

Father Christmas

Around the World



Egypt Baba Noël



Baba Noël visits children by climbing through windows and leaving presents. Some children leave out kahk, which are traditional Egyptian round biscuits, for Baba Noël. The kahk can be plain but are often filled with dates or a honey and nut filling.



Japan Hoteiosho



Hoteiosho is a Buddhist monk who acts like Father Christmas. He brings presents to each house for children. Some think he has eyes in the back of his head!



Netherlands Sinterklaas



'Saint Nicholas'. A traditional figure based on Saint Nicholas who rides a white horse. Sinterklaas is celebrated by many people in the Netherlands on 5th December by the giving of gifts.



Norway Julenissen



Thought to be the spirit of the house or farm, he does not come down the chimney but through the front door delivering gifts to the household. A similar spirit also visits homes in Denmark, Sweden and Finland.



France Le Père Noël



'Father Christmas'. Some children leave their shoes by the fireplace filled with carrots for Père Noël's donkey Gui. If the children have been good he will leave them presents, traditionally these are small enough to fit into the shoes.



Great Britain Father Christmas



Considered to be the same as 'Santa Claus'. Traditionally he is thought to land his sleigh and reindeer on the roof and come down the chimney to leave gifts for well behaved children, usually these are left under the tree or in stockings.



Russia Ded Moroz



'Old Man Frost' or 'Father Frost'. Ded Moroz brings his presents in person to children at New Years Eve celebrations. Snegurochka, is his granddaughter and helper. He is the only traditional Christmas figure with a female helper.