

Christmas Trivia the top 10

1. Some people claim the image of Santa we know today is from Coca-cola advertising, but this simply isn't true. The standard Santa garb was well established by the 1920s and it wasn't until the 1930s that Coca-cola first used the Santa Claus design in their advertising.
2. "Jingle Bells" was first written for the American Thanksgiving holiday and not for Christmas.
3. Christmas was first celebrated on the 25th of December in Rome in 336AD, with an aim to replacing the popular pagan winter solstice celebrations.
4. The first Christmas card was designed in 1843 by J.C. Horsley.
5. The 26th of December is traditionally known as St Stephen's Day, but is more commonly known as Boxing Day. The name may originate from the practice of employers presenting boxes of gifts to their servants, or the opening of church alms boxes to provide money for the poor on this day.



6. According to legend, King Arthur made merry in York in 521 surrounded by "minstrels, gleemen, harpers, pipe-players, jugglers, and dancers."
7. The largest functional Christmas cracker was 45.72 metres long and 3.04 metres in diameter.
8. A goose was customary Christmas fare until Henry VIII took it upon himself to tuck into a turkey. Mince pies were once shaped like mangers and are thought to date back to the sweetmeats formerly presented to the Vatican on Christmas Eve.
9. The twelve days of Christmas are the days between Christmas Day and Epiphany (6th of January) and represent the length of time it took for the wise men from the east to visit the manger of Jesus after his birth.
10. The common abbreviation for Christmas to Xmas is derived from the Greek alphabet. X is the letter Chi, which is the first letter of Christ's name in Greek.

