

## English:

So Christmas time in Germany is a very festive time as it is in many countries. But in Germany, the whole season, not just the Christmas day, it's from the 24th to the 26th of December, but the whole month of December is actually leading up to the major festivities on Christmas Eve.

We have the custom of the Advent which many people will use to have family gatherings. And every Advent Sunday, there would be a candle lit up. We have four candles in total, four Sundays leading up to Christmas.

And there would be decorations called the Advent Circle where the candles would be put on, which is circular decoration piece decorated with dried fruits, nuts traditionally, and maybe some pine branches or other needle tree branches. This is a custom which many people actually still practice.

For kids, on the other hand, the countdown to Christmas starts with the 1st of December where we have the Advent calendar. The Advent calendar traditionally used to be a calendar with 24 doors, one door each day up to Christmas Day at Christmas Eve. But traditionally, it was only with hand-drawn, very intricate small pictures, and then it became a little more sophisticated with small pieces of chocolate.

Nowadays, it has become very luxurious with small gifts or even larger gifts in each door, so the calendars themselves have also grown in size. This actually helps the kids to maybe stay on track and focus on the big event, but also to get into the Christmas spirit.

Another day during the Christmas period that is very important is St. Nicholas Day, which is on December 6th. During that period, Nicholas comes and he will fill your shoes with either some goods like chocolate and nuts or with coal depending on whether you cleaned them the day before or you didn't. This is a custom that probably predates Christmas, similar to other customs in some other parts of Germany, but it's one of the major days during the Christmas period.

And then finally on Christmas Eve, on the 24th, you will have the presents. That's why Christmas in Germany is also quite a stressful period because a lot of people will have to buy the presents. But traditionally, Santa Claus will bring the presents. In Germany, he's called the Christmas Man. He will bring the presents not on 25th as in other countries, but on the 24th in the evening. So families will gather, eat a festive feast, and then they will get the presents, and will then jointly unwrap them, which is a very joyful occasion.

The Christmas dinner differs from region to region. But in many areas of Germany, it will probably be some kind of potato dish, maybe potato salad and some kind of meat or sausages. Another important Christmas dish, which in my family is consumed on the 25th, is the goose. So we will have a roasted goose which is prepared in the oven. And again, the side dish to the goose in Germany differs from region to region.

The time between the Christmas holidays and the 31st of December which we call Silvester, so New Year's Eve. This period is called the period between the years. So it's a transition period, and people would usually take time off work. Very many shops are closed during that period, and people just take some time off to reflect and meet friends and family.

### Simplified Chinese

德国的圣诞节是一个非常喜庆的时间，就像在许多国家一样。但在德国，整个季节，不仅仅是圣诞节，而是从 12 月 24 日到 26 日，而且整个 12 月实际上都是圣诞节前夕的主要庆祝活动。

我们有许多人会举行家庭聚会的降临节习俗。每个降临节的星期天，都会有一支蜡烛点亮。我们总共有四支蜡烛，即圣诞节前的四个星期天。

还有一些装饰品，叫做降临圈，蜡烛会放在降临圈上面，这是一个圆形的装饰品，上面装饰着传统的干果、坚果，也许还有一些松枝或其他针树枝。这是许多人实际上仍在遵循的习俗。

另一方面，对于孩子们来说，圣诞节倒计时从 12 月 1 日开始，我们有降临节日历。降临节日历传统上是一个有 24 扇门的日历，每天一扇门，直到圣诞节前夕的圣诞节。但传统上，只是手绘且非常复杂的小图片，然后加上小块巧克力，使其变得更加精致。

如今，每扇门中的小礼物甚至更大的礼物都变得非常豪华，因此日历本身也变得越来越大。这实际上有助于孩子们的记忆并专注于大型活动，同时也有助于融入圣诞精神。

圣诞节期间另一个非常重要的日子是圣尼古拉斯日，即 12 月 6 日。在此期间，尼古拉斯会给你的鞋子装满巧克力和坚果之类的东西，或者装满煤，这取决于你前一天是否清洗过它们。这是一种可能早于圣诞节的习俗，类似于德国其他一些地区的其他习俗，但它是圣诞节期间的主要节日之一。

最后在圣诞节前夕，也就是 24 日，你会收到礼物。这就是为什么德国的圣诞节也是一个压力很大的时期，因为很多人必须购买礼物。但传统上，圣诞老人会带来礼物。在德国，他被称为圣诞老人。他不会像在其他国家那样在 25 日带来礼物，而是在 24 日晚上。当天一家人会聚在一起，吃个喜庆的宴席，然后他们会拿到礼物，然后一起拆开包装，这是一个非常欢乐的场合。

圣诞大餐因地区而异。但在德国的许多地区，可能会是某种土豆菜，可能是土豆沙拉和某种肉类或香肠。另一个重要的圣诞菜是鹅，我家会在 25 日吃圣诞大餐。所以我们会在烤箱里准备好一只烤鹅。同样，德国鹅的配菜也因地区而异。

圣诞节假期和 12 月 31 日之间的时间，我们称之为 **Silvester**，所以是除夕。这段时期称为年与年之间的时期，是一个过渡期，人们通常会放假。在此期间，很多商店都关门了，人们只是抽出一些时间来反思和与朋友和家人见面。

## Traditional Chinese

德國的聖誕節是一個非常喜慶的時間，就像在許多國家一樣。但在德國，整個季節，不僅僅是聖誕節，而是從 12 月 24 日到 26 日，而且整個 12 月實際上都是聖誕節前夕的主要慶祝活動。

我們有許多人會舉行家庭聚會的降臨節習俗。每個降臨節的星期天，都會有一支蠟燭點亮。我們總共有四支蠟燭，即聖誕節前的四個星期天。

還有一些裝飾品，叫做降臨圈，蠟燭會放在降臨圈上面，這是一個圓形的裝飾品，上面裝飾著傳統的干果、堅果，也許還有一些松枝或其他針樹枝。這是許多人實際上仍在遵循的習俗。

另一方面，對於孩子們來說，聖誕節倒計時從 12 月 1 日開始，我們有降臨節日曆。降臨節日曆傳統上是一個有 24 扇門的日曆，每天一扇門，直到聖誕節前夕的聖誕節。但傳統上，只是手繪且非常複雜的小圖片，然後加上小塊巧克力，使其變得更加精緻。

如今，每扇門中的小禮物甚至更大的禮物都變得非常豪華，因此日曆本身也變得越來越大。這實際上有助於孩子們的記憶並專注於大型活動，同時也有助於融入聖誕精神。

聖誕節期間另一個非常重要的日子是聖尼古拉斯日，即 12 月 6 日。在此期間，尼古拉斯會給你的鞋子裝滿巧克力和堅果之類的東西，或者裝滿煤，這取決於你前一天是否清洗過它們。這是一種可能早於聖誕節的習俗，類似於德國其他一些地區的其他習俗，但它是聖誕節期間的主要節日之一。

最後在聖誕節前夕，也就是 24 日，你會收到禮物。這就是為什麼德國的聖誕節也是一個壓力很大的時期，因為很多人必須購買禮物。但傳統上，聖誕老人會帶來禮物。在德國，他被稱為聖誕人。他不會像在其他國家那樣在 25 日帶來禮物，而是在 24 日晚上。當天一家人會聚在一起，吃個喜慶的宴席，然後他們會拿到禮物，然後一起拆開包裝，這是一個非常歡樂的場合。

聖誕大餐因地區而異。但在德國的許多地區，可能會是某種土豆菜，可能是土豆沙拉和某種肉類或香腸。另一個重要的聖誕菜是鵝，我家會在 25 日吃聖誕大餐。所以我們會在烤箱裡準備好一隻烤鵝。同樣，德國鵝的配菜也因地區而異。

聖誕節假期和 12 月 31 日之間的時間，我們稱之為 **Silvester**，所以是除夕。這段時期稱為年與年之間的時期，是一個過渡期，人們通常會放假。在此期間，很多商店都關門了，人們只是抽出一些時間來反思和與朋友和家人見面。