



**Otázka:** National holidays in the Czech Republic

**Jazyk:** Angličtina

**Přidal(a):** Giraffe

### **New Year's Day**

- 1<sup>st</sup> of January
- it is the date of foundation of the Czech Republic (1.1.1993)

### **Easter**

- Christian Easter lasts for one week, called Holy Week. It ends on Easter Sunday, the most important day of the week, because on that day Jesus returned to life.
- Monday is the most important day here in the Czech Republic.
- Easter Monday all men and boys go from house to house and whip the women with a stick made of woven willows. The women in return give them decorated eggs or ribbons.

### **Labour Day**

- 1<sup>st</sup> of May
- holiday of working people

### **Liberation Day**

- 8<sup>th</sup> of May
- the day of the liberation of Czechoslovakia from the Nazis
- the end of WWII in Europe

### **Saints Cyril and Methodius Day**

- 5<sup>th</sup> of July
- In 863, Churchteachers St. Cyril (Constantine) and Metoděj (Methodius) came from the Balkans to Great Moravia to propagate Christian faith and literacy.

### **Jan Hus Day**

- 6<sup>th</sup> of July
- Jan Hus – a Catholic preacher of the commons was burned to death at the stake as a heretic in 1415

### **St. Wenceslas Day**

- 28<sup>th</sup> of September
- Wenceslas – the saint patron of the Czech lands
- in 935, St. Wenceslas, Duke of Bohemia, was murdered by his brother

### **Independent Czechoslovak State Day**

- 28<sup>th</sup> of October
- 1918 – it is the date of foundation of the first independent Czechoslovak Republic

### **Struggle for Freedom and Democracy Day**

- 17<sup>th</sup> of November
- commemorating the student demonstration against Nazi occupation in 1939, and the demonstration in 1989 that started the Velvet Revolution

### **Christmas Eve**

- 24<sup>th</sup> of December
- We start to prepare for Christmas four weeks before Christmas Eve – this period of time is called Advent.
- Children have a special calendar called a Christmas Calendar. It is usually made out of paper and it has twenty four windows. Every day the children open one of them to find a picture and a piece of chocolate.
- It has become a tradition to have a Christmas tree. It is usually a spruce tree, but it can also be a pine or a fir tree. The whole family decorates the tree with gingerbread and Christmas ornaments.
- According to tradition those who abstain from eating meat on the day of Christmas Eve will see the “golden pig” later in the evening as a reward.
- Christmas dinner starts around 6 p.m. We usually have fish soup and deep fried carp with potato salad. The meal is followed by cookies. The best part of the day comes after dinner: opening the presents. Children wait to hear a ringing bell signal from the „Infant Jesus“.
- After the Christmas Eve we usually spend the rest of the Christmas holiday visiting our friends and relatives.

### **Christmas Day**

- 25<sup>th</sup> of December
- an annual festival commemorating the birth of Jesus Christ

### **St. Stephen's Day**

- 26<sup>th</sup> of December
- a Christian saint's day to commemorate Saint Stephen, the first Christian martyr