

New Year's Traditions in Different Countries



Spain

12 grapes



The popular tradition involves eating 12 grapes as the clock strikes midnight on New Year's Eve. Each grape represents good luck for one month of the coming year. In big cities, people gather in main squares to eat their grapes together.



Japan

kadomatsu



A 'kadomatsu' is made of pine branches, bamboo, and plum twigs. It symbolizes good luck and is believed to help welcome good spirits into the home.



Turkey

salt on the
doorstep



it's considered good luck
to sprinkle salt on your
doorstep as soon as the
clock strikes midnight on
New Year's Eve.

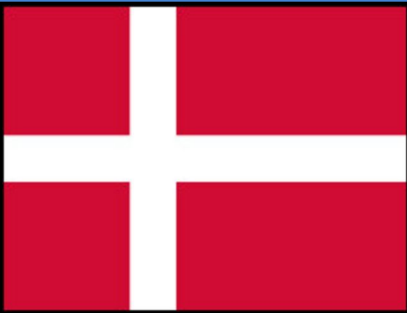


Brazil

white
flowers



Every year thousands of Brazilians throw white flowers into the ocean as an offering to the Goddess of the Sea in the hope that she'll make their wishes for the next year come true.



Denmark

Broken dishes



It's a Danish tradition to throw china at your friends' and neighbors' front doors on New Year's Eve. It is said that the bigger your pile of broken dishes, the more luck you will have in the upcoming year.



South Korea

Sunrise festivals



lots of seaside towns hold 'sunrise festivals', where people gather and watch the first sunrise of the New Year. It is believed that anyone who makes a wish at sunrise will have their wish come true.



China

Red doors



the people paint their front door red as a symbol of happiness and good fortune. They may also choose to hide their knives so that nobody cuts themselves, as it is thought cutting could impact on the luck of the entire family for the coming year.