

## VORWEIHNACHTENSITTEN (PRE-CHRISTMAS CUSTOMS)

### EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT PREPARING FOR CHRISTMAS LIKE A GERMAN

#### Pick your tree



"O Tannenbaum, o Tannenbaum, wie grün sind deine Blätter!" It's time to claim the tree under which you'll be gathering come December 24th, but don't be too eager to decorate it. Traditionally, the German Christmas tree stays bare until Christmas Eve.

The practice of bringing evergreen branches into your home dates back to pagan times but Christians in Germany first began bringing whole trees into their homes around the [16th century](#).

Christmas trees didn't really become popular in the United Kingdom until Albert, the German husband of Queen Victoria, introduced them to the royal household. Victoria was a popular ruler and anything the royal family did was soon mimicked throughout the UK, America and Canada.

#### Remember most places shut by the afternoon of the 23rd

Last minute shoppers beware: there's no chance of buying your presents or food on Christmas Eve in Germany. The 24th, known as the *Heilige Nacht*, meaning holy night, is the time when Germans celebrate Christmas. Everyone will be home with friends and family and everything will be shut, even Christmas markets. You have been warned.