

# INTERNATIONAL TOURISM

## The Department of Intercultural Communication and International Tourism

December, 2022



### What's new?

On December 9, Gomel hosted the opening of the International Economic Forum, which brought together partners from 20 countries and 15 regions of the Russian Federation. The theme of the forum in 2022 is "Transformation of business opportunities, strategic planning: responses to the challenges of the time, new growth points". The organizer of the event is the Gomel branch of the Belarusian Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

The moderator of the plenary session was Marina Vladimirovna Filonova, General Director of the Gomel Branch of the BelCCI. The honor to be a participant in a significant economic event was given to 2nd and 3rd year students of the specialty "Linguistic support of international communications (international tourism)" of the university under the guidance of Tatyana Viktorovna Pochinok, head of the department of intercultural communications and international tourism.



# CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S EVE TRADITIONS AROUND THE WORLD

Christmas is almost upon us, our favourite time of the year. Wherever you are from in the world, why not take some time to learn more about Christmas and New Year's Eve traditions all over the planet? From fun, quirky traditions to more unusual customs, we've pulled together a list of interesting Christmas traditions from different countries. See how they compare to your traditions at home or see how many of these you already know! Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

## United States: Watching the ball drop

Millions of Americans gather around their television sets (or on the streets of Times Square, despite freezing temps) to watch the ball drop at the stroke of midnight each year. Kicking off in 1907 to ring in January 1908, *New York Times* owner Adolph Ochs created the event to draw attention to the *Times*'s new headquarters, and it's been an annual spectacle and one of the most popular New Year's Eve celebrations ever since.



## India: Building a sculpture of an old man and burning it down

“Back in Bombay we'd make an effigy of an 'old man' that symbolized the old year and burn it at midnight,” says Stephanie Fernandes, an associate creative director at BBDO San Francisco. The burning symbolizes the passing of grievances from the old year and makes space for a new year to be born. “Everyone would gather around singing ‘Auld Lang Syne’ and then it would turn into a little party. Bombay is very cosmopolitan and was home to people of various faiths, therefore we'd have a ton of different festivals, but this was one that united across ages and faiths.”

## Denmark: Throwing old plates

Chuckling plates at your friends usually signals a conversation gone *very* wrong. In Denmark, however, New Year's Eve traditions like this bring your loved ones the best luck. Tradition has it that the more broken kitchenware you accumulate on your door step, the better off you'll be.



## Philippines: Serving 12 round fruits

On New Year's Eve, families in the Philippines make sure to serve 12 round fruits, like apples, grapes, and plums, which are believed to represent prosperity due to their shape, which mirrors coins. As for the lucky number, each fruit represents one month out of the year.

## Greece: Hanging an onion outside the door

Not only are onions a kitchen staple, they can also bring you good luck for the new year ahead. In Greece it's tradition to hang an onion outside your door. Believed to symbolize fertility and growth (thanks to its ability to sprout on its own), the onion is hung on the door after church service on New Year's Day.



## Colombia: Placing three potatoes under the bed

On New Year's Eve, Colombian households have a tradition, called *agüero*, of placing three potatoes under each family member's bed—one peeled, one not, and the last one only partially. At midnight each person grabs for one with eyes closed and depending on the potato they select, can either expect a year of good fortune, financial struggle, or a mix of both.

## Norway and Denmark: Celebrating with a towering cake

Kransekake, a traditional ringed cake often made with at least 18 layers, is eaten in both Denmark and Norway on New Year's Eve. The sugary layers, which look like cookies, are held together with a tasty royal icing.



## Italy: Wearing red underwear

In Italy, it's considered good luck to be wearing red undergarments as the ball drops. How and when this practice started is disputed, but why not give it a try?

To be continued

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