

Name \_\_\_\_\_



## Festivals and Celebrations in France

France is a country full of festivals and traditions. People in France love to celebrate, whether it's through national holidays, religious events, or cultural festivals. Some of the most important celebrations include Bastille Day, Christmas traditions, and the famous Cannes Film Festival.

### Bastille Day – France's National Holiday

One of the most important holidays in France is Bastille Day, celebrated every year on July 14. This holiday marks the French Revolution, which began in 1789 when people stormed the Bastille, a prison in Paris. This event symbolized the start of freedom and democracy in France.

On Bastille Day, the French people celebrate with parades, fireworks, concerts, and parties. The biggest parade happens in Paris, on the Champs-Élysées, where soldiers and military vehicles march. At night, beautiful fireworks light up the sky near the Eiffel Tower. People across the country enjoy this day by having picnics, playing music, and celebrating their history.

### Christmas in France

Like many other countries, France celebrates Christmas on December 25. However, French Christmas traditions are a bit different. Instead of hanging stockings, French children place their shoes by the fireplace so Père Noël (Father Christmas) can fill them with gifts.

A special Christmas meal called "Réveillon" is enjoyed on Christmas Eve. Families come together to eat delicious foods such as roast meats, seafood, and a famous dessert called bûche de Noël (Yule log cake). Some regions in France also celebrate Epiphany on January 6, where people eat a special cake called "galette des rois" (king's cake). Inside the cake, a small charm is hidden, and the person who finds it becomes king or queen for the day!

### The Cannes Film Festival

France is famous for its movies and is home to one of the biggest film festivals in the world – the Cannes Film Festival. This festival takes place in the city of Cannes, located on the French Riviera, and lasts for two weeks in May.

At Cannes, movie directors, actors, and film critics from around the world come together to watch new movies. The best films receive prizes, including the most important award, the Palme d'Or (Golden Palm). Many famous stars walk on the red carpet, and the event is watched by millions of people.

### A Country Full of Festivities

France is a country that values tradition, culture, and celebration. Whether it's honoring history on Bastille Day, spending time with family during Christmas, or celebrating cinema at Cannes, these events bring people together. They show the world how important joy, creativity, and tradition are in French life.