

Lennox Head Evening VIEW Club

As December settles in, it's time to deck the halls, wrap the gifts, plan the menu, go on a holiday—or simply enjoy the traditions that make this season special for you.

It can feel like quite a whirlwind for just one week of celebration during Christmas and New Year, but every year we dive in wholeheartedly, doing what needs to be done to make it meaningful.

Wishing you good luck with all your preparations, and a truly joyful, jolly season ahead!

What's up DECEMBER?

December in Australia is a **high-energy, holiday-focused month** marked by the start of summer, major cultural and sporting events, and a nationwide shift into festive mode. Here are the key points:



Seasonal Significance

- **Start of Summer (1 December):** Australia is in the Southern Hemisphere, so December marks **hot weather, beach season**, and the beginning of various outdoor activities.
 - **School Holidays:** Most schools begin their **long summer break**, which lasts until late January or early February.
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Festive Significance

- **Christmas Celebrations:** Australia celebrates Christmas with summer traditions—beach BBQs, outdoor lunches, and events like *Carols by Candlelight*.
 - **New Year's Eve:** Sydney's spectacular **Harbour fireworks** are among the world's most-watched New Year celebrations.
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Sporting Highlights

- **Boxing Day Test Match (26 December):**
Held at the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG), this is one of the most iconic fixtures in international cricket.
 - **Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race (26 December):**
A globally famous ocean race starting in Sydney and finishing in Tasmania.
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Shopping & Tourism

- **Boxing Day Sales:** One of the biggest shopping events of the year.
 - **Peak Tourism Season:** Domestic and international tourists travel to beaches, national parks, and holiday festivals.
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Environmental / Observances

- **1 December – World AIDS Day**
 - **5 December – International Volunteer Day**
 - **Various summer wildlife events:** e.g., turtle nesting season in Queensland.
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AU Unique Australian Experiences in December

- Long daylight hours for outdoor events
 - Hot weather Christmas with seafood, pavlova, and outdoor gatherings
 - Seasonal produce like mangoes and cherries are in abundance
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NSW & Sydney-Area Events (December)

- **The Rocks Christmas Markets** (Sydney) — the historic laneways of The Rocks turn festive. Markets from Monday to Sunday **5–21 December 2025**, offering handmade gifts, food, and holiday spirit under the Harbour Bridge vibe. [The Rocks+2NSW Government+2](#)
- **Darling Harbour Christmas Festival** (Sydney) — a free waterfront Christmas festival at Tumbalong Park, with live music, shows, food-trucks and family-friendly activities. In 2025 it's on **Saturday 13 December, 4–9pm**. [darlingharbour.com+2darlingharbour.com+2](#)

Carols in the Domain — Sydney's big annual Christmas concert, with choirs, live music and festive sing-alongs under the stars will be held on Saturday, December 20, 2025, at Sydney's The Domain. The event starts at 1:00 pm and runs until 11:00 pm AEDT. While the Accessible Lawn area is free, paid tickets for reserved seating are available, and those unable to attend can watch it live on Channel 7 and 7Plus.

More general festive ambience — many markets, lights, concerts and waterfront activations around Sydney for the Christmas season.

These events capture the festive spirit of summer in Sydney — markets, harbour views,

holiday shopping, carols, and community gatherings.

Northern Rivers & Nearby (NSW North Coast) — December Highlights

The Northern Rivers region (coastal & hinterland area of NSW, including towns like Ballina, Byron Bay, Lismore, Murwillumbah, etc.) has a lovely mix of community, music, and holiday-style events in December:

Event / Occasion	What / When / Where
Riverside Carols (Ballina)	Christmas carols along the river — family-friendly concert, music, singing, and a fireworks finale. For 2025: 14 Dec, 4pm–8pm , Bentinck Street, Ballina. NSW Government+2Visit NSW+2
Alstonville New Year's Eve Family Festival	Family-focused NYE celebration at Alstonville Showground with rides, live music, food stalls, early fireworks and a friendly community vibe. Ballina Coast & Hinterland+1
Murwillumbah Carols	Community “Carols in the Park” — live music, food, families, Santa — at Knox Park, Murwillumbah, on 12 Dec 2025, 6–8pm . Times News Group
Other seasonal & community events across Northern Rivers	According to a regional event planner, the December period sometimes includes art & craft shows, “Christmas in the Park” / “Carols on the Plateau”, small fairs, and local exhibitions. Ballina Coast & Hinterland+1

A Few Notes & What to Check Before You Go

- Dates and times can change — always check with the local council or event organisers, especially as some “annual events” may shift between years.
 - Some events are **more family-oriented** (carols, community festivals, fireworks at reasonable times) — good if you have kids or prefer a relaxed vibe. Others may lean toward **music, nightlife or beach-party energy** (especially around New Year's Eve in Byron Bay / Ballina / coastal towns).
 - Because December = high holiday season, **crowds** (locals + tourists) are typical — book early if you are travelling or want food/accommodation nearby.
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Birth Month Symbols for December

Birth Flowers

- **Narcissus (Paperwhite)** – Faithfulness, respect, self-esteem



- **Holly** – Protection, eternal life, domestic happiness

💎 Birthstones

- **Turquoise** – Friendship, success, love
- **Zircon** – Wisdom, honor, wealth
- **Tanzanite** – Calm, spiritual awareness, healing

🌲 Other December Symbols

- **Evergreens (Pine, Fir, Spruce)** – Resilience, eternal life
- **Candy Cane** – Good luck, protection
- **Mistletoe** – Love, friendship
- **Snowflakes** – Uniqueness, beauty

Here are some of the most interesting and widely celebrated December traditions around the world, grouped by region and cultural significance. These are the ones most “worth mentioning” for their history, scale, cultural significance, or uniqueness.

🌍 December Traditions Worth Mentioning Around the World

🌲 1. Christmas Traditions (Global but practiced differently everywhere)

Germany – Christmas Markets (Weihnachtsmärkte)

- Historic outdoor markets with mulled wine (Glühwein), crafts, sausages, and lights.
- Famous markets: Nuremberg, Dresden, Munich, Cologne.

Philippines – Simbang Gabi / Parol Lanterns

- A 9-day series of dawn masses (Dec 16–24).
- Parol star-shaped lanterns symbolize the Star of Bethlehem.
- The Philippines has the **longest Christmas season in the world**.

Mexico – Las Posadas (Dec 16–24)

- Reenactment of Mary & Joseph's search for lodging.
- Processions, piñatas, songs, feasts.

United States – Christmas Lights & Tree Lighting

- New York's Rockefeller Tree Lighting is iconic; households decorate extensively.

Australia & New Zealand – Summer Christmas

- BBQs, beach gatherings, Christmas prawns, outdoor events.
- "Carols by Candlelight" is a key tradition.



2. Jewish Traditions – Hanukkah

Israel, US, Europe, Global Jewish Communities

- An 8-day Festival of Lights (dates shift each year).
- Lighting the menorah, playing dreidel, eating latkes and sufganiyot (jelly doughnuts).
- Symbolizes hope and miracles.



3. Winter Solstice & Light Festivals

Sweden – Saint Lucia Day (Dec 13)

- Processions led by a girl crowned with candles, singing carols.
- Symbolizes bringing light into the darkest days of winter.

Iran – Yalda Night (Shab-e Yalda – Dec 20/21)

- Family stays up late eating pomegranates, watermelon, and reciting Persian poetry.
- Celebrates the victory of light over darkness.

China – Dongzhi Festival

- Celebrates the winter solstice with family meals (e.g., tangyuan rice dumplings).
- Symbolizes family unity and the longer days ahead.

Pagan / Norse Regions – Yule

- Ancient solstice celebration involving Yule logs, feasts, greenery, and candlelight.
- Modern neo-Pagans still celebrate it.

4. Cultural Celebrations Around the World

Japan – Ōmisoka (Dec 31)

- New Year's Eve traditions: house cleaning (ōsōji), eating soba noodles, visiting shrines at midnight (hatsumōde).

Scotland – Hogmanay (Dec 31 – Jan 1)

- Huge street parties, bonfires, "first-footing" (first guest of the year bringing gifts for luck).

Nigeria & West Africa – Detty December

- A month-long festival season of concerts, weddings ("owambes"), and cultural events—especially in Lagos and Accra.

Ethiopia – Gena (Ethiopian Christmas, Jan 7 but celebrated from December)

- Traditional games, white clothing (shamma), church processions.

Puerto Rico – Parrandas

- Christmas caroling with lively musical "ambushes" at homes of friends/family.
- Often accompanied by rum, food, and all-night gatherings.

5. African-Diaspora Tradition

Kwanzaa (Dec 26 – Jan 1) – USA & Global

- Celebrates African heritage, unity, creativity, and community.
- Includes lighting a kinara, daily principles (Nguzo Saba), and cultural gatherings.

6. South Asian December Traditions

Though many Hindu and Buddhist celebrations follow lunar calendars, some festivals often fall in December:

Hindu – Pancha Ganapati (Dec 21–25)

- A modern Hindu family festival honoring Ganesha, created as an alternative to Christmas in the West.

Buddhism – Bodhi Day (around Dec 8)

- Marks the Buddha's enlightenment.
- Time for meditation, quiet reflection, tea, and simple meals.

7. Southern Hemisphere Summer Traditions

Australia – Boxing Day Cricket & Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race (Dec 26)

- Two major national sporting traditions.
- Marks the start of post-Christmas summer festivities.

South Africa – Day of Goodwill (Dec 26)

- Focus on charity, giving, and family gatherings.
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8. Food-Centered December Traditions

Italy – Feast of the Seven Fishes (Christmas Eve)

- Seafood feast, especially in regions and Italian diaspora communities.

France – Réveillon (Christmas Eve dinner)

- Long, luxurious meal with oysters, foie gras, and pastries.

Poland – Wigilia (Dec 24)

- Breaking of the wafer (opłatek), meatless dinner, waiting to spot the first star.
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Summary of Why These Traditions Matter

Across cultures, December traditions usually focus on:

- **Light defeating darkness**
- **Family and community gatherings**
- **Gratitude and giving**
- **Reflection and renewal**
- **Food and celebration**
- **Endings and beginnings**