Hi Everybody!  
  
It's Carlos, from Portugal.  
Graça showed us the mail about xmas traditions, and I would like to add some more information.  
  
In Portugal, Xmas is still very connect to religion, despite de commercial season.  
Normaly, by tradiction, people build the xmas tree at the first sunday of december (the first sunday of advent - the religious time before xmas).  
They also start to build the the xmas crib, and add the figures until xmas eve.  
Despite the saint nicolas day, on the 7 of december, here in Portugal, normally isn't associate to santa claus.  
Some families have a xmas calendar, with chocolates, and they count the days...eheh "eating each day".  
In the north of the country,(tras-os-montes area, near the town of vila real) people gather around the campfire, the week before xmas and sing old xmas portuguese xmas carols.  
Also in the north and center of the country there's still the tradition of doing big xmas cribs, with lot's of figures, and some of them are made to mover autonomously.  
Has Graça said, on xmas eve people go at midnigth to church or some people sing in the streets (especially on the south region of the country - in alentejo), but it's getting rare. In this nigth we all eat cod fish, and in the xmas day, the turkey. On the north of the country, it's traditional, to eat lamb.  
Has for candies, in Portugal is very tradicional the "sonhos" or "filhós" which i don't now how to translate, but is kneaded mass for a long time and then fried in vegetable oil, it's very delicious.  
In my family we still have a tradition to put one more place ate the table.  This mean that if necessary, ther's always place for one more, so nobody spent's the xmas alone.  
The xmas season end at the 6th of january, on Day of the Magi. Here in Cadaval, in some villages we sing the "Janeiras". People go to every house and sing xmas greetings, and in retribution, the persons on the house, offer a "ligth" meal.  
  
Well, hope I add some more information.  
  
  
Miss you all  
  
Carlos