

Christmas Traditions in Portugal



There are a lot of Christmas traditions in Portugal. The main streets and towns are decorated with lights. At home the most important decorations are the Christmas tree and the crib.

The traditional Christmas meal is called *Consoada* and consists of codfish with green vegetables and boiled potatoes. In the North of Portugal people eat



octopus. Roast turkey is the main dish too. Each region has its own desserts. The most known are rice pudding, French toasts called *Rabanadas* and *Filhós*. The traditional Christmas cake is *Bolo Rei*. A broad bean and a small present are hidden in the cake. If we get the gift we are allowed to keep it. But

if we find the broad bean we have to pay for the next year's *Bolo Rei*.

After this special dinner people go to church. During the religious service an image of Baby Jesus is brought out and everyone kiss it. Then it returns to the crib. People come back home and open their presents. The presents are given to children on Christmas Eve by Father Christmas. In the past, presents were brought by Baby Jesus and left in the shoes by the fireplace. Others open them in the morning of the 25th, Christmas Day.

On Christmas Day families have Christmas Day lunch together enjoying their goodies.

Merry
Christmas