

Christmas in Lithuania

At Christmas time in Lithuania it is very cold, normally with snow and ice on the ground.

Christmas Eve (Kūčios) is more important day than Christmas Day. Kūčios is also the name of the big Christmas Eve meal which families eat together during the evening of Christmas Eve.

But before the meal can be eaten, lots of preparations have to be done. The whole house is cleaned, the bedding is changed and everyone washes and puts on clean clothes.

Straw is a traditional decoration. Is it normally spread on the table top and then covered with a clean, white tablecloth. The table is then decorated with candles and small branches or twigs from a fir tree.

Often an extra place is set - for a family member who can't come to the meal or if a family member has died during the past year. Sometimes a candle is lit to remember family members who died.

