



# Holidays in SWEDEN



Did you know the Swedish Santa Claus is a gnome? In Sweden, a small gnome named Tomten brings the gifts on Christmas Eve. His sleigh is pulled by a Yule goat. Children leave out porridge for Tomton and carrots for his goat. People believe that if they don't, Tomten will leave their house!



Tomten decoration, the Swedish Santa Claus

Two weeks before Christmas, Swedish people celebrate Saint Lucia's Day. Many towns have a parade to honor her. The oldest daughter wears a long white dress and a crown with candles. On Christmas Eve, Swedish families share a meal at lunchtime. Most holiday dishes include fish. The meal also includes stuffed cabbage and potatoes. Sweet breads are often served for desert.

Many families in Sweden cut their own Christmas trees. A few days before Christmas they look for the perfect tree. The trees are decorated with lights and tinsel. You will find angels, stars, and Yule goats made of straw on most trees. The Yule goat is one of the most popular holiday decorations in Sweden.

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How is the Swedish Santa different from other Santas? \_\_\_\_\_

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When is Saint Lucia's Day? \_\_\_\_\_

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What might you see on a Swedish Christmas tree? \_\_\_\_\_