

## Christmas in Australia

In the weeks leading up to Christmas, many families decorate their homes with tinsel, wreaths and other festive ornaments. A Christmas tree is placed inside the house and gifts are laid below it. Children are often given an advent calendar which helps them count down until Christmas. Carols by candlelight events are held in the weeks before Christmas. Crowds of people gather at night to sing Christmas carols.

Christmas is celebrated on the 25<sup>th</sup> of December. On the night before Christmas, it is common for children to leave out treats such as biscuits and carrots for Santa and his reindeer. Children wake up early on Christmas morning, excited to see what presents have been left under the tree or in their stockings. Many people go to church on Christmas Eve or Christmas morning.



Christmas in Australia falls during their summer months and so many families enjoy spending the day outdoors. Cricket is a very popular game to play in backyards on Christmas day. Families with a pool will likely spend much of the day in the pool or sitting around it! Other people visit the beach. The beach is particularly popular on December 26, which is known as Boxing Day. Sometimes, Santa is even spotted on a surfboard!

Ham, chicken, turkey and salads are all popular for Christmas lunch. Food is often served cold. Many people enjoy eating prawns and other seafood. Christmas puddings and pavlova are popular Christmas desserts. It is tradition for silver coins to be baked inside the Christmas pudding. It is said good luck will come to those who are lucky enough to find one! Christmas lunch is often prepared on a barbeque and eaten outdoors.



Prawns