



## The December 2021 Issue

### What is in this issue:

### Hot ↕ Cold Christmas



Some of my mum's Christmas cakes and cookies!

Christmas is a popular holiday celebrated on December 25<sup>th</sup> in most countries. **Christmas Eve** is the day before, on the 24<sup>th</sup>. Christmas can be a happy festival of giving for everyone... especially in the hot sun!

## HOT CHRISTMAS



### Food & Drinks



There are lots of places that have a hot Christmas, but I'll talk about my country for the first page! Lots of Christmas parties have **barbecues**. We cook things like sausages, big burgers, steaks, and **prawns**. We have cold food too, like sliced ham and some salads. We don't have many famous Christmas drinks, but a cold **fruit punch** is always **refreshing**! My favourite Christmas food is the dessert! My **mum** is amazing at cooking and **baking**, and makes something wonderful every year.



### Outdoor Activities

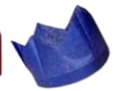


Lots of people go to the beach for Christmas! People love **surfing**, but if you don't know how, you can still have fun. Many children use a '**boogie board**'. It's a small surfboard that you put the front half of your body on. This is a much easier way to ride the waves!

At home, **pool parties** are a popular **activity**. Australia is also a very sporty country, and many people play sport on Christmas Day. There are free volleyball nets at some beaches for anyone to use, and backyard **cricket** is also **common**.



### Indoor Activities



When it's too hot, we like to stay indoors in the **air-conditioning**! One thing we do inside is pop **Christmas crackers**. One person will grab each side and pull, and whoever is still holding the bigger half when it breaks wins the prizes inside! Usually there is a colourful paper **crown**, a joke, and a little toy inside.





Countries in the Southern Hemisphere have Summer Christmas, but did you know these places are only 10% of the world's **population**? Also, some places have 'Winter Christmas', but hot weather! For example: **Hawaii, Singapore, and Manila** are always hot, but are in the Northern Hemisphere!

## Warm Celebrations Around the World

### 1. **Brisbane**, Australia



You can watch the lighting of a **giant** Christmas tree in King George Square. **Nearby**, you can see decorations & street performances while shopping at Queen Street Mall. If you want good deals, go the day after Christmas! It is '**Boxing Day**', and there are lots of sales.

### 2. **Auckland**, New Zealand



Check out the department store Smith & Caughey's. This year they are doing an adorable **puppet** show based on *The Night Before Christmas*. Or set up a **picnic** blanket and listen to **Christmas Carols** sung by the Auckland **Gospel Choir** at Western Park.

### 3. **Bali**, Indonesia



There are lots of fun **beachside** parties for Christmas in Bali. Party all night then watch the Christmas Eve fireworks. The next day, you can try a special Christmas yoga **retreat**.

### 4. **Cape Town**, South Africa



Visit **Santa Claus** at the top of Table Mountain! On the way up, Christmas **fairies** give children an activity book with a **treasure hunt**. At the top they can get their faces painted, or buy temporary **glitter** tattoos.

### 5. **Rio de Janeiro**, Brazil



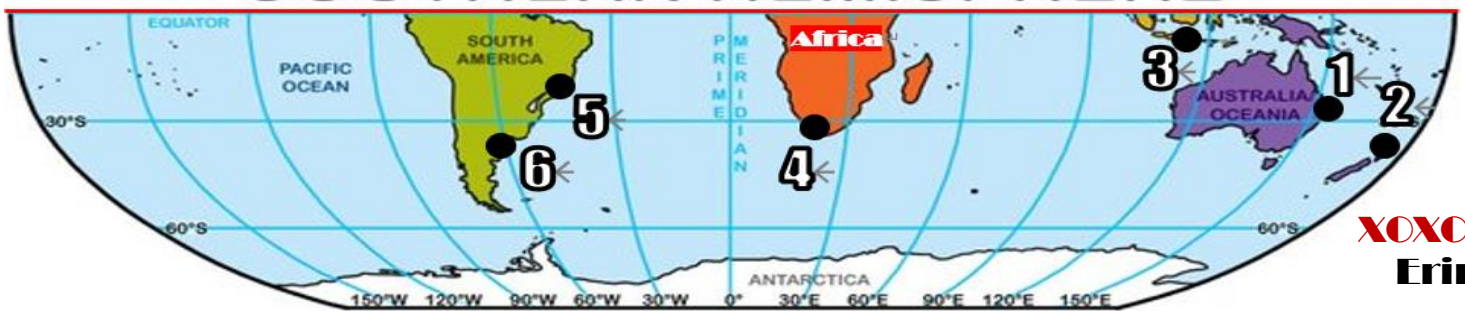
Christmas dinner in Brazil **includes** foods like turkey, rice, salad, fruits, and *farofa*. After that, you can **enjoy** *Pannettone* and *rabanadas* for dessert. They are types of sweet bread. People eat a late dinner with family on Christmas Eve & stay together **until** morning.

### 6. **Buenos Aires**, Argentina



In Buenos Aires, Christmas Eve is the big event! At **midnight** church bells ring and fireworks go off all over the city. Many people stay up late to see this, then have a sleepy Christmas day of **relaxing** around the house or the pool.

## SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE





# The Keika Chronicle



## COLD CHRISTMAS



### Food

Cute **holiday popcorn tins** are a popular family gift. They usually have salt, butter, cheese, or caramel **flavor**. I love the tins with Christmas puppies on them! **Candy canes** are red and white **peppermint** sticks. They are one of my favorites!

Christmas cakes and cookies are classic! My favorite cookies are **sugar cookies**, **chocolate chip cookies** and **snickerdoodles**. People often make **gingerbread houses** and **gingerbread men** from gingerbread cookies. They are delicious and fun to decorate together. Every Christmas Eve, we make sure to leave out a plate of milk and cookies for Santa Claus to eat and some carrots for the **reindeer**. In Japan, 'Christmas cake' means a **strawberry shortcake**, right? In the U.S.A., our 'Christmas cake' is a **yule-log cake**. It is a **roll cake** that looks like a piece of wood for the **fireplace**.

### Drinks



Two famous hot drinks are **hot chocolate** and **egg nog**. Hot chocolate is a warm chocolate drink with milk, and **marshmallows** on top. Egg nog is a **creamy** drink made of eggs and milk. It can be warm or cold and can have **alcohol** in it, so be careful! I like it with **nutmeg** on top!



### Outdoor Activities

Winter sports are a fun part of cold Christmas. **Ice skating**, **skiing**, and **snowboarding** are all popular things to do on winter vacation. Just playing in the snow, like building a **snowman**, is fun for kids too. Many cities have **lightshows**, often called **illuminations** in Japan. They use **twinkle lights** to **decorate** trees and buildings.



### Indoor Activities

Many people like to do things inside because it is cold in the winter. Many famous **plays** and **ballets** are popular during the Christmas season. Schools often have formal dances called **Winter Balls** and workplaces have holiday **office parties**. Party dresses with **sparkles** and fancy suits are popular. However, people also wear '**ugly Christmas sweaters**' for fun!



English Club Christmas Party 2020



English Club 'Ugly Christmas Sweater' Party 2019



## NORTHERN HEMISPHERE Cool Celebrations Around the World

### 1. **New York City**, U.S.A.



Many department stores have special **window displays**. The Rockefeller Center Christmas Tree is around 69-100 feet tall! You can ice skate outside at Wollman Rink in **Central Park**. The famous Radio City Rockettes dance the **can-can** at shows.

### 2. **London**, England



Ride a **double-decker bus** around the city to see the **Christmas lights**. See the Christmas displays and presents at the famous **Harrods Department Store**. They have made a new Christmas **teddy bear** every year since 1906. Visit the Tower of London and Kensington **Palace** to learn about **royal** history!

### 3. **Copenhagen**, Denmark



Stay in the **luxury** hotel d'Angleterre to see a bright, new Christmas theme every year. Go to the fun Tivoli **amusement park** and enjoy the winter **wonderland**! Drink *gløgg* (mulled wine) and eat *æbleskiver* (pancake puffs). Experience '**hygge**,' the Danish way of life!

### 4. **Cologne**, Germany



This city has some of the most famous **Christmas Markets** in Europe. Each has a different theme with different presents to buy and delicious treats to try! There is even a Christmas Garden in the Cologne Zoo. Visit the Cologne **Cathedral** to hear moving Christmas carols from the choir.

### 5. **St. Petersburg**, Russia



In Russia, Christmas is on January 7<sup>th</sup>, so, after **New Year's**. The **Russian Ballet** is one of the most famous in the world and the **composer** Tchaikovsky was Russian so please see **The Nutcracker** ballet here! Visit the Winter Palace and Hermitage Museum to learn about the Russian **Tsars** and art.

### 6. **Seoul**, South Korea



Visit the shopping areas of Myeongdong, Dongdaemun, and Gangnam to see **high-tech** Christmas lights. Eat **Korean BBQ** then yummy Christmas cake from different stores. Watch **K-pop** Christmas **concerts** and try to find a date for the love songs.



# #WhiteChristmas

XOXO,  
Sheila

