

Christmas in Australia

In Australia, Christmas comes in towards the beginning of the summer holidays! Children have their summer holidays from mid December to early February, so some people might even be camping at Christmas.

Because it's so hot at Christmas time in Australia, there are quite often massive bush fires across the country.

Australians hang wreaths on their front doors and sometimes go out Christmas carol singing on Christmas Eve. People also decorate their houses and gardens with Christmas Trees and Christmas lights. Neighbours sometimes have little competitions to see who has got the best light display.

When he gets to Australia, Santa sometimes gives the reindeers a rest and might use kangaroos. He also changes his clothes for less 'hot' ones! Children often leave out carrots for Santa's reindeer and there might be some cake for Santa, with some cold beer but it's often non-alcoholic because Santa has to drive his sleigh.

Presents are normally exchanged between families on Christmas Day.

On Boxing Day most people go and visit their friends and often have barbecues at the beach. A famous Yacht race from Sydney to Hobart in Tasmania is also held on Boxing Day. Another Boxing Day tradition is the Boxing Day Cricket Test Match.

Most families try to be home together for Christmas and the main meal is normally eaten at lunch time. Most people now have a cold Christmas dinner, or a barbecue with seafood such as prawns and lobsters along with the 'traditional English' food. Australians often have Christmas Crackers at Christmas meal times.

Questions:

1. During which season is Christmas celebrated in Australia?
2. How do Australians decorate for Christmas?
3. What does Santa do when he gets to Australia?
4. When do they exchange presents?
5. What 2 traditions are held on Boxing Day?
6. What do Australians eat during Christmas?