Christmas Traditions Around the World

depicted mass hymns observed reenact shelter elaborately secular largely Saint resemble graves accordance Citizens roughly wrapped

The Philippines: Christmas season begins in September with the feast of _____ Pio and ends in January, meaning nearly half the year is Christmas in the Philippines. The event closest to December 25th is a nine-day _____ called Simbang Gabi, which includes _____ and Filipino foods. Christmas Eve is celebrated all night and then followed by a day of family talks and gift giving. Maligayang pasko (Merry Christmas)!

Mexico: In the nine days before Christmas, children and adults dress up as Mary and Joseph and _____ their search for lodging on their way to Bethlehem. Groupsof “pilgrims” visit different neighborhoods and sing songs in request of _____. The host replies in song and offers drink and food. Children try to break a star-shaped piñata and do not receive gifts until January 4th. Feliz Navidad!

Ethiopia: Christmas Eve is celebrated on January 6thin _____ with the local Ge’ez calendar. On that night, priests lead processions through cities in traditional clothing and carry _____ decorated umbrellas. In the morning, people feast, presents are exchanged, and some people play sports. During the Timkat procession, _____ 12 days later, a stone replica of the 10 Commandments is _____ in rich fabrics and carried by priests on their heads. Melkam Ganna!

Finland: Finns believe that the Winter Solstice brings out the spirits of the dead. On Christmas Eve, celebrated at _____ the same time, Finns place candles around the _____ of relatives. Hyvää Joulua!

Vietnam: Christmas was only recently reintroduced to _____ Buddhist Vietnam after a relaxation of restrictions in the early 1980s. It is a mainly a Jesus-free _____ event. Santa is sometimes _____ on a scooter instead of a sleigh and Vietnamese Catholics gather in churches that _____ temples. _____ visit city centers in throngs and later eat Christmas chicken soup. Chúc Giáng Sinh Vui V»!

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