

<http://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/australia/orthodox-christmas-day>



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Orthodox Christmas Day in Australia

Many Orthodox Christians in Australia celebrate Christmas Day on or near January 7 in the Gregorian calendar. This date works to be December 25 in the Julian calendar, which pre-dates the Gregorian calendar. It is a time to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, who is believed to be the son of God.



Many Orthodox Christians attend a special Christmas liturgy when celebrating Christmas Day. Many Orthodox Christians attend a special Christmas liturgy when celebrating Christmas Day. ©iStockphoto.com/FrankyDeMeyer

What do people do?

Many Christian Orthodox churches in Australia celebrate Christmas in January instead of December 25. For example, the Ethiopian Orthodox Church and Russian Orthodox Church celebrate Christmas Day on January 7, while the Armenian Orthodox Church celebrates it on January 6. January falls during the summer vacation period in Australia so children are on school holidays at this time of the year.

Many Orthodox Christians in countries such as Australia fast before Christmas Day. Many people identify the Nativity Fast as the period of preparing to celebrate Jesus Christ's birth. It is believed that fasting helps people shift their focus from themselves to others, spending less time worrying about food and using more time in increased prayer and caring for the poor. In return, fasting before the Nativity enables one to fully enjoy, appreciate and celebrate the Nativity of Christ.

Public life

Orthodox Christmas Day on or near January 7 is not a federal public holiday in Australia. However, parking and traffic around Orthodox Christian churches may be busy around this time of the year.

Background

Many Orthodox churches in Australia recognize the holiday dates according to the Julian calendar. Christmas is still on December 25 in the Julian calendar so the January 7 date is only valid between 1901 and 2100. The Gregorian date for Orthodox Christmas will be January 8 in 2101 if the Julian calendar is still used.

The Julian calendar was revised in 1923 and this version is more in line with the Gregorian calendar. Some Orthodox churches follow the revised Julian calendar but many Orthodox churches still follow the more traditional Julian calendar, which has the original dates for Christian observances prior to the Gregorian calendar's introduction.

Symbols

For many Orthodox Christians, Christmas Day is not about the Christmas characters that have become popular through commercialization. Christmas Day is a time of peace and unity. White cloth is used on dinner tables in some countries to symbolize purity and the cloth that baby Jesus was wrapped in. Straw may be placed on these tables to symbolize the simplicity of the place where Jesus was born. Candles may be lit to represent the light of Christ and the festive Christmas meal represents the end of fasting.

About Orthodox Christmas Day in other countries

Read more about [Orthodox Christmas Day](#).

Orthodox Christmas Day Observances

Select another year-range:

Weekday	Date	Year	Name	Holiday type	Where it is observed
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Weekday	Date	Year	Name	Holiday type	Where it is observed
Sun	Jan 7	1990	Orthodox Christmas Day	Orthodox	
Mon	Jan 7	1991	Orthodox Christmas Day	Orthodox	
Tue	Jan 7	1992	Orthodox Christmas Day	Orthodox	
Thu	Jan 7	1993	Orthodox Christmas Day	Orthodox	
Fri	Jan 7	1994	Orthodox Christmas Day	Orthodox	
Sat	Jan 7	1995	Orthodox Christmas Day	Orthodox	
Sun	Jan 7	1996	Orthodox Christmas Day	Orthodox	
Tue	Jan 7	1997	Orthodox Christmas Day	Orthodox	
Wed	Jan 7	1998	Orthodox Christmas Day	Orthodox	
Thu	Jan 7	1999	Orthodox Christmas Day	Orthodox	
Fri	Jan 7	2000	Orthodox Christmas Day	Orthodox	
Sun	Jan 7	2001	Orthodox Christmas Day	Orthodox	
Mon	Jan 7	2002	Orthodox Christmas Day	Orthodox	
Tue	Jan 7	2003	Orthodox Christmas Day	Orthodox	
Wed	Jan 7	2004	Orthodox Christmas Day	Orthodox	
Fri	Jan 7	2005	Orthodox Christmas Day	Orthodox	
Sat	Jan 7	2006	Orthodox Christmas Day	Orthodox	
Sun	Jan 7	2007	Orthodox Christmas Day	Orthodox	
Mon	Jan 7	2008	Orthodox Christmas Day	Orthodox	
Wed	Jan 7	2009	Orthodox Christmas Day	Orthodox	
Thu	Jan 7	2010	Orthodox Christmas Day	Orthodox	
Fri	Jan 7	2011	Orthodox Christmas Day	Orthodox	
Sat	Jan 7	2012	Orthodox Christmas Day	Orthodox	
Mon	Jan 7	2013	Orthodox Christmas Day	Orthodox	
Tue	Jan 7	2014	Orthodox Christmas Day	Orthodox	
Wed	Jan 7	2015	Orthodox Christmas Day	Orthodox	
Thu	Jan 7	2016	Orthodox Christmas Day	Orthodox	
Sat	Jan 7	2017	Orthodox Christmas Day	Orthodox	
Sun	Jan 7	2018	Orthodox Christmas Day	Orthodox	

Weekday	Date	Year	Name	Holiday type	Where it is observed
Mon	Jan 7	2019	Orthodox Christmas Day	Orthodox	
Tue	Jan 7	2020	Orthodox Christmas Day	Orthodox	

Quick Facts

Many Orthodox Christian churches in countries such as Australia observe Christmas Day on or near January 7 in the Gregorian calendar.

Orthodox Christmas Day 2015

Wednesday, January 7, 2015

Orthodox Christmas Day 2016

Thursday, January 7, 2016

Advertising

Name in other languages

Name	Language
Orthodox Christmas Day	English
Orthodoxe Weihnachten	German

[List of dates for other years](#)

Related holiday

[Orthodox New Year](#) —Wednesday, January 14, 2015

Other holidays in January 2015 in Australia

[New Year's Day](#) —Thursday, January 1, 2015

[Prophet's Birthday](#) —Saturday, January 3, 2015

[Epiphany](#) —Tuesday, January 6, 2015

[Orthodox New Year](#) —Wednesday, January 14, 2015

[Australia Day](#) —Monday, January 26, 2015

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