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## Web Resources

[MentalFloss.com](http://MentalFloss.com)

[GreenLivingTip.com](http://GreenLivingTip.com)

[IMDB.com](http://IMDB.com)

[Hipmunk.com](http://Hipmunk.com)

[NationalDayCalendar.com](http://NationalDayCalendar.com)

# Newsletter

# Resident Link

Volume 12, Issue 12

December 2019 Newsletter

## Christmas Traditions from Around the World

From counting down the days of December with an advent calendar to decking out a tree in decorations and lights, Christmas is a holiday that's full of traditions. While Christmas means something different for everyone who celebrates, many classic holiday traditions are shared all over the world. Since many traditions date all the way back to ancient times, Christmas today wouldn't be the same without the history that made the holiday what it is. Here are a few of our favorite holiday traditions that cannot be forgotten:



1. The tradition of decorating a Christmas tree can be traced back to Germany.
2. Sending annual Christmas cards is a tradition that began in England.
3. Department store windows, designed for the holidays, is a New York tradition.
4. The ugly sweater party trend can be traced back to Vancouver, Canada.
5. Baked yule logs and mistletoe kisses were traditions amongst the Celtic Druids.

As you can clearly see, there are so many ways to celebrate the holiday season that don't involve gift giving. While some Christmas traditions remain the same year after year, it's never too late to start a new tradition with family and friends. With all of the hustle and bustle during this time of the year, you may put off certain activities, like cookie baking, crafting, and making ornaments. But, you shouldn't! By participating in traditions, you can make new memories, engage in quality time, and get into the true spirit of the season!

## Green Living Tip

As you get your home ready for the holidays, you may be inclined to use commercial air fresheners. However, these products can introduce harmful pollutants into the atmosphere. Instead, try setting out a small dish of pure vanilla extract or a plate of cinnamon sticks. You can also set out baking soda in small dishes to absorb any odors. To fill your whole house with fragrance, add some whole spices to some boiling water on your stove. Place a few drops of vegetable oil, along with whole nutmeg, cinnamon sticks, cloves, and orange slices to the water and let simmer on low. Add more water as the level drops, and you can have wonderful smells in your home all day.

Reduce . Reuse . Recycle. 

# Playing @ The Movies

## Cats - The Movie

*Cats*, the sung-through stage musical composed by Andrew Lloyd Webber, was a commercial success in the 1980s. It tells the story of a tribe of cats called the Jellicles and the night they make the "Jellicle choice", deciding which cat will ascend to the Heaviside Layer and come back to a new life.

Movie Stats

Rating: PG

Release Date: December 20, 2019

Director: Tom Hooper

Starring: Taylor Swift, Jennifer Hudson, and Idris Elba



## Your Monthly Internet Tidbit

***"Hipmunk.com translates all travel data into a one-page, user-friendly chart."***

While there are many travel websites out there that are supposed to help you find cheap fares, it can still be a hassle to find the best deal. Next time you are planning your vacation, visit Hipmunk.com instead. This website translates all of the data into a one-page, user-friendly chart, letting you see and understand your options.

You can sort the results by price, number of stops, departure/arrival time, and something they call "agony." This describes the combination of all of these; in other words, it is the total agony you'll experience when traveling. They have recently added hotel searches as well.

*Check it out today at [Hipmunk.com](http://Hipmunk.com)*

## December is Safe Toys & Gifts Month

Since December is the biggest gift-giving month in the world, it's important to keep safety in mind as you're shopping for the little ones in your life. In all the eagerness of gift giving, however, it's easy to forget about simple safety. Before making any purchases this year, keep safety in mind.

Why? In 2010, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission reported 251,700 toy-related injuries that were treated by hospital emergency rooms, in which 72% of them were patients were younger than 15 years old. Since then, toy safety has improved immensely with recalls across the globe being made. Despite the improvements, shoppers must still precautions to keep children in their lives safe.

*For more information, visit [NationalDayCalendar.com](http://NationalDayCalendar.com)*



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