

# Russian Winter Festivals

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graph TD; A((Winter festivals)) --- B((December 31  
New Year's Eve)); A --- C((January 1  
New Year's Day)); A --- D((January 7  
Christmas)); A --- E((January 13  
Old New Year's Eve)); A --- F((January 19  
Epiphany)); A --- G((late February – early March  
Shrovetide (Maslenitsa)));
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***Winter  
festivals***

**December 31**  
**New Year's Eve**

**January 1**  
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**January 7**  
**Christmas**

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**Old New Year's Eve**

**January 19**  
**Epiphany**

**late February – early March**  
**Shrovetide (Maslenitsa)**



# New Year's Day

New Year is considered the most popular holiday in almost all Russian families. The decoration of New Year Tree is one of the oldest traditions. One more tradition is to put gifts under the fir tree.

The symbols of the holiday are Grandfather Frost and the Snowmaiden. They come to wish children “Happy New Year!”



They come in a sleigh drawn by three white horses.

# Christmas

Christmas is one of the most important holidays in Christianity. A lot of people consider that Jesus Christ was born on this day many years ago.



On Christmas Eve (6 January), there are several long services. The family will then return home for the traditional Christmas Eve "Holy Supper", which consists of 12 dishes, one to honor each of the Twelve Apostles.

In the evening some people in fancy costumes go from house to house and sing carols.





# Christmastide

The days from Christmas to the Epiphany are called Christmastide. They are celebrated for 12 days. People wear fancy costumes, have carnivals, sing carols, ride a troika, build snow townlets. Young women tell fortunes.



# Old New Year's Eve



**The Old New Year or the Orthodox New Year is an informal traditional holiday, celebrated as the start of the New Year by the Julian calendar. In the 20th and 21st centuries, the Old New Year falls on January 14 in the Gregorian calendar. For many this is a nostalgic family holiday ending the New Year holiday cycle (with traditional large meals (vareniki and pelmeni) and fortune-telling.**



# Epiphany

**The feast of the Epiphany is a Christian holy day in the memory of the coming of the three kings from the East to see the baby Jesus. Some people swim in the cold water to wash off their sins.**





Shrovetide (Maslenitsa)



# Maslenitsa

The holiday of seeing off of the winter is called Maslenitsa.

People take part in different competitions, ride horses and drink hot tea with pancakes not to be frozen. The pancakes are the main attribute of this festival because a pancake is a symbol of the sun. The festival always ends in burning of a big man of straw.

It is one of the most favourite holidays in our country. It lasts from Monday till Sunday.



**New Year Day!**

**New Year Day!**

**Let us sing.**

**And let us play!**

**Father Frost Bring many toys**

**For little girls And little boys!**

**Merry, Merry Christmas**

**Is likely to come.**

**Merry, Merry Christmas,**

**You are welcome!**

**Snow in the window,**

**Much confetti.**

**Bright-blue, red and yellow**

**Lights on the tree.**

# **Holiday poems**

**It's Christmas! Merry Christmas!**

**Yes, it's merry, merry Christmas,**

**it's time for hanging stockings,**

**It's time for riding sleighs,**

**It's time for jolly greeting,**

**Snow and holly, overeating,**

**Oh, I love you merry Christmas,**

**You're the best of holidays**



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