

Easter around the World

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Australia

In Australia, the Easter bilby is an alternative to the Easter bunny.

Chocolate bilbies are eaten as well as chocolate rabbits.

Rabbits are considered pests in Australia.





Poland



On Easter Monday, boys roam around the streets and sprinkle girls with water or perfume.

Baskets of food are taken to church to be blessed.

On Easter Sunday, eggs are eaten and also a cake in the shape of a lamb to symbolise Christ.

They also have painted Easter eggs called pisanki that are handcrafted and painted with traditional symbols of fertility and spring.



Scotland

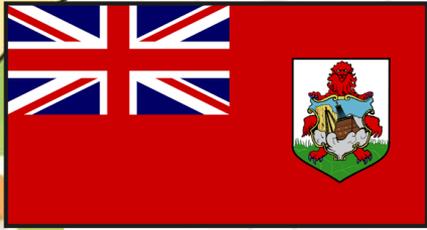
In Scotland, they have egg rolling competitions.

Eggs are boiled and then painted.

Children then roll eggs down grassy hills. Whoever's egg rolls the farthest wins.

The rolling of the egg symbolises the rolling away of the stone from Jesus' tomb.





Bermuda

In Bermuda, people fly kites to symbolise the rising of Christ.

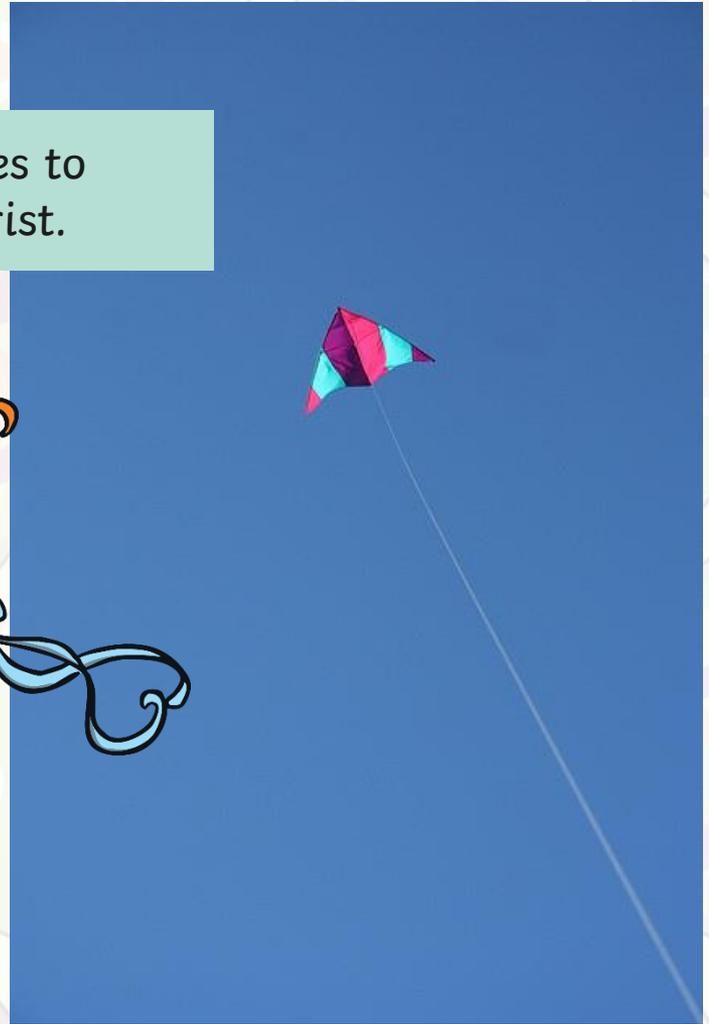


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Germany



In Germany, they have Easter egg trees called ostereierbaum.

Decorated eggs are hung from the branches of the tree.

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Spain

Children bring palm leaves to church on Palm Sunday. People decorate their branches with flowers.

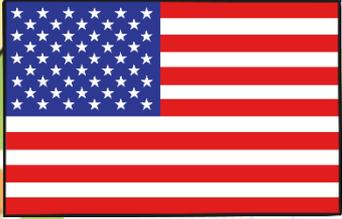
On Ash Wednesday, a cross of ash is put onto people's foreheads to say sorry to God for the bad things they have done.

In some places, on Maundy Thursday, men dress as skeletons to perform a dance of death to symbolise Jesus' death.

In Spain, boys and girls bang drums during church processions.

Spain also has parades with pasos or thrones illustrating the Easter story and marching bands. The parades are followed by cloaked people seeking forgiveness from God.





USA

At the White House in Washington DC, USA, there is an Easter egg rolling event held every year.

Children push decorated eggs through the grass with long handled spoons.



In recent years celebrities have turned up to entertain the rollers!



Italy



Easter Monday is traditionally a day out, with picnics and barbecues a popular pastime.

In Italy, eggs are boiled and painted with colourful decorations on Easter Saturday. These are then eaten as part of a traditional Easter Sunday breakfast along with other foods. As part of the breakfast, a special Easter cake called 'Colomba Pasquale' is eaten that is in the shape of a dove.

A large lunch is also usually eaten on Easter Sunday, with traditional dishes such as lamb eaten, as well as vegetarian dishes using new vegetable sproutings to celebrate new life.



Greece



Easter festival begins before Easter.

On Maundy Thursday, Easter bread is baked and eggs are dyed red symbolising the blood of Christ.

On Holy Saturday, people attend midnight mass where they all bring a candle to light from the churches' Holy Flame.

Easter Sunday is spent with friends and family for a meal of roast lamb.



India



Easter celebrations start at Lent and end on Easter Sunday.

Easter gifts are exchanged, such as painted eggs, cakes, flowers and colourful lanterns.

In some areas, there are carnivals that involve street plays, songs and dances.

The major activities take place on Good Friday when large numbers of Christians gather at churches, passion plays are held and people exchange Easter wishes with one another.



Brazil



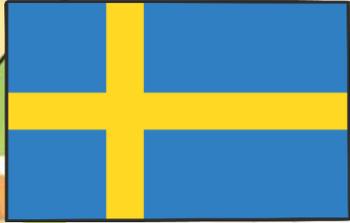
In Brazil, Easter is known as 'Páscoa'.

People celebrating Páscoa may give each other chocolates as gifts.

On Good Friday, many people may choose to not eat meat and eat fish instead.

On Easter Sunday, many people spend the day with their families and go to church later in the afternoon.

Throughout Brazil, many colourful celebrations may take place, including in Ouro Preto, where the streets are decorated with flowers, sand and sawdust to create beautiful patterns.



Sweden and Finland



In Sweden and Finland, children dress up as Easter witches and go around the neighbourhood granting wishes of happiness and good health. They carry decorated willow twigs as part of their costume. As a reward, they usually receive sweets and chocolate eggs.

Easter Monday is the largest day of celebration in Finland and Mämmi is usually served; a sweet rye porridge served with whipped cream, milk or vanilla ice cream. Other foods eaten include Pasha (a curd dessert), lamb, fish and baked cheeses.





Ethiopia



In Ethiopia, Easter is known as 'Fasika'.

During Fasika, many people choose to fast for the 55 days of Lent in which no animal products (including milk, eggs and butter) are eaten.

On Good Friday, church services are held, prayers are said and these continue until the early hours of the morning. Many people return home to break their fast around 3 a.m.

After a rest, celebrations continue and there is a large feast.



Mexico



Easter in Mexico is a two-week period starting with Semana Santa (Holy Week), which lasts from Palm Sunday to Easter Saturday, and Pascua, which starts on Easter Sunday and ends the following Saturday.

Many Mexicans choose to celebrate this period with processions, passion plays and ceremonies throughout towns and cities. Some also choose to travel to the beach to enjoy time with their friends and family.

Traditional foods eaten during the Easter period include fish, empanadas and 'nopal', a flat leaf cactus eaten in salads.



Sri Lanka

In Sri Lanka, Christians traditionally go to church to attend Easter celebrations.



Good Friday is the main day for celebration and is a national holiday. Many events happen on Good Friday including church services (some which can be 3 hours long), processions and passion plays.

Some people make pilgrimages to shrines that show the Way of the Cross.

Easter is seen as a time for helping those in need in the community and many churches hold large feasts in order to support them.

Many families plan gatherings during Easter time.



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