

CHRISTMAS

IN THE NETHERLANDS



HOLIDAY FOOD



speculoos



kerstkrans



chocolate coins



marzipan treats

SANTA TRADITIONS

Santa is known as Sinterklaas. He arrives in the Netherlands in November on a boat! He wears a red robe and a mitre hat. He rides a white horse to get around. His helpers are Black Peter (Zwarte Piet), not elves. Good children get presents from him on December 5th. The leave out their shoes for Sinterklaas to fill and often leave carrots or hay for the horse.



TRADITIONS



wooden shoes



horn blowing



stollen



family games

FACTS



People in the Netherlands have more than one winter holiday. The first one is Pakjesavond, which is on December 5th when Sinterklaas brings gifts. Most children get a large chocolate letter of their first initial in their wooden shoes from Sinterklaas.



The Dutch set up their Christmas trees after December 5th. They celebrate Christmas on December 25th and Saint Stephen's Day on December 26th. They spend these days with family and some people go to church on the 26th.



One of the traditional New Year's foods is called oliebollen. It is fried dough, sometimes filled with raisins or other filling. They are sprinkled with powdered sugar. People buy them from stands on the street or make them at home!

