homeless, are closed on Christmas Day. Some public houses and smaller stores selling food may open for a few hours in the middle of the day.

Public transport services do not run to their normal timetables and may even not run at all.

Public life closes down almost totally on Christmas Day.



Many churches hold special services on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Some also organize shelter, company and food for the homeless or those who need help. Others hold events for people who wish to return to the spiritual aspects of Christmas and turn away from the commercial aspects of modern Christmas celebrations.

