

### **Table of Content**



<u>2-5</u>
<u>6-19</u>
<u>20-24</u>
<u>25-32</u>
<u>33-41</u>
42-45
46-54
<u>55-72</u>
73-83
84

# LECTURERS ...

Tossing Yee Sang	<u>58</u>
Mastering the art of netball	<u>59</u>
<u>My Switzerland trip</u>	<u>61</u>
<u>Harga sebutir "painkiller"</u>	<u>62</u>
<u>Noël</u>	<u>65</u>
Kembara karomah	66
Menangani tekanan di kalangan ibu bekerja	71

## Noël - Christmas

# "Joyeux Noël" "Merry Christmas'



This is a greeting used generally during Christmas. The French celebrate Christmas on the 25th of December, one of France's important holidays. The Christmas season usually begins on the 1st of December and lasts until the 6th of January, Three Kings Day (L'Épiphanie). A king cake (Galette des Rois) is always associated with celebrating L'Épiphanie.

Galette des Rois

During Christmas, the French people can enjoy shopping in Christmas markets, particularly a big Christmas market in Les Champs–Elysées. Even in a small town, you can also find Christmas markets there. French people usually have a Christmas meal on the 24th of December, Christmas Eve or le Réveillon de Noël in French. After Christmas Eve, the most exciting moment for kids is waiting for the gifts. For kids to receive a gift in France, shoes must be left in front of the fireplace, near the windows or the Christmas tree, instead of hanging stockings by the fireplace. French kids believe Father Christmas (Père Noël) will fill the shoes with gifts.



Père Noël



Bûche de Noël

There are many different ways to celebrate Christmas in France due to regional differences and personal preferences, especially regarding food! Generally, the starter in the Christmas meal will be seafood, and the main meal will be Christmas turkey. The dessert will be a Yule log (Bûche de Noël), a chocolate Swiss roll that looks like an actual log. In Provence, thirteen desserts will be served in the Christmas meal!

### References

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