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Greek Christmas traditions

Φωτογραφίες: Ελληνικά Χριστουγεννιάτικα και Πρωτοχρονιάτικα έθιμα – Αθανασοπούλου Ελβίρα

Τα Κάλαντα:



On the eve of Christmas, New Year's and Epiphany, children sing traditional carols. People offer them money and sweets.

Το Χριστουγεννιάτικο Δέντρο:



The tradition of the Christmas tree was brought to Greece in 1833 by the country's first king, who was born in Germany.

Το Αστέρι:



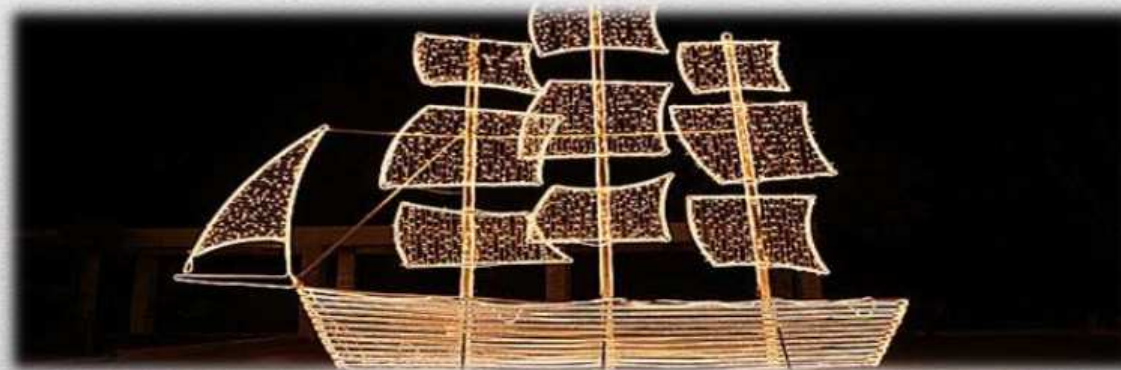
The star symbolizes hope and is placed at the top of the Christmas tree.

Η Φάτνη:



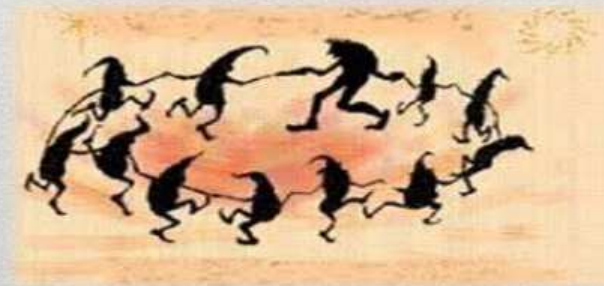
We decorate the bottom of the Christmas tree with the manger.
It is also used in the cities' Christmas decorations.

Το καραβόκι:



In older times Greeks decorated a ship instead of a tree, as almost every Greek family had a sailor at sea.

Οι Καλικάντζαροι:



“Kalikantzari” are part of Greek folk tradition. They are naughty elves who play tricks during the Christmas season.

Το Χριστόψωμο:



“Christopsomo” is a special bread with a cross carved onto it.
People eat it on Christmas Day.

Η Βασιλόπιτα:



“Vasilopita” is served on New Year’s Day. Whoever finds the hidden coin inside it, will have good luck all year long.

Το Σπάσιμο του Ροδιού:



καλή-χρονιά

It is customary to break open a pomegranate on the doorstep on
New Year's Day for good luck.

Το Χριστουγεννιάτικο Στεφάνι:



We decorate the front door of our homes with a Christmas wreath, which symbolizes eternity and fertility.

Το Ποδαρικό:



It is traditional for the first person to enter a house on New Year's Day to take the first step with their right foot as a sign of good luck.