



# First time in a long time

— ❄️ —  
*Let's make Christmas count!*



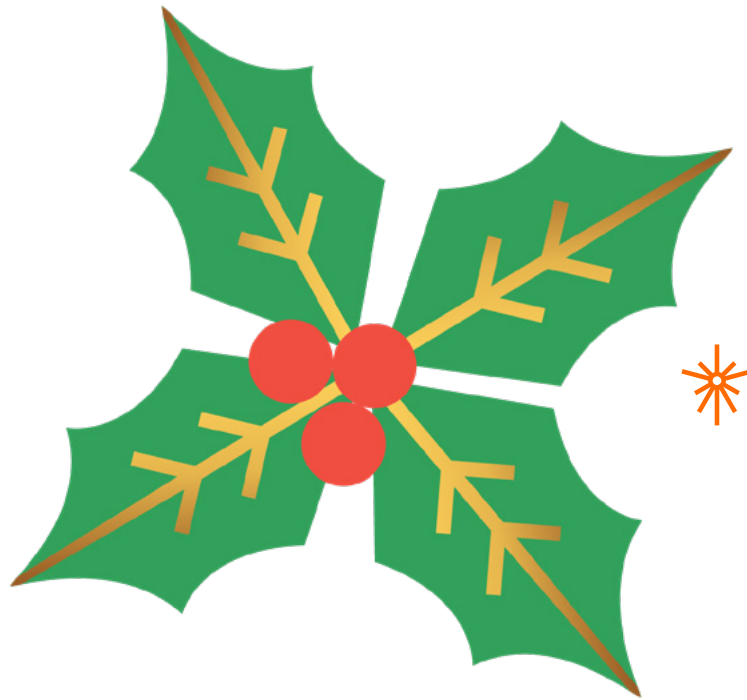
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### **APPLE UP:**

Christmas hasn't been a part of Chinese culture for long, but it's fast becoming a popular celebration in the biggest cities. Young people send apples as presents to their friends, because Christmas Eve is translated as 'Ping'an Ye', which means 'peaceful'. The word for apple, which is pronounced 'Ping guo', sounds similar to the word for 'peace'. It is said that eating an apple will bring a peaceful and safe new year. Embrace the new tradition. Get the apples ready!



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## **TRIM THE TREE:**

The tradition of decorating trees at Christmas comes from Germany, with trees covered in bright red apples, dolls, strings of popcorn and sweet treats. This year, make trimming the tree a family event, with everyone hanging up their favourite baubles and ornaments together. Why not try and make some popcorn or lolly strings too?





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## LUCKY FOODS:

In Armenia, the locals typically serve fish, pilaf, wine, raisins and dried apricots for their scrumptious Christmas Eve dinner. They also bake Gata - a type of traditional Armenian sweet cookie which has a lucky coin or bean placed within. Whoever finds it first is said to have a lucky and successful year ahead! Make Gata at home using this [easy recipe](#), hide a bean in one of them, and turn this into a game for your loved ones!



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## CHRISTMAS CRAFTS:

Learn how people around the world make Christmas decorations – from yarn ball ornaments in Armenia to pop-up Christmas trees in Cambodia, and from felt Christmas flowers in the Dominican Republic to recycled drink bottle trees in the Philippines. Which one will you try? [Click here for ideas!](#)





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## **SUGARY SHOES:**

Generous and giving, Saint Nicholas is dear to the hearts of Dutch children. On 5 December, families traditionally celebrate St Nicholas Day by leaving small gifts in children's shoes, which they will find the next day. Take some Dutch inspiration and surprise some children (or even friends, coworkers or neighbours) you know by leaving anything from lollies to toys in their shoes today!





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### **DECORATE THE BANANA TREE:**

A relatively small proportion of India's population are Christians, so Christmas isn't celebrated everywhere in India - but where it is, the festivities are a riot of colour and lights. The biggest celebrations are held in Goa in the south. Instead of pine trees, many families decorate banana or mango trees with lights and ornaments, and neighbourhoods and churches compete to see who can decorate the most spectacular nativity scene, known as a Christmas crib. The finishing touch is put on the Christmas crib at midnight on Christmas Eve when a baby Jesus is added to the scene. How do you decorate your home in preparation for Christmas?



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### **FAMILY CELEBRATIONS:**

It's not Christmas as you might know it, but Cambodians also celebrate their biggest and most important traditional festival at the end of each calendar year. For 15 days, Cambodians come together to remember their ancestors through the generations. The first 14 days are called "Kann Ben" or "Dak Ben", which means offering or giving. Day 15, the last day of the festival, is called "Phchum Ben", which means to congregate or gather. Who are you gathering with for the holidays?





**Let's make Christmas Count!**