

christmas traditions in new york

Christmas Traditions in New York: A Festive Journey Through the City That Never Sleeps

christmas traditions in new york hold a special place in the hearts of locals and visitors alike. Every year, as December rolls in, the city transforms into a dazzling winter wonderland filled with twinkling lights, festive music, and a palpable sense of joy. From iconic landmarks to cozy neighborhood celebrations, New York offers a unique blend of classic and contemporary holiday customs that capture the spirit of Christmas like nowhere else. Whether you're a first-timer or a seasoned New Yorker, exploring these traditions is a magical way to experience the city during the most wonderful time of the year.

The Iconic Rockefeller Center Christmas Tree

No discussion about Christmas traditions in New York would be complete without mentioning the Rockefeller Center Christmas Tree. This towering evergreen, often standing over 70 feet tall, is the centerpiece of the city's holiday celebrations. The annual tree lighting ceremony, which usually takes place in late November or early December, attracts thousands of spectators and is broadcast nationwide, marking the official start of the holiday season in NYC.

A Symbol of Holiday Spirit

The Rockefeller tree isn't just a beautiful sight; it symbolizes hope, community, and generosity. Each year, the tree is adorned with over 50,000 LED lights and a stunning Swarovski crystal star, creating a breathtaking spectacle against the backdrop of Midtown Manhattan's skyscrapers. Walking around the plaza, visitors can enjoy ice skating at the famous rink below the tree, adding to the quintessential New York holiday experience.

Festive Window Displays and Holiday Markets

Another cherished Christmas tradition in New York is the elaborate holiday window displays found along Fifth Avenue and in department stores like Macy's, Saks Fifth Avenue, and Bergdorf Goodman. These windows are transformed into whimsical scenes featuring everything from classic holiday tales to contemporary themes, drawing crowds who come to marvel at the artistry and creativity.

Holiday Markets: A Shopper's Wonderland

Beyond the dazzling windows, New York's holiday markets offer a more hands-on festive experience. Markets such as the Union Square Holiday Market, Bryant Park Winter Village, and Columbus Circle Holiday Market provide a charming setting where visitors can shop for unique gifts, handmade crafts, and seasonal treats. These markets are often accompanied by live music, festive decorations, and cozy food stalls serving everything from hot chocolate to spiced cider.

Ice Skating: A Timeless Winter Activity

Ice skating is deeply woven into Christmas traditions in New York, with several iconic rinks open throughout the winter months. Whether you're a beginner or an experienced skater, gliding across the ice in the heart of the city is an unforgettable experience.

Top Ice Skating Spots in NYC

- **Rockefeller Center:** The most famous rink, offering a magical atmosphere beneath the towering Christmas tree.
- **Wollman Rink in Central Park:** Known for its scenic views of the park and skyline, perfect for a romantic skate.
- **Bryant Park Winter Village:** Offers free admission to the rink, making it a favorite for families and budget-conscious visitors.

These rinks often host special holiday events, including themed skate nights and performances, adding an extra layer of festivity to the experience.

Holiday Shows and Performances

New York's cultural scene bursts with holiday-themed performances that have become a staple of Christmas traditions in New York. The city's theaters and concert halls light up with productions that delight audiences of all ages.

Must-See Holiday Performances

- **The Radio City Christmas Spectacular:** Featuring the world-famous Rockettes, this show is a dazzling display of precision dance, festive music, and holiday cheer.
- **The Nutcracker Ballet:** Performed by the New York City Ballet at Lincoln Center, this classic tells the enchanting story of Christmas magic through exquisite choreography and music.
- **Holiday Concerts:** Venues like Carnegie Hall and the Metropolitan Opera house offer seasonal concerts that range from traditional carols to contemporary holiday music.

Attending one of these performances is a cherished tradition for many families and visitors, creating lasting memories amid the city's holiday magic.

Neighborhood Celebrations and Festive Parades

Christmas traditions in New York extend far beyond the well-known tourist spots. Neighborhoods across the boroughs host their own festive events that showcase the city's diverse communities and rich cultural heritage.

Dyker Heights Christmas Lights

One of the most famous local traditions takes place in Dyker Heights, Brooklyn, where residents go all out decorating their homes with extravagant Christmas light displays, inflatable Santas, nativity scenes, and synchronized music. This neighborhood has become a holiday attraction in its own right, drawing visitors who stroll through the streets to admire the joyful and often humorous decorations.

Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade and Holiday Windows

While technically kicking off the holiday season on Thanksgiving Day, Macy's Parade is closely tied to Christmas traditions in New York. The parade features giant balloons, marching bands, and festive floats, setting the tone for the weeks of celebration that follow. Afterward, Macy's famous holiday windows become a magnet for shoppers and sightseers alike.

Food and Festive Treats: Savoring the Season

No holiday tradition in New York is complete without indulging in some seasonal treats. The city's culinary scene embraces Christmas with a variety of festive foods and drinks that warm the soul during chilly winter days.

Classic Holiday Fare and Seasonal Delights

From street vendors selling roasted chestnuts to bakeries offering gingerbread cookies and stollen, New York's Christmas food traditions are as diverse as its population. Many restaurants and cafes create special holiday menus featuring dishes like roast turkey, latkes, and peppermint-flavored desserts.

Hot Chocolate and Holiday Cocktails

Warming up with a cup of rich hot chocolate is a must-do during the holiday season. Many cafes add their own twist with toppings like whipped cream, marshmallows, or even a shot of peppermint schnapps. For adults, seasonal cocktails infused with spices, cranberries, and cinnamon become popular choices at cozy bars and lounges throughout the city.

Tips for Experiencing Christmas Traditions in New York

If you're planning to immerse yourself in the holiday spirit of New York, here are some helpful tips to make the most of your visit:

- **Dress warmly:** December in New York can be quite cold, especially in the evenings. Layer up to stay comfortable while exploring outdoor attractions.
- **Plan ahead for popular events:** Iconic experiences like the Rockefeller tree lighting and holiday shows often require advance tickets or early arrival.
- **Explore beyond Manhattan:** Neighborhoods like Dyker Heights and Brooklyn offer unique and less crowded holiday experiences.
- **Use public transportation:** Traffic can be heavy during the holidays, so the subway and buses are often the best way to get around.

- **Visit holiday markets on weekdays:** Markets tend to be less crowded during the week, allowing for a more relaxed shopping experience.

Embracing these tips can help you enjoy the city's festive offerings smoothly and fully.

Walking through the snow-dusted streets of New York during the holiday season, surrounded by sparkling lights, joyful music, and the buzz of excited crowds, truly captures the essence of Christmas traditions in New York. The combination of grand, world-famous events and intimate neighborhood celebrations makes this city a magical place to experience the holidays. Whether you're savoring a warm cup of cocoa, skating beneath the glowing tree, or simply soaking in the festive atmosphere, New York invites you to create your own cherished holiday memories.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the most famous Christmas tradition in New York City?

The most famous Christmas tradition in New York City is the Rockefeller Center Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony, which features a massive decorated tree and attracts thousands of visitors each year.

Where can I see the best Christmas window displays in New York?

The best Christmas window displays in New York can be seen along Fifth Avenue, especially at stores like Macy's, Saks Fifth Avenue, Bergdorf Goodman, and Lord & Taylor.

What holiday market is popular in New York during Christmas?

The Union Square Holiday Market and the Bryant Park Winter Village are two of the most popular holiday markets in New York, offering festive shopping, food, and seasonal events.

Are there any iconic Christmas shows in New York City?

Yes, the Radio City Christmas Spectacular featuring the Rockettes is an iconic Christmas show held annually in New York City, known for its impressive choreography and festive performances.

What is the significance of the Christmas tree at Rockefeller Center?

The Rockefeller Center Christmas Tree is a symbol of holiday cheer in New York City, typically a large Norway spruce decorated with thousands of lights, and its lighting ceremony marks the start of the holiday season.

Can visitors ice skate during Christmas in New York?

Yes, visitors can enjoy ice skating at several iconic rinks during Christmas in New York, including the Rockefeller Center Ice Rink, Wollman Rink in Central Park, and Bryant Park Ice Rink.

Are there any unique Christmas traditions in New York neighborhoods?

Yes, neighborhoods like Dyker Heights in Brooklyn are famous for elaborate Christmas light displays on private homes, attracting many visitors who enjoy the festive decorations.

How do New Yorkers typically celebrate Christmas Eve?

Many New Yorkers attend midnight Mass or church services, enjoy festive dinners with family and friends, and some participate in holiday events or stroll through decorated areas like Central Park or Fifth Avenue.

What role does the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade play in New York's holiday traditions?

While primarily a Thanksgiving event, the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade officially kicks off the holiday season in New York City, featuring Christmas-themed floats and performances that lead into the Christmas celebrations.

Are there any special Christmas-themed tours in New York?

Yes, there are several Christmas-themed tours in New York, including holiday lights tours, walking tours of festive neighborhoods, and guided visits to iconic holiday sites like Rockefeller Center and holiday markets.

Additional Resources

Christmas Traditions in New York: A Seasonal Tapestry of Culture and Celebration

christmas traditions in new york are a vibrant amalgamation of history, culture, and community spirit that uniquely define the holiday season in one of the world's most iconic cities. From the dazzling displays of lights and towering Christmas trees to festive parades and theatrical performances, New York transforms into a winter wonderland that attracts millions of visitors and locals alike. This article delves into the key elements that compose the rich tapestry of Christmas celebrations in New York, exploring how these traditions have evolved and continue to shape the city's holiday identity.

Iconic Christmas Celebrations and Their Historical Roots

One cannot discuss Christmas traditions in New York without highlighting the legendary Rockefeller Center Christmas Tree lighting. Since 1933, this event has been a hallmark of the city's holiday season, symbolizing communal joy and the spirit of giving. The selection and illumination of the towering Norway spruce attract global media attention and set the tone for festivities across the city.

Similarly, the Radio City Christmas Spectacular, featuring the Rockettes, exemplifies New York's theatrical contribution to holiday traditions. Established in 1933, the show combines precision dance, elaborate costumes, and festive music, becoming a must-see for families and tourists. These longstanding customs underscore New York's role as a cultural hub during the Christmas season.

Holiday Windows and Department Store Displays

New York's department stores are renowned for their elaborate holiday window displays, which have become an anticipated tradition drawing crowds along Fifth Avenue and beyond. Stores like Macy's, Saks Fifth Avenue, and Bergdorf Goodman invest considerable resources into creating immersive, themed windows that blend artistry with storytelling. These displays not only serve as visual entertainment but also reflect changing societal themes and consumer trends year after year.

The competitive nature of these displays encourages innovation and artistry, making window shopping a seasonal attraction. In addition, these displays often support charitable causes or highlight social messages, demonstrating how commercial traditions intersect with broader community values during the holidays.

Festive Activities and Community Engagement

Beyond iconic events and visual spectacles, Christmas traditions in New York encompass a wide array of community-centric activities. The city's diverse population brings a multicultural dimension to holiday celebrations, enriching the overall experience.

Holiday Markets and Seasonal Cuisine

New York's holiday markets, such as those in Bryant Park, Union Square, and Columbus Circle, contribute significantly to the festive atmosphere. These markets offer artisanal crafts, seasonal foods, and unique gifts, fostering local entrepreneurship and providing opportunities for cultural exchange. They have become integral to the city's Christmas landscape, blending commerce with community celebration.

Culinary traditions also play an important role. Seasonal treats like hot cider, roasted chestnuts, and festive pastries are ubiquitous, while restaurants and bakeries often introduce holiday-themed menus that reflect the city's gastronomic diversity.

Ice Skating and Outdoor Festivities

Ice skating rinks, particularly the ones at Rockefeller Center and Central Park's Wollman Rink, are quintessential components of New York's holiday season. These venues offer accessible outdoor recreation amidst festive surroundings, appealing to both residents and visitors. The popularity of ice skating during Christmas time exemplifies the city's emphasis on combining leisure with seasonal charm.

Other outdoor festivities include holiday light tours and seasonal concerts in public spaces, which encourage communal participation and enhance the city's festive ambiance.

Comparative Perspectives and Modern Adaptations

While Christmas traditions in New York share similarities with other major cities, such as large-scale tree lightings and festive markets, the city's unique urban density and cultural heterogeneity create distinctive expressions of these customs. For instance, the scale and media coverage of the Rockefeller Center tree lighting surpass comparable events in cities like Chicago or London, reflecting New York's global prominence.

In recent years, technological advancements and changing social dynamics have influenced how these traditions are experienced. Virtual tours of holiday windows, augmented reality experiences at markets, and live-streamed performances have expanded accessibility, especially during challenges like the COVID-19 pandemic. These adaptations demonstrate the resilience and evolving nature of New York's Christmas customs.

Pros and Cons of Commercialization

The commercial aspects of New York's holiday celebrations, while generating economic benefits and enhancing spectacle, also raise questions about consumerism overshadowing traditional values. The intense focus on retail and media spectacle may detract from the season's spiritual or communal dimensions for some participants. However, the city's ability to balance commerce with charitable initiatives and public programming suggests a nuanced relationship between economic interests and cultural preservation.

- **Pros:** Economic stimulus, artistic innovation, community engagement through charitable events.

- **Cons:** Potential over-commercialization, crowding and accessibility issues, environmental impact of large-scale events.

Neighborhood-Specific Traditions and Cultural Diversity

New York's diverse neighborhoods contribute to a mosaic of Christmas traditions that reflect ethnic and cultural identities. For example, Dyker Heights in Brooklyn is famous for its extravagant residential Christmas light displays, drawing visitors from throughout the metropolitan area. This grassroots tradition highlights community pride and neighborly competition.

In neighborhoods with strong immigrant populations, Christmas celebrations often incorporate elements from various cultural backgrounds, such as traditional foods, music, and religious observances. This diversity enriches the overall holiday experience in New York, fostering inclusivity and cross-cultural understanding.

Religious Observances and Public Celebrations

Churches and synagogues across the city hold special services and concerts during the Christmas season, continuing religious traditions that are central to many New Yorkers. Events like midnight mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral or holiday concerts at various venues provide spiritual and cultural depth to the season's festivities.

Additionally, public celebrations such as the Christmas Parade in Manhattan and the lighting of menorahs in public spaces reflect the city's commitment to honoring multiple faith traditions during the holiday period.

In sum, Christmas traditions in New York represent a complex interplay of history, culture, commerce, and community. The city's ability to preserve iconic events while embracing innovation and diversity ensures that its holiday season remains vibrant and meaningful for a broad spectrum of participants. Whether through the shimmer of the Rockefeller Center tree, the bustle of holiday markets, or the warmth of neighborhood lights, New York's Christmas traditions continue to captivate and inspire each year.

[Christmas Traditions In New York](#)

christmas traditions in new york: The Christmas Encyclopedia, 4th ed. William D. Crump, 2022-12-22 From the manger of Jesus Christ to the 21st century, this encyclopedia explores more

than 2,000 years of Christmas past and present through 966 entries packed with a wide variety of historical and pop-culture subjects. Entries detail customs and traditions from around the world as well as classic Christmas movies, TV series/specials and animated cartoons. Arranged alphabetically by entry name, the book includes the historical background of popular sacred and secular songs as well as accounts of beloved literary works with Christmas themes from such noted authors as Charles Dickens, Louisa May Alcott, Hans Christian Andersen, Pearl Buck, Henry Van Dyke and others. All things Christmas are available here in one comprehensive volume.

christmas traditions in new york: The Heart of Central New York Martin A. Sweeney, 2022-07-18 In *The Heart of Central New York: Stories of Historic Homer, NY* Martin A. Sweeney makes the past come alive through this collection of articles from his column in *The Homer News*. Through his writing, Sweeney offers readers a glimpse of the excitement he brought to his classrooms by bringing to life the people, events, manners, and mores of the past in a community that is the heart of Central New York State. This compilation represents Sweeney's successful efforts as a public historian in using the press as a tool for generating interest in his community's unique historical identity. With annotations and a touch of humor, this book illustrates for current and emerging public historians how to successfully engage a community in acknowledging their history matters—that the fibers of “microhistory” contribute to the rich tapestry that is county, regional, state, and national history.

christmas traditions in new york: The Christmas Encyclopedia William D. Crump, 2001 Christmas is special for many people around the world, and over the many centuries that people have been celebrating the holiday, it has changed with the times. This reference work presents a tremendous amount of information about the Christmas holiday from its inception around A.D. 350 to the present day. Covering not only Christmas day but the entire season from Advent through Epiphany, over 340 entries provide details on historical events that have shaped Christmas; St. Nicholas, Santa Claus, and other mythical beings that spread gifts around the world; symbols such as the Yule log, Christmas tree, holly, and mistletoe; sacred and popular carols and other music; and customs in the United States and around the world. Unique to this work is its emphasis on Christmas as depicted in the popular media, with entries on literary works, motion pictures, and television specials expressing holiday themes.

christmas traditions in new york: Christmas in America Penne L. Restad, 1996-12-05 The manger or Macy's? Americans might well wonder which is the real shrine of Christmas, as they take part each year in a mix of churchgoing, shopping, and family togetherness. But the history of Christmas cannot be summed up so easily as the commercialization of a sacred day. As Penne Restad reveals in this marvelous new book, it has always been an ambiguous meld of sacred thoughts and worldly actions-- as well as a fascinating reflection of our changing society. In *Christmas in America*, Restad brilliantly captures the rise and transformation of our most universal national holiday. In colonial times, it was celebrated either as an utterly solemn or a wildly social event--if it was celebrated at all. Virginians hunted, danced, and feasted. City dwellers flooded the streets in raucous demonstrations. Puritan New Englanders denounced the whole affair. Restad shows that as times changed, Christmas changed--and grew in popularity. In the early 1800s, New York served as an epicenter of the newly emerging holiday, drawing on its roots as a Dutch colony (St. Nicholas was particularly popular in the Netherlands, even after the Reformation), and aided by such men as Washington Irving. In 1822, another New Yorker named Clement Clarke Moore penned a poem now known as 'Twas the Night Before Christmas, virtually inventing the modern Santa Claus. Well-to-do townspeople displayed a German novelty, the decorated fir tree, in their parlors; an enterprising printer discovered the money to be made from Christmas cards; and a hodgepodge of year-end celebrations began to coalesce around December 25 and the figure of Santa. The homecoming significance of the holiday increased with the Civil War, and by the end of the nineteenth century a full-fledged national holiday had materialized, forged out of borrowed and invented custom alike, and driven by a passion for gift-giving. In the twentieth century, Christmas seeped into every niche of our conscious and unconscious lives to become a festival of epic proportions. Indeed, Restad

carries the story through to our own time, unwrapping the messages hidden inside countless movies, books, and television shows, revealing the inescapable presence--and ambiguous meaning--of Christmas in contemporary culture. Filled with colorful detail and shining insight, *Christmas in America* reveals not only much about the emergence of the holiday, but also what our celebrations tell us about ourselves. From drunken revelry along colonial curbstones to family rituals around the tree, from Thomas Nast drawing the semiofficial portrait of St. Nick to the making of the film *Home Alone*, Restad's sparkling account offers much to amuse and ponder.

christmas traditions in new york: *Christmas in Yiddish Tradition* Jordan Chad, 2025-11-18 Offers the provocative argument that Jews had long celebrated Christmas in the "Old World" This book seeks to answer a perplexing question: Why were Christmas traditions once transmitted in Yiddish, a language exclusive to non-Christians? Back in Europe, Yiddish-speaking Jews traditionally let loose on Christmas Eve with feasting, drinking, dancing, and gambling. Scholars have previously assumed this Christmas Eve vacation from Torah study to have been some sort of antagonistic counterculture to Christians celebrating Christmas. But *Christmas in Yiddish Tradition* reveals that the Christmas traditions transmitted in Yiddish were very similar to those transmitted in other European languages. Drawing on a wealth of documents, Jordan Chad argues that rather than European Jews being antagonistic towards Christmas, their Christmas Eve celebrations were exactly what they looked like: Jews celebrating Christmas. The volume offers the surprising argument that while Jews never celebrated the birth of Jesus, Christmas did not actually become the strictly Christian holiday that it is today until the period when Jews migrated to the New World. Prior to that time, Jewish midwinter traditions developed as variants of midwinter traditions that were widespread across neighboring European communities. *Christmas in Yiddish Tradition* recounts how Jews and Christians over the past millennium each awaited supernatural visits from diverse versions of Santa Claus. They only came to fully Christianize their concept of midwinter in modern times, at which point the place of Christmas in the Jewish collective memory evolved from the year's jolliest vacation to its most dangerous disturbance. The volume uncovers the story of how Christmas once flourished in a language exclusive to non-Christians—and how modern Jews and Christians ultimately came to forget about the time when they celebrated Christmas in tandem.

christmas traditions in new york: *Christmas: Tradition, Truth and Total Baubles* Nick Page, 2020-10-29 Why is Christmas the way it is? How did we get from the birth of Jesus to everyone pushing their credit card and their belts to their maximum extent? Starting with the events surrounding Jesus' birth, this book takes us through centuries of commemoration, celebration and over-consumption. Along the way we'll find out why we eat turkey, how an obscure Turkish saint turned into a man flying a sleigh, and why that tree in your house should really contain an apple and a snake. Combining in-depth historical research, cheerfully irreverent humour and cutting-edge guesswork, Nick Page explores what this festival really means, and how we can get back to something real and true beneath all that wrapping.

christmas traditions in new york: *Keeping Christmas* James A. Hopwood, 2019-09-17 Christmas is the most wonderful time of the year--or at least we want it to be. Too often our celebration of Jesus' birthday is overwhelmed by bright lights and tinsel, overspending and overeating, plus constant chatter about a war on Christmas. Can't we do better than this? There are two Christmases. One is sacred. One is secular. The two have clashed in one culture war or another for 1,700 years. Christmas is not (as some falsely claim) a pagan holiday, but pagan-influenced traditions are part of the seasonal clutter. *Keeping Christmas* is about helping you find joy in a season of excess and strife. Part survival guide, part history, part cultural commentary, and all laced with spiritual reflection, this book is about how you can celebrate in ways that are most meaningful to you and your family. It's not easy to thread your way through the Christmas maze. But if Ebenezer Scrooge could learn to keep Christmas well, so can you. Maybe it's time to reinvent Christmas. Maybe we can get it right this time.

christmas traditions in new york: *Santa Claus Worldwide* Tom A. Jerman, 2020-05-25 This is a comprehensive history of the world's midwinter gift-givers, showcasing the extreme diversity in

their depictions as well as the many traits and functions these characters share. It tracks the evolution of these figures from the tribal priests who presided over winter solstice celebrations thousands of years before the birth of Christ, to Christian notables like St. Martin and St. Nicholas, to a variety of secular figures who emerged throughout Europe following the Protestant Reformation. Finally, it explains how the popularity of a poem about a miniature sleigh and eight tiny reindeer helped consolidate the diverse European gift-givers into an enduring tradition in which American children awake early on Christmas morning to see what Santa brought. Although the names, appearance, attire and gift-giving practices of the world's winter solstice gift-givers differ greatly, they are all recognizable as Santa, the personification of the Christmas and Midwinter festivals. Despite efforts to eliminate him by groups as diverse as the Puritans of seventeenth century New England, the Communist Party of the twentieth century Soviet Union and the government of Nazi Germany, Santa has survived and prospered, becoming one of the best known and most beloved figures in the world.

christmas traditions in new york: New York Coastales Carole Marsh, 1994

christmas traditions in new york: OH! SUSANNAH Gary Beckley, 2022-11-07 What was it really like living as a woman in rural Ohio before, during, and after the Civil War? Beckley's grandfather's grandfather was the son of an unpretentious woman who did just that. Unknowingly, she became a family matriarch; and through the use of family documents handed down over the generations, along with governmental archives, and courthouse documents, Beckley is able to reconstruct her life. His research leads him to overgrown vacant lots, dilapidated cemeteries, and down many dusty gravel roads between Ohio and Kentucky, where on the 156th anniversary of the Perrysville Battle, he lies on the ridge where his distant ancestor's brother dies in combat. No effort is spared to reveal the emotion, life, and times of this woman who is long forgotten and yet one who should be forever remembered, thanked, and loved for her devotion to her family.

christmas traditions in new york: New York Magazine, 1997-12-22 New York magazine was born in 1968 after a run as an insert of the New York Herald Tribune and quickly made a place for itself as the trusted resource for readers across the country. With award-winning writing and photography covering everything from politics and food to theater and fashion, the magazine's consistent mission has been to reflect back to its audience the energy and excitement of the city itself, while celebrating New York as both a place and an idea.

christmas traditions in new york: Christmas/Navidad Bonnie Hinman, 2011-11 The Christmas holiday celebrates the birth of Jesus. There are almost as many different ways to celebrate that event as there are countries and cultures around the world. In some countries it is hot at Christmastime, while snow piles up in others. Santa may be called Pere Noel, St. Nicholas, Father Christmas, or Dun Che Lao Ren, but children everywhere wait for the gifts he will bring. What they all have in common is the spirit of Christmas. En la Navidad se celebra el nacimiento de Jesus. Pero hay casi tantas formas de celebrar este acontecimiento como paises y culturas hay en el mundo. En algunos paises hay calor en Navidad, mientras que en otros, se apila la nieve. Santa puede llamarse Pere Noel, San Nicolas, Papa Navidad o Dun Che Lao Ren, pero los ninos de todas partes del mundo esperan los regalos que les traera. Todos tienen algo en comun, y es el espiritu de la Navidad.

christmas traditions in new york: Rituals and Traditional Events in the Modern World Jennifer Laing, Warwick Frost, 2014-10-30 Many events have evolved over centuries, drawing on local customs and conditions. However, as the world becomes increasingly globalised, traditional events and the identities they support are increasingly being challenged and rituals may be lost. Reacting against this trend towards homogeneity, communities strive to preserve and even recreate their traditional events, which may require rituals to be resurrected or reinvented for a new audience. The aim of this book is to explore the role of traditional events and rituals in the modern world. The 16 chapters cover a range of case studies of the performance of ritual through events, including their historical antecedents and development over time, as well as their role in society, link with identities both seemingly fixed and fluid and their continued relevance. The cases examined are not museum pieces, but rather vibrant festivals and events that continue to persist. Drawing on the

power of history and cultural tradition, they are manifestations of heritage, existing in three temporalities: celebrating the past, occurring in the present and aiming to continue into and influence the future. Iconic events including Chinese New Year, Hogmanay and the New Orleans Mardi Gras are examined and examples are drawn from a diverse range of countries such as South Korea, China, Laos, the United States, Scotland, Italy, India and Haiti. This volume provides a deep understanding upon the role of tradition and ritual within events, from a global perspective and will be valuable reading for students, researchers and academics interested in events, heritage and culture.

christmas traditions in new york: Entertaining from Ancient Rome to the Super Bowl

Melitta Weiss Adamson, Francine Segan, 2008-10-30 From the earliest times, humans have enjoyed dining and entertainment with family and friends, from sharing a simple meal to an extravagant feast for a special celebration. In this two-volume set, entries tell the history of wedding and religious customs, holidays such as Thanksgiving and Christmas, and modern day get togethers such as block parties and Superbowl parties. Providing a worldwide perspective on celebration, entries on topics such as Dim Sum, La Quinceanera Parties, Deepavali, and Juneteenth cover many cultures. In addition, entries on Ancient Rome, Medieval entertaining, and others give an inside view as to what entertaining was like during those times, should readers want to recreate these themes for school projects or club banquets. Whether a student of history or world language class, or an adult planning a theme party, there is something in *Entertaining from Ancient Rome to the Super Bowl* for everyone.

christmas traditions in new york: The Routledge Companion to Religion and Popular Culture

John C. Lyden, Eric Michael Mazur, 2015-03-27 Religion and popular culture is a fast-growing field that spans a variety of disciplines. This volume offers the first real survey of the field to date and provides a guide for the work of future scholars. It explores: key issues of definition and of methodology religious encounters with popular culture across media, material culture and space, ranging from videogames and social networks to cooking and kitsch, architecture and national monuments representations of religious traditions in the media and popular culture, including important non-Western spheres such as Bollywood This Companion will serve as an enjoyable and informative resource for students and a stimulus to future scholarly work.

christmas traditions in new york: The True Story of Santa Claus Janet Giovanelli, 2020-10-13

He's a symbol of hope and happiness, of generosity and benevolence. Santa Clause is simply one of the most beloved legends ever embraced. The Story of Santa explores the history of Father Christmas. Who is he, really? Where did he come from? (His origins may surprise you!) Why does he fulfill our wishes? And what can we learn from him? He's become a ubiquitous figure during the Christmas season with his white beard, red suit, and prominent belly, but just how much do those celebrating the happy holiday really know about Santa Claus? Here is the whole story from the beginning—including the pre-Santas like Sinterklaas, Father Christmas, and of course, St. Nicholas. This beautifully illustrated book celebrates all things Santa ranging from the much-loved poem *The Night Before Christmas* to the songs, movies, images, and stories that are loved by both young and old. Along the way, it explores the favorite stories that have sprung up around him, including Santa's elves, his workshop, Santa's beloved reindeer and the legend of Mrs. Claus and the North Pole abode where she and her husband make their home. You'll even learn the secret to how Santa has time to visit every house around the world in just one night (a mathematician explains how it's physically possible).

christmas traditions in new york: The Fires of Yule Montague Whitsel, 2013-04-30

In the myth and folklore of ancient European cultures and spiritual traditions, the longest night of the year, called Winter Solstice, was a time of transition during which people sought out personal renewal and rebirth. *The Fires of Yule* provides a template and a pattern for entering deeply into the Winter Solstice Season, experiencing it in poetic and transformative ways through a contemporary calendar called *The Thirteen Dayes of Yule*. Readers of *The Fires of Yule* will follow a pilgrim path of the Thirteen Dayes from 13 to 25 December, engaging in various myths, symbols, stories, and rituals

associated with each day. Becoming practitioners of the Yule, deepening their experience of the Winter Solstice, they will move beyond the more banal and commercialized forms of the December holidays. The calendar of the Thirteen Dayes is sourced (historically) in Celtic myth and Paganism, as well as (imaginatively) in the lore of the Elves of ancient pre-Celtic worlds. This book brings together many of the best-known icons and customs of modern Christmas traditions, re-sourcing them in the light of a Pagan Hearth and offering touchstones for self-renewal at Winter Solstice. This revised edition of *The Fires of Yule* presents the mystic pattern of Thirteen Dayes in its fullest expression, narrated in the voice of a fictional character, Cornelius Whitsel, a student of religion and a Pagan spiritual director in the Keltelven Traditions who lives in the imagined landscape of Ross County, Pennsylvania. Cornelius has been a character in two of Montague Whitsel's other books; *Ham Farir: The Faring of Matthew Thorin Dier* (2008) and *Tales from the Seasons* (2009). *The Fires of Yule* is the culmination of more than three decades of the authors devout engagement with the Yule and deep reflection on the nature of the Winter Solstice. Montague Whitsel has explored, studied and practiced Western spiritualities grounded in the Celtic, Neo-Pagan and Monastic traditions for more than 40 years.

christmas traditions in new york: New York , 1997-12

christmas traditions in new york: Family Traditions in Hawai'i Joan Namkoong, 2004-11
Information on cultural traditions including birthdays, holiday celebrations, coming of age ceremonies, marriages, and funerals. Description and explanations include anecdotes than emphasize the bonds these traditions create. -- From the back cover.

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