

Greek Christmas' Traditions

Carols are folk songs which are sung on the Christmas Eve, New Year's Eve and on Epiphany's Eve. They are sung mainly by children but also by adults, either individually or in groups, who enter houses, shops and public places, accompanied by the traditional Christmas triangle and sometimes by other musical instruments (accordion, drum, flute, etc.). Children usually ask "Shall we say it?" and wait for the answer "Say it". Carolers sing the carols in order to spread the holiday spirit to the people through the wishful lyrics. Also, they are rewarded with a small amount of money or rarely with traditional Christmas sweets. Due to the variety of the versions of carols they got distinguished into national or urban and local or traditional.



Greece, as a nautical country had a Christmas custom of decorating a ***small wooden ship***. Nowadays, though, this traditional custom has been replaced by the well-known Christmas tree. Children used to make them by themselves, using wood, paper or rags. It was inspired by the journeys their loved ones (family members, etc.) had made. It was also a homage to the sailors who returned home from their journeys. It was a common Christmas decoration until post-war period. Lastly, kids would hold the decorated ships while singing the carols.



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