



The Seasons

Comenius Multilateral Project



Traditions and customs for winter and Christmas in Romania

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Christmas in Romania

- **Christmas in Romania** is a major annual celebration, as in most countries of the Christian world.



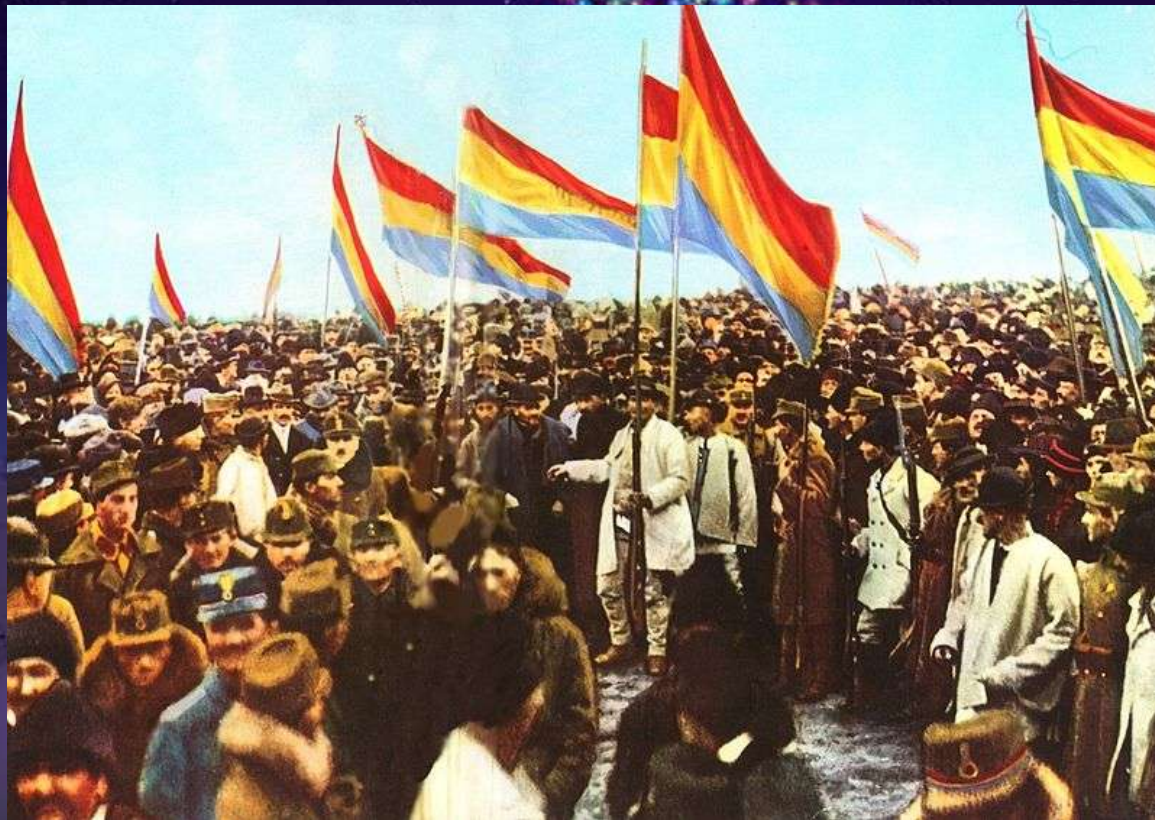
Christmas time

- The Christmas and holiday season starts officially on November 30, on Saint Andrew's day and ends on January 7, with the celebration of Saint John.



Other major holidays in this period are
Great Union Day named also
the Romanian's National Day

- 1 December



6 December Saint Nicholas Day



) 24 December Christmas Eve
named *Ajunul Craciunului*





25 December Christmas Day (named *Craciun*)



Christmas tree

- Christmas tree is usually a green tree decorated natural or artificial. Traditionally associated with the celebration of Christmas. Is brought into homes and decorated with Christmas lights (originally were candles, but with the evolution of technology, it is customary to use a different cable or LED bulbs light), ornaments, garlands, candy and sweets in the period before Christmas. Tradition says that Christmas tree ornament on Christmas Eve, December 24. An angel or star may be placed on top of the tree, representing the angels or the Star of Bethlehem.



Christmas carols



- Music is an important part of Christmas celebration all over Romania. There is a special genre of music, related to Christmas carols but with more traditional / Christian lyrics. These are named “colindă”.

Christmas carols

- Examples of carols with religious subject are "*Astăzi s-a născut Hristos*" (Today Christ Was Born)
 - <http://youtu.be/eoeQC3fM2Ho>
 - "*O, ce veste minunată!*"
Oh, What Wonderful News!
 - <http://youtu.be/I8Q6bTKrrSM>

Christmas carols

- "*Trei păstori*" (Three Shepherds)
- <http://youtu.be/p2aSYOkbXwA>
- "*Trei crai de la răsărit*"
- <http://youtu.be/G6xt9hPGgOI>
- "*Sus la poarta Raiului*" (Up at Heaven's Gate).
- <http://youtu.be/5soLta7TtSc>

- The first two ones talk about the Nativity of Jesus. The first one indicates people to pray for Jesus and thank him for being born while the other one informs us how Christ was born and praises Mary. The other ones tell the stories of the Three shepherds, Three Magi and of the Christmas star. The latter one, "Sus la poarta Raiului" is a portrait of the Manger during Jesus' nativity.

Romanian winter customs

- The Goat Tradition - Capra

Beginning from Ignat's Day, the 20th of December, to Saint Vasile's Day, the 1st of January, children used to go with Goat. They dance accompanied by the flute music.

This tradition comes from the Roman people and it reminds us the celebration of the ancient Greek gods.

The Goat Tradition - Capra



- <http://youtu.be/MJbfFGzrnG0>
- <http://youtu.be/vey5LwUdJMQ>

The Little Plough *Plugusorul

- "Plugusorul" is a small plough but in Romanian folklore is a traditional procession with a decorated plough, on New Years' Day. This is a well wishing for the field bearing on New' Years Day. This custom arises from "Carmen arvale", a wish from the Romans from the protection of the crops. The ploughmen are teenagers and children having whip, bells and pipes in the hands. Their noises accompany the well wishing.



The Star Carol - Steaua

- Children make a star using coloured paper and then they put in its middle a Jesus icon. Many of children decorate their star using tinsel.

The Star Carol is a tradition during the 3 days of Romanian Christmas. It announces the Jesus born. The children sing holding the star in the hand.

- "The star has appeared on high,
Like a big secret in the sky,
The star is bright,
May all your wishes turn out right..."

SĂRRĂTOARĂ
CINDULUI



Sorcova

- Sorcova is a bouquet used for New Year's wishes. Children wish to the people a happy New Year while touching them lightly with this bouquet.



Food

- **During Christmas time, Romanians bake or buy various special dishes, including desserts, sweets or fries. Romanians most usually bake cozonac, a somewhat of a Panetone made of flour, yolks, yeast and many other dependable ingredients, flavors, condiments and additions. There are several types of cozonac, with hundreds of recipes. You can either knead it for hours to be out in 6 hours or you can let it crease for 12 hours to avoid kneading it. You can fill the cozonac with chestnuts, cocoa, raisins or Turkish delights. Other Christmas dishes include piftie, sarmale or pork dishes.**

Piftie



irateteculinara.com

Sarmale



Cozonac



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