

Christmas in Germany

The German Christmas season begins with Advent. Advent is the four Sundays before Christmas Day. Germans set up an advent wreath and light candles on each Sunday. Children have an Advent calendar. This calendar has 24 doors, one for each day of December before Christmas. Every day, the children open one door of the calendar. Inside is a chocolate treat and a picture.

Before Christmas, most German cities have a Christmas market. People sell food and drinks to visitors. There is music and other entertainment. The market also has places to buy toys, decorations and gifts.



Christmas markets in Germany have food and entertainment.



The tradition of decorating trees for Christmas began in Germany.

or Christkind, who is thought to be the Christ Child.

During all the days of Christmas in Germany, people eat traditional food. Goose, potato salad and cookies are all popular at Christmas.

December 6 is St. Nicholas Day in Germany. Children leave their shoes by a door. St. Nicholas visits each home and leaves candy and small toys for the good children. Bad children get a bundle of sticks.

Christmas in Germany lasts three days. Christmas Eve is December 24. December 25 is the first day of Christmas, and December 26 is the second day of Christmas.

On Christmas, many families go to church. When they return, they find the living room locked. They wait for a bell to ring, that tells them it is time to go into the room. In the room is a decorated Christmas tree and wrapped presents. These presents have been delivered by either Weihnachtsmann, which means Christmas Man,



Gingerbread houses are popular for Christmas in Germany.



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True or False?

Read the following sentences about Christmas in Germany. Mark each statement that is true with a T. Mark each statement that is false with an F.

_____ In Germany, presents are brought by a snowman named Egbert.

_____ Christmas in Germany lasts three days.

_____ Bad children are given a bundle of sticks.

_____ Children leave their backpacks out to be filled with presents.

_____ Christmas markets are set up on December 27.

Short Answer

Fill in the blank with the correct answer about Christmas in Germany.

Who gives children presents on December 6?

What is inside the doors of an Advent calendar?

_____ and _____

How many days is the German Christmas?

Where did the tradition of decorating trees for Christmas begin?
