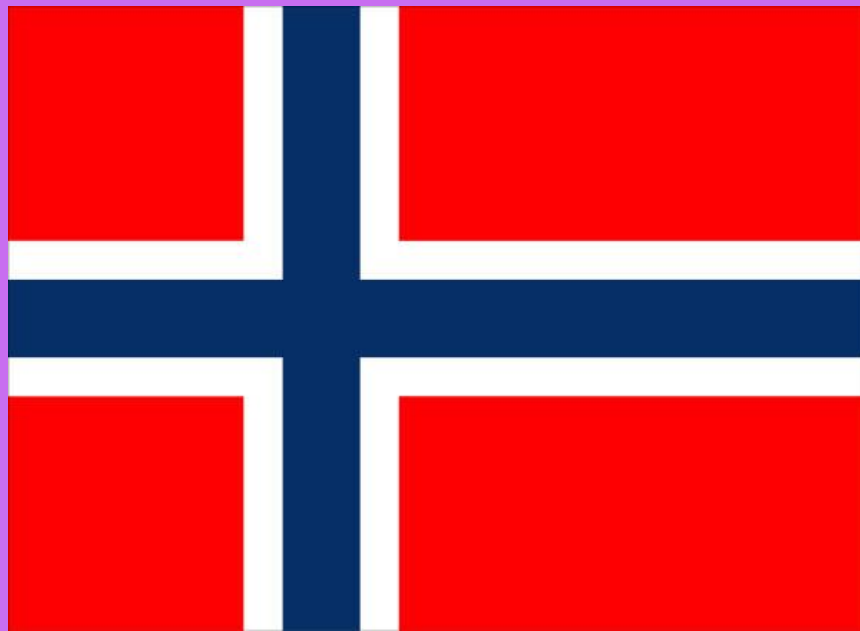


Christmas in Norway











Colored lighting is becoming popular, but white lights are more like the candles they are supposed to represent.

Christmas trees became common in Norway from around 1900. The custom of having Christmas trees is originally from Germany.

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Christmas Eve is the
time when presents are
exchanged. The gifts are
sometimes brought by
Santa Claus (called
'Julenissen' in Norway)



Present are also brought by the small gnomes called 'Nisse'. There are also hobgoblins (Nisse) decorations. Children pick up the presents from under the Christmas Tree and read the cards on the presents from out loud.





In some parts of Norway, children like to go carol singing and most children do! Often children will dress up as characters from the Christmas Story, such as the Shepherds and Wise Men, and go singing from house to house in their local neighbourhood. Sometimes they carry with paper stars on them.

Christmas candles



Another tradition in parts of Norway is that families light a candle every night from Christmas Eve to New Year's Day.



Christmas wasn't celebrated in Norway until about 1000 or 1100, when Christianity first came to the area. Before this people celebrated jul or jøl in the middle of winter. It was a celebration of the harvest gone and a way of looking forward to the spring. Lots of beer (juleøl) was brewed and drunk in honour of the old pagan scandinavian gods.

Christmas Dinner



'Julekake'



Rice Porridge



Mutton ribs served with 'surkal.



Alf Prøysen

Musevisa

Illustrert av
Kjell E. Midthun



A very popular song at Christmas time in Norway is the Musevisa (The Mouse Song). The words were written in 1946 by Alf Prøysen. The tune is a traditional Norwegian folk tune. It tells the story of some mice getting ready for Christmas and the Mother and Father mice warning their children to stay away from mouse traps! It became popular very quickly and is now as popular as ever in Norway.





THANK

YOU

FOR

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ATTENTION