

Christmas In Spain



By Finley Fairhurst

The Spanish call Christmas Epiphany and it is celebrated on the 6th of January. In Spanish, Epiphany is called fiesta de los tres reyes mages in English this means the festival of the three Kings. Epiphany celebrates when the kings or wise men brought gifts to the baby Jesus. Most people in Spain go to midnight mass or la misa del gallo (The mass of the rooster). It is called this because a rooster is supposed to have crowed the night that Jesus was born.



Most families eat their main Christmas meal on Christmas eve before the service. The traditional Spanish Christmas dinner is (Pavo Trufado de Navidad) which is turkey stuffed with truffles. (the mushrooms, not the chocolate ones!). In Galicia (a region in North West Spain, surrounded by water) the most popular meal for Christmas Eve and for Christmas Day is seafood. This can be all kinds of different seafood, from shellfish and mollusks, to lobster and small edible crabs.



After the midnight service, the people walk through the streets carrying torches, playing guitars and beating on tambourines and drums. One Spanish saying is 'Esta noche es noche-Buena, Y no Es noche de dormir' which means 'Tonight is a good night and it is not for sleeping!'

A few different languages are spoken in different regions in Spain. In Spanish, Merry Christmas is 'Feliz Navidad', in Catalan it is 'Bon Nadal' and in Basque is it 'Eguberri on'.



December 28th is 'Dia de los santos inocentes' or day of the innocent saints and is very like April fools day in the UK and USA. People try to trick each other into believing silly stories and jokes. Newspapers and TV stations also run silly stories. If you trick someone, you can call them Inocente, Inocente which means innocent ,innocent .28 th December is when people all over the world remember the babies that were killed on the orders of King Herod when he was trying to kill baby Jesus.



The first thing that the visitor will notice is that Christmas in Spain is not as huge a commercial occasion as is the case in many other western countries. Christmas lights are usually lit in the main cities in the first week of December by which time the shops are fully stocked with Christmas supplies. Nothing like the US and UK where the end of summer marks the build up to Christmas.



Christmas trees are common in the home but again they don't appear until the second half of December. Also in the home there are intricate, miniature nativity scenes called Belenes. The Belen always includes Baby Jesus , Mary, Joseph as well as the 3 Kings, Baltasar, Melchior and Gaspar.





Feliz Navidad



A donde sea que yo esté
Tu corazón alcanzaré
Y una sonrisa en tu mirada pintaré

No habrá distancia entre los dos
Al viento volaré mi voz
Con mis deseos a tu alma llegaré

Feliz Navidad, Feliz Navidad
Feliz Navidad, próspero año y felicidad

Feliz Navidad, Feliz Navidad
Feliz Navidad, próspero año y felicidad

I wanna wish you a Merry Christmas (Celebremos juntos la vida)
I wanna wish you a Merry Christmas (Y que viva la alegría)
I wanna wish you a Merry Christmas
From the bottom of my heart

<https://youtu.be/sHBvkzGXFpo>