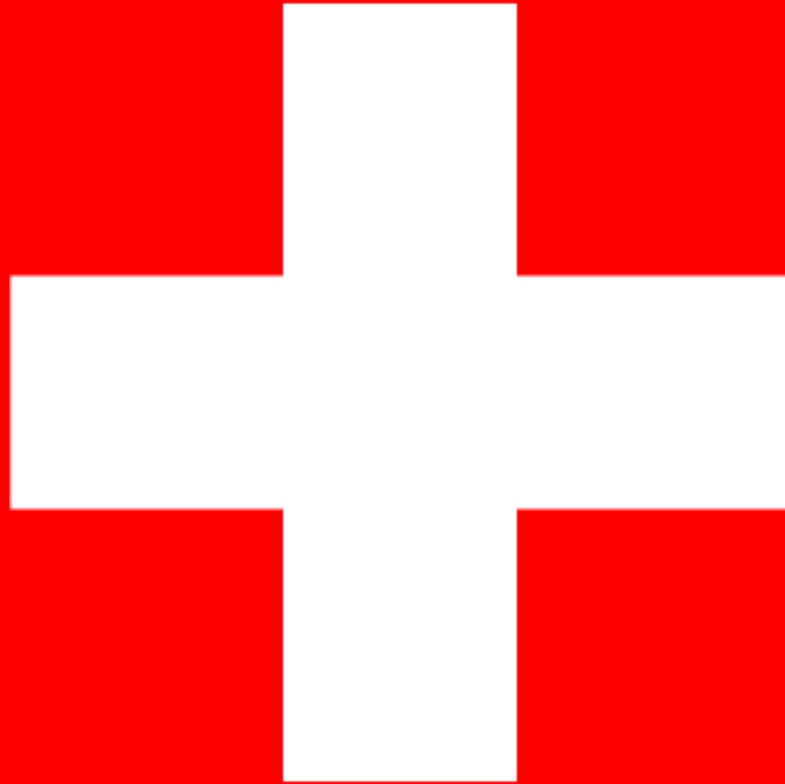


Christmas in Switzerland



Swiss

Frohi Wiehnachte (froi wEnoktu)

Christmas in Switzerland

Christmas in Switzerland

This is the Flag of Switzerland. In this room we are going to learn all about Christmas in Switzerland. To say Merry Christmas in Switzerland, they say Frohi Wiehnachte (froi wEnoktu)



Christmas in Switzerland



Christmas in Switzerland

I am so excited to introduce Christmas in Switzerland this year. Miss Sam has a little friend that graduated from Shining Stars that moved to Switzerland, so they have told her so many cool things! Christmas in Switzerland is SO different from America. In Switzerland, they celebrate St. Nicholas day on the 6th of December. That is 2 and a half weeks before we celebrate it! So they already had St, Nicholas Day.

There are Christmas Parades with people carrying cow bells and drums and wearing masks to frighten away the evil spirits.

Christmas in Switzerland



Christmas in Switzerland

Christmas markets are popular in Switzerland, and they pop up everywhere. Children and grown-ups look forward to shopping and exploring the markets.

Christmas in Switzerland



Christmas in Switzerland

Candle Dipping is very popular in Switzerland. Most families dip their own candles and use them in their homes throughout the winter. Just a fun winter tradition.

Christmas in Switzerland



Christmas in Switzerland

In Switzerland, they use REAL candles on their trees. They don't decorate them until Christmas Eve and then they decorate them and light them on the same night. Besides the candles, Swiss people hang star-shaped cookies on their trees. It's good they only keep them up one day!

Christmas in Switzerland



Christmas in Switzerland

Christmas dinner in Switzerland is usually ham and potatoes with cream. Christmas cookies are a big tradition. Every family has their own special recipes.



Christmas in Switzerland



Christmas in Switzerland

In some areas, children are visited by the Three Kings with Presents.

Christmas in Switzerland



Christmas in Switzerland

In Switzerland, Santa Clause is known as Samichlaus

Christmas in Switzerland



Christmas in Switzerland

Samichlaus is traditionally accompanied by a man named Schmutzli, who wears black and has a blackened-out face and administers punishment (via broom or broken broom stick?) to children who have had bad behavior throughout the year. Schmutzli is terrifying to the children, but they still love Christmas.

Christmas in Switzerland



Christmas in Switzerland

Most children and their families head into the forest to meet Samichlaus and Schmutzli (who are usually accompanied by donkeys). Sometimes they have a hut they live in where you can keep warm during your visit.

Christmas in Switzerland



Christmas in Switzerland

Samichlaus will usually recite traditional swiss songs and poems in Swiss German and then distribute nuts and a bread man (Grüttibanz).

If Samichlaus visits your house, he and Schmutzli are invited in. Samichlaus' donkey carries his bag but stays outside. Once inside, he orders his helper to put down the big bag with the treats and open it. He then calls everyone forward one by one and gives them a report on how they behaved in the last year. He'll sing them praises and sometimes mention areas for improvement. After receiving their report, every child can try to improve their standing with Santa by reciting a Christmas or Santa-related poem. A good report and a good poem will get a child a big handful of treats while a bad report and no poem is said to endanger you of receiving blows from Santa's helper or being stuck into Santa's bag and carried off with him. Promises to do better next year are said to save children from this fate.

Christmas in Switzerland



Christmas in Switzerland

Another way the Swiss children celebrate is to leave their shoes outside their doors on the eve of December 5th. They will wake on St. Nicholas day with a small sack in their shoes. It is usually filled with oranges, chocolate, nuts and the bread man.

Some treats in Switzerland include chocolate and oranges.

Christmas in Switzerland



Christmas in Switzerland

Some treats in Switzerland include chocolate and oranges.

Christmas in Switzerland



Christmas in Switzerland

Switzerland is known for its wooden toys.

Christmas in Switzerland



Christmas in Switzerland

Children in Switzerland look just like you!