



**FRENCH**

*Christmas*



30 déc. 2021

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# NEWSLETTER



Hello there! I am Alexandre and today I am talking about Christmas.

The biggest difference with the Macedonian Christmas, is the date, in France we celebrate Christmas on 24th and 25th December, and in Macedonia, they celebrate Christmas on 7th and 8th January !

Indeed the Macedonians are Orthodox, in this religion, they are the Julian Calendar and this is a solar calendar used in ancient Rome, introduced by Julius Caesar in 46 BC. J.-C. In the Julian calendar, all years that are multiples of four are leap years, resulting in a shift of approximately 3 days per 400 years from the astronomical year. This delay was 12.7 days when the Gregorian calendar was introduced in 1582.

In France we use the Gregorian calendar, since a specific date: October 15, 1582. It was created by Pope Gregory XIII.



# Typical french Christmas

Oh ! Oh ! Oh ! In this article, you will discover how we celebrate Christmas in France, are you ready? So go get your Christmas sweater and let your Christmas spirit shine through!

## Christmas decorations :

From December 1st, we are used to decorating the interior of our houses and opening a window of our Advent calendar behind which is hidden a chocolate. We also make a Christmas tree in which we hang garlands and balls. Originally, it hung fruit and especially apples. However, in the middle of the 19th century, a major drought deprived the Vosges region (in eastern France) of apples. A glassblower then had the idea of reproducing the shape of apples, but in red glass. Very quickly, the tradition spread in France and went beyond its borders.

Some families make a nursery, which they place near the tree. Traditionally, they were present in the churches. For some practicing Christian families, they also go to midnight mass on Christmas Eve.



## Christmas markets :

The tradition of Christmas markets is present in all French towns and villages. The most famous of these is that of Strasbourg, declared "Christmas capital" since 1992. It is the oldest Christmas market in France because it was opened for the first time in 1570. Today, the Christmas market of Strasbourg is a must for everyone who wants to experience the magic of Christmas



## The Christmas Eve and Christmas Day meal in France :

On the evening of December 24, families get together for a Christmas Eve meal. At midnight, all family members wish each other "Merry Christmas" and exchange gifts.

In France, the Christmas meal is traditionally composed as follows. After the aperitif, we eat as a starter: oysters, foie gras, snails, smoked salmon or various seafood (crabs, shrimps, etc.). The main course is very often a turkey, accompanied by chestnuts, green beans and potatoes. Then we eat French cheese and finally the most popular dessert on the tables is the Yule log in different ways. All this obviously accompanied by good french wine!

