

VORWEIHNACHTENSITTEN (PRE-CHRISTMAS CUSTOMS)**HOW TO PREPARE FOR CHRISTMAS LIKE AN AUSTRIAN**

Pick your tree: It's time to claim the tree under which you'll be gathering come Christmas Eve, but don't be too eager to decorate it. Traditionally, Austrian Christmas trees stay bare until December 24th. Christmas in Austria really starts around 4pm on Christmas Eve (Heilige Abend) when the tree is lit for the first time.



Order your goose or carp: The main Christmas meal is eaten on Christmas Eve. It was traditionally Gebackener Karpfen (fried carp), this is because Christmas Eve was considered a 'fasting' day by many Catholics and no meat could be eaten. However, roast goose is becoming a popular choice nowadays.