




▶ Christmas In France    
 ▶ From "Christmas everywhere by Phillip Brooks"  
 ▶ Happy Christmas by Ian Larmont  
 ▶ Christmas in two lands by Joan Mellings

Whychristmas.com 

Joyeux Noel 

Most people in France belong to the Roman Catholic religion – they are Catholics. One of their most important festivals is Christmas.

Christmas celebrations in France begin on the 6<sup>th</sup> of December with the Festival of St. Nicholas. You might know St. Nicholas better as Santa Claus or Father Christmas.



In some towns, a helper dressed as St. Nicholas rides through the streets on a donkey. He hands out sweets and gingerbread biscuits to the children.




A week before Christmas the Christmas tree is bought and decorations such as the Christmas Star, wreaths and garlands are put up.

A crèche (Christmas crib) is prepared and placed under the Christmas tree.



On Christmas Eve all the family get together and everyone is excited. Children in France put their shoes in front of the fireplace where they hope Père Noël (Father Christmas) will fill them with presents.

On Christmas Eve, when finally it gets dark, the children rush to see what Père Noël has brought them.



After that families get together for a special meal called Le Réveillon – midnight supper. It usually starts with oysters, smoked salmon or foie gras (a delicious duck-liver pâté).

That is followed by turkey with chestnut stuffing, roast potatoes and vegetables. If anyone is still hungry there is a Yule Log – a rich chocolate cake covered in creamy icing.





The Fête des Rois (Festival of Kings), on 6<sup>th</sup> January, celebrates the time when three kings visited Jesus in the stable and gave him presents of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

In France this is a day when families and friends give little presents to one another. Then, for tea everybody eats a special cake which contains a lucky charm. If you find the charm in your piece of cake, you become king or queen for a day and you wear a crown!



Everywhere, everywhere, Christmas tonight!  
 Christmas in lands of the fir-tree and pine,  
 Christmas in lands of the palm-tree and vine,  
 Christmas where snow-peaks stand solemn and white,  
 Christmas where cornfields lie sunny and bright,  
 Everywhere, everywhere, Christmas tonight!

Christmas in India Link [Link to Christmas in Australia](#)  
 by Phillip Brooks [And another link Here](#)

 In Spain, there are no reindeer.  
 In France, no mistletoe.  
 In Russia, there's no roast pork.  
 No sleighs in Mexico.

In Panama, the weather's hot.  
 In Congo, there's no snow.  
 But Christmastime means Peace and Love  
 No matter where you go.

By Ian Larmont 

There it is cold, or there is snow –  
 And holly, fires and mistletoe,  
 And carols sung out in the street  
 By children, walking through the sleet.  
 Church bells break the frozen air  
 Ringing loudly everywhere.  
 There is where white wonder glory  
 Comes to tell the Christmas story.



 Here it is hot, the sun is gold –  
 And turns tired when the day is old.  
 Christmas carols are sung at night  
 Somewhere outside, by candle-light,  
 Church bells ring out in the heat  
 And call to people in the street.  
 The Christmas story here is told  
 In summer, when the sun is gold.

By Joan Mellings 

