

## VORWEIHNACHTENSITTEN (PRE-CHRISTMAS CUSTOMS)

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

#### Decorate the house

Alongside setting out the advents wreath, Germans tend to begin decorating their homes in early December with evergreen branches, strings of lights, paper stars in the windows and a nativity scene called a '*Krippe*'. You'll have to be patient when it comes to the Christmas tree though, as this comes later in the festive season.

Until then you can occupy yourself by filling your home with some of the wonderful wooden decorations Germany produces. These include *Weihnachtspyramide*, which are windmill-like structures powered by the heat of candles, nutcrackers, Schwibbbögen, meaning carved candle arches, and smoking men who appear to puff on a pipe when you burn incense inside them.

#### Get cosy on Christmas Eve



Not only did [Martin Luther](#) spark the reformation of the Christian church, but he is also the reason people celebrate on 24th or 25th of December, not the 6th. Luther felt that the celebration on St. Nicholas' day was too grand for any one saint and instead advocated to redirect the source of celebration to Jesus Christ's birth.

Because of this, Germans get together as families on the evening of the 24th to eat a fairly modest meal - a smaller meal means more time to exchange presents.