

INVESTICE DO ROZVOJE VZDĚLÁVÁNÍ

Holidays

Tematická oblast	Angličtina: The Czech Republic
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Stručný obsah	Státní svátky a populární svátky v České Republice, zvyky a tradice
Způsob využití	Otázky k tradičním svátkům a zvykům, které jsou s nimi spojeny. Ke každé otázce je vytvořena „vzorová odpověď“
Autor	Mgr. Jiřina Juříčková
Kód	VY_32_INOVACE_06_AJUR04



Czech Republic

Holidays and traditions



Holidays and traditions

- Do the Czechs like celebrating holidays?
- Do they follow traditions?
- How many bank holidays are there in the CR?
- What are the most popular holidays in the CR?

Bank holidays in the CR

There are twelve bank holidays in the Czech Republic.
Except for Easter Monday, the dates of the holidays are fixed.
The bank holidays are:

1 January - New Year's Day

Easter Monday

1 May - May Day

8 May - Liberation from Fascism

5 July - Cyril and Methodius

6 July - Burning at Stake of Jan Hus

28 September - Czech Statehood Day

28 October - Establishment of the Czechoslovak Republic

17 November - Freedom and Democracy Day

24 December - Christmas Eve

25 December - Christmas Day

26 December - Christmas Day

Christmas



- Christmas Eve is celebrated on 24 December and is associated with many superstitions that usually relate to life, love, and destiny that awaits one in the year to come; e. g. one is supposed to fast all day to see the "golden piglet" in the evening
- Dinner is served after sunset (traditionally, it should not be served until after the first star has come out) and consists of fried carp and potato salad
- A traditional Christmas bread is called *vánočka* and is similar to the Jewish *challa*

Christmas

The traditional Christmas dinner consists of . . . People also prepare . .

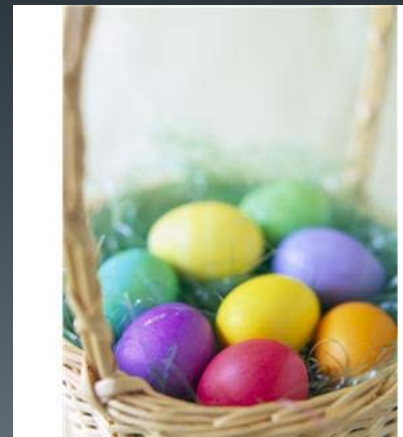


Christmas presents

- Presents are placed under the Christmas tree. Czech children believe that Christmas gifts are brought by Baby Jesus.
- Baby Jesus receives wish-list letters from Czech children a few weeks before Christmas.
- Some people end Christmas Eve by attending the midnight mass at a local church. It usually starts at midnight but some churches hold it earlier

Easter

- Many traditions are still observed and practised, especially in villages, and different regions may have their own Easter traditions and customs
- Many Czech Easter symbols are related to spring and the beginning of new life. Some of the best known are:
 - hand-painted or otherwise decorated eggs
 - a braided whip made from pussy-willow twigs (thought to bring health and youth to anyone who is whipped with them)
 - red and other bright colors symbolize health, joy, happiness and new life that comes with the spring



All Souls Day

- All Souls' Day falls on November 2nd
- It is a quiet time in the Czech Republic. People visit the graves of family members and relatives to light candles, lay flowers and wreaths and spend a few moments

Saint Nicholas Day

- Is celebrated on the eve of St. Nicholas Day, December 5th.
- Three (St. Nicholas, the Angel and the Devil) characters come to homes, asking children if they were good in the past year. Most kids say yes and sing a song or recite a short poem. They are then rewarded with sweets, candy or other treats, which are handed out by the Angel.
- Bad kids would be put in the Devil's sack and taken to hell, or would only get a sack of potatoes or coal instead of candy

Other holidays

The Czechs don't celebrate other holidays very much. Among traditional holidays we can mention the Burning of the Witches, May 1, and St. Joseph's Day. More and more people celebrate holidays "imported" from the English speaking countries such as St. Valentine's Day or Halloween

New Year's Eve

- is another popular celebration during which people hold or are invited to parties and celebrate the new year's coming
- quite a lot of people gather together in the streets, celebrate there and watch firework displays at midnight

Zdroje

- <http://office.microsoft.com/cs-cz/images/results.aspx?qu=christmas&ex=2#ai:MP900431277>
- http://www.google.cz/imgres?q=traditional+czech+christmas+dinner&hl=cs&tbo=d&biw=1280&bih=795&tbm=isch&tbnid=jTo4jh_xLeWGoM:&imgrefurl=http://www.makingthishome.com/2008/12/29/a-traditional-czech-christmas/&docid=6-wz3vSAVgp7uM&imgurl=http://www.makingthishome.com/wp-content/uploads/2008/12/vanocka.jpg&w=200&h=155&ei=scrSUMW-BcvFtAaZ_oCQAw&zoom=1&iact=rc&dur=203&sig=111004449778356183307&page=1&tbnh=124&tbnw=153&start=0&ndsp=27&ved=1t:429,r:2,s:0,i:91&tx=75&ty=74
- http://www.google.cz/imgres?q=traditional+czech+fried+carp&hl=cs&tbo=d&biw=1280&bih=795&tbm=isch&tbnid=IFCbEg6fbDls5M:&imgrefurl=http://czechvegan.blogspot.com/2010/11/my-first-published-recipe.html&docid=UlwsWTt0mkfc5M&imgurl=http://2.bp.blogspot.com/_w2GbB1rJV0U/TNAwM_R4rel/AAAAAAAAAGw/IQp0go7FS2M/s400/chicknfilletpotatosalad_MED.jpg&w=270&h=208&ei=DcvSUKz-E87QsgbQ5oCABA&zoom=1&iact=hc&vpx=2&vpy=358&dur=579&hovh=166&hovw=216&tx=84&ty=82&sig=111004449778356183307&page=2&tbnh=149&tbnw=187&start=25&ndsp=35&ved=1t:429,r:25,s:0,i:165
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- <http://office.microsoft.com/cs-cz/images/results.aspx?qu=easter&ex=1#ai:MP900422835>