











# <CULTURE COLUMN・文化コラム>



## “Standard Fare and Customs of the Christmas Season”

せかいのクリスマス定番料理と習慣  
ていばんりょうり しゅうかん

Christmas time is a season for many local delicacies, but did you know that different menus, customs and traditions exist all over the world?

Japan	China	Ireland	America	Brazil
<b>Christmas' Standard Fare</b>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●Christmas Cake</li> <li>●Roast Chicken</li> <li>●Fried Chicken</li> </ul> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●Christmas is not widely celebrated, but, apples are gifted to one another.</li> </ul> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●Christmas Pudding</li> <li>●Mince Pie</li> <li>●Roast Turkey</li> </ul> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●Ham</li> <li>●Christmas Cookies</li> <li>●Roast Turkey</li> </ul> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●Panettone</li> <li>●Roast Turkey</li> <li>●Pernil</li> </ul> 
<b>Christmas Season Customs and Traditions</b>				
<b>Japan</b> 	<p>★Christmas is an event enjoyed by many across Japan, even if it is celebrated a little differently here than in other countries. Christmas has permeated Japanese culture as a couples and children's event with a variety of ways to celebrate. Seeing cities adorned with lights or Christmas tree displays, listening to festive music, eating food associated with Christmas and giving presents are all popular ways to celebrate Christmas in Japan.</p>			
<b>China</b> 	<p>★As the word for Christmas Eve, called 'ping an ye' and apples, called 'ping guo' in Chinese both share the same 'ping' pronunciation, Christmas in China consists of giving and receiving apples on Christmas Eve. In China, apples symbolize beginning the new year with health, happiness, peace and good fortune.</p>			
<b>Ireland</b> 	<p>★On Christmas Day, traditional Christmas pudding is eaten. Flour, eggs, milk, and suet as well as dry fruits soaked in rum or other liquors are combined with spices and other ingredients, steamed and is let set until it's warmed again on Christmas Day. The longer a Christmas pudding sits, the headier the liquor flavor becomes, so, it's usually rested for several weeks.</p>			
<b>America</b> 	<p>★Gingerbread cookies are made into the shape of houses and people, and are also used as a decoration for Christmas trees. Gingerbread cookies help ward off colds and sickness during the Christmas season and symbolize a wish for a healthier year to come. Because Santa is so very busy on Christmas Eve delivering presents, milk and cookies are also prepared for him as a snack when he stops by!</p>			
<b>Brazil</b> 	<p>★Families gather together for Christmas. Christmas cards are sent with well-wishes of health and happiness. Due to Brazil's location in the southern hemisphere, Christmas is in summer. Regardless, from the latter-half of November, decorations are hung and every store has a mountain of fruit or chocolate-filled cake called panettone that are only sold during the Christmas season. Since Brazil is also a Catholic country, you see decorations with religious meaning everywhere. Beside every church you will find a nativity scene, called 'Presépio' in Portuguese, depicting Christ's birth.</p>			