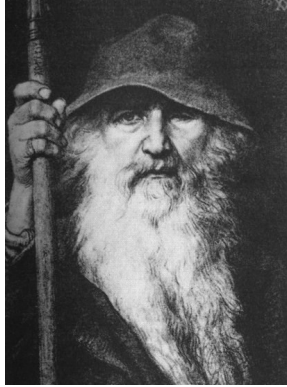




# Christmas in Europe Printable Pack 1

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**Thank you & Enjoy!**



**Odin  
the Wanderer**

In pre-Christian times, the Vikings of Scandinavia believed that the God Odin disguised himself as a traveler with a long beard and cloak, listening in on conversations about who was behaving well and who was being naughty.

**Odin  
the Wanderer**



**Saint Nicholas**

He was the bishop of Turkey around 400 years after Jesus' birth, and is famous for taking care of the poor and needy. In one famous story, he dropped a bag of money into a window to help a poor family in trouble. He has a holiday named after him on December 6.

**Saint Nicholas**

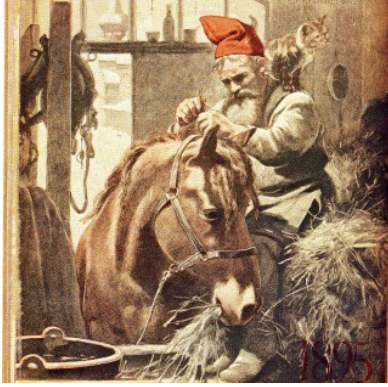


**Father Christmas**

Before the 1800s, People in England believed in a character who's job was to lead big parties to celebrate the holiday. Later, he was changed into a kindly character who brought gifts to children.

**Father Christmas**





**Julenisse**



**Père Noël**



**Sinterklaas**

In Norway, kids believe that there are tiny elf-like creatures called nisse or tomte. They make a lot of mischief unless you leave a gift for them and their donkeys. They can bring good luck if they get their gifts at Christmas time.

**Julenisse**

This is Father Christmas in France. On Saint Nicholas Day, he visits towns and villages, bringing gifts to good children.

**Père Noël**

This is the name of the kind character who brings gifts and treats to children on Saint Nicholas Day in the Netherlands and Belgium. He rides a horse and brings treats for all good children.

**Sinterklaas**



**Ded Moroz  
(Grandfather Frost)**



**Santa Claus**



**Santa Lucia**

In Russia, Grandfather Frost is the name of the white-bearded man who brings gifts to children. Originally, he was a fairytale character called King Frost, a winter wizard who helped kind people. Ded Moroz visits Russian homes on Christmas Eve.

**Ded Moroz  
(Grandfather Frost)**

This is the American version of Father Christmas, who first became popular in the 1880s. His red suit, white beard and kindness to children are similar to the other gift-bringers around the world, but the sled, the toy workshop and the reindeer make Santa unique.

**Santa Claus**

A saint who brought food and first aid to Christians hiding in caves and tunnels, when the law made it illegal to worship Jesus. Lucia wore a crown of candles to light the way. Today, the oldest daughter in the family dresses up as Santa Lucia and gives food to friends and family on December 13th.

**Santa Lucia**



## **The Three Magi (Wise Men)**



## **Christkind (Christ child)**



## **La Befana**

In some countries, children receive gifts and treats on January 6, Epiphany Day. Epiphany is also called Three King's Day, named after the visitors who brought gifts and came to worship baby Jesus. Today, men dress up as The Three Kings (or Magi) and bring gifts.

## **The Three Magi (Wise Men)**

In Germany, Hungary and other parts of Europe, a child-like angel with blond hair brings gifts to children on Christmas Eve. The child represents the baby Jesus, to help children focus on the Savior during Christmas, rather than Santa Claus or Father Christmas.

## **Christkind (Christ child)**

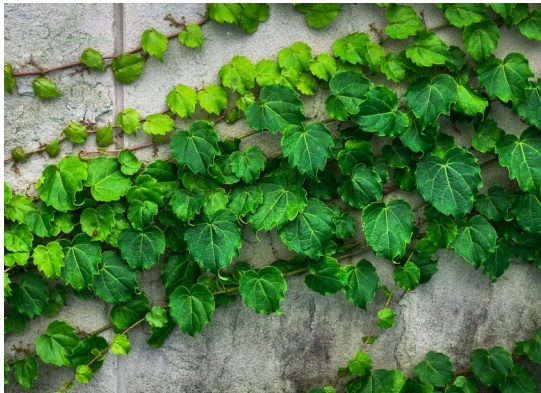
In Italy, La Befana is a witch who brings gifts to good children on Epiphany Day (January 6). She is still searching for baby Jesus, because she did not join the Three Kings on their visit. She flies on her broom, and enters houses through the chimney to deliver gifts.

## **La Befana**





**holly**



**ivy**



**mistletoe**

The holly tree represents Jesus. The spiky leaves are a reminder of the crown of thorns that was put on Jesus' head and red berries represent the blood He shed. Ancient people believed that holly had power to scare off evil spirits.

**holly**

European ivy twists around other plants as it grows, making strong bonds. The tight bonds are a symbol of love, friendship, and loyalty. When ivy grows onto a holly tree, the two together represent a man and woman, living in peace.

**ivy**

Mistletoe was a sacred plant in ancient times. People believed that it had magical powers. It is a symbol of life, good health and good fortune. Kissing under the mistletoe began in the 1800s. Girls had to accept kisses from boys, only for the 12 Days of Christmas.

**mistletoe**





**yew**



**laurel**



**spruce**

The yew tree is one of the few evergreens native to British Isles. Because its leaves stay green even in winter, it is a symbol of immortality or eternal life. The trees usually live for 500 years, some live even longer, another symbol of everlasting life.

**yew**

Laurel is an evergreen tree that grows all over Europe. The leaves were given as prizes to competition winners. Laurel is the symbol of victory. At Christmas, it was used to decorate because it is green in the cold winter time, a symbol of life and renewal.

**laurel**

A Norway spruce is given as a gift from the country of Norway to Great Britain every year since 1947. It is a thank you for help received from Great Britain during World War II. The tree is displayed in Trafalgar Square in London during the Christmas season.

**spruce**



**wheat**

In Sweden and Norway, children tie wheat into a bundle called a sheaf. They leave it outside on a door or tree for the birds to eat on Christmas Eve. It is a way to show gratitude to God, by taking care of his animals.

**wheat**



**yule log**

Throughout Europe, families look for a large piece of wood to burn in the fireplace. This is the yule log. The yule log is cut into pieces. One piece is burned to start the fire for each day of the 12 days of Christmas, starting on Christmas Eve, to bring good luck to the family.

**yule log**



**turkey oak**

The turkey oak is a special tree in Croatia. It is burned in a bonfire on Christmas Eve. It is a young oak tree. The leaves burn and send sparks into the sky. The sparks bring good luck and health to the family.

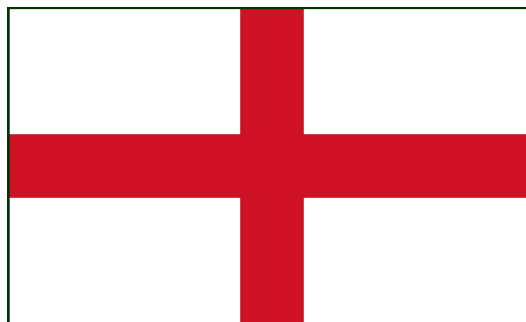
**turkey oak**



By Sarah - originally posted to Flickr as Mincee pie!, CC BY 2.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=10381843>



**Mincemeat Pie  
England**

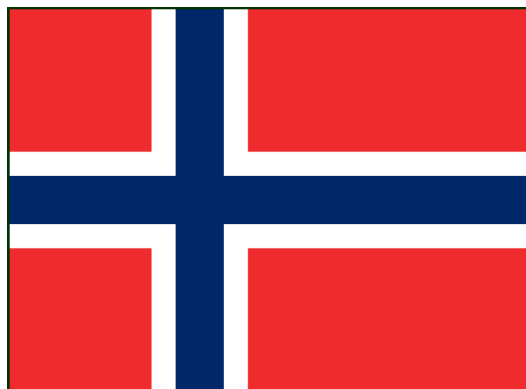


**England**

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**Lussekatter  
Norway**

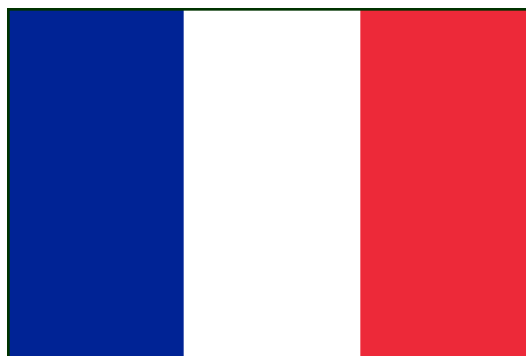


**Norway**

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**Bûche De Noël  
France**



**France**



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**Panettone**  
**Italy**



**Italy**



**Stollen**  
**Germany**



**Germany**



**Sachertorte**  
**Austria**



**Austria**

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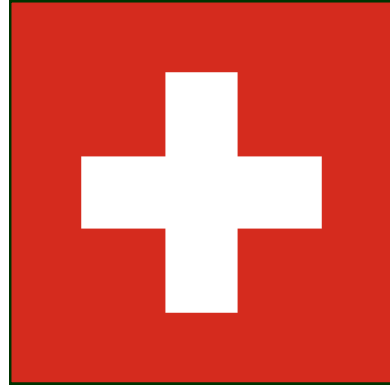
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**Mailänderli  
Switzerland**



**Switzerland**



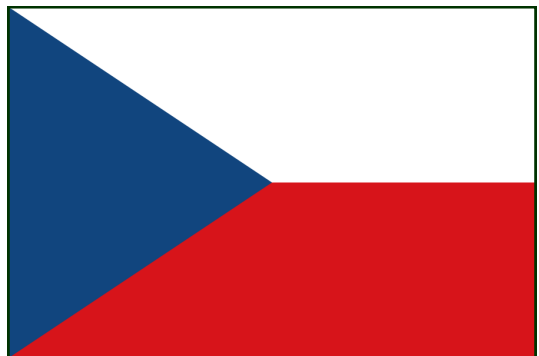
**Turrón  
Spain**



**Spain**



**Kolace  
Czech Republic**



**Czech Republic**