

# DECEMBER 2023 Newsletter

2023 is almost over, and soon 2024 begins.  
We all hope that you will have a wonderful xmas and a happy new year!

## Winter Illuminations

Each year Nagoya really gets into the magical spirit of the winter season! The city offers many beautiful winter illuminations, and this year is no different. **Meiki Station** will display a huge crystal-themed tree, **Lucent tower** will be colorfully lit. Don't forget to check out **Midland Square** and the **Dai Nagoya** building, too.



**2024 is The Year of the Dragon:** As you know, Japan uses the Chinese zodiac. 2024 will be the Year of the Dragon. The dragon is often seen as a symbol of power, wisdom, and good fortune. In Japan, the dragon is associated with protection, and spiritual significance.



あけまして  
おめでとう  
ございます



## Tokyo Disney's 40<sup>th</sup> Birthday

2024 is sure to be an important year for Disney in Japan! The beloved theme park will be 40 years old, and a new area will be opening at Disneysea. The themes will be Frozen, Peter Pan and Tangled. It will cost an incredible \$2,100,000,000 (American Dollars) and change appearance depending on night and day! 2024 is sure to be a great time to visit.



**XMAS AROUND THE WORLD:** There are many Xmas traditions around the world. Some of them are very unique! Here are a few interesting ways to celebrate xmas from Europe...



Catalonian Flag



Spanish Flag

## Spain- Caga Tió



Catalonia is a northern area in Spain, its capital is Barcelona. In Catalan tradition, small children give a piece of wood (a “log”) healthy food to eat until Xmas Eve. Then, on Xmas Day the log will give you candy by “pooping” it out! Local people agree that this tradition is strange, but the log is so cute. Is there a reason for it? No, not really!

## Iceland- The Yule Lads

*In Iceland, there are 13 naughty Xmas boys called the “Yule Lads”.* Yule is an old word for December time, and a “lad” is a young man. The Yule Lads look like Santa Claus, but are mischievous and dirty! If you are a good child, they will give you presents. If you are bad, they will take food and cause trouble in the home. They have names such as **Sausage Snatcher** and **Bowl Licker**.



**Bowl Licker**



**Skyr Gobbler**



**Sausage Snatcher**



## UK- Bad Xmas Jokes

*In the UK, there is a tradition of reading bad jokes at xmas dinner.* These jokes are inside a **xmas cracker** – that is a kind of present with a paper hat, a toy, and a joke inside. Can you guess the answers to these jokes?

1. What do you call a reindeer who can't see? **No-eye deer.**
2. Who gives presents to sharks at xmas? **Santa Jaws.**
3. What does Santa spend his money on? **Jingle Bills.**
4. What did Santa learn at school? **The elf-abet.**



Xmas Cracker