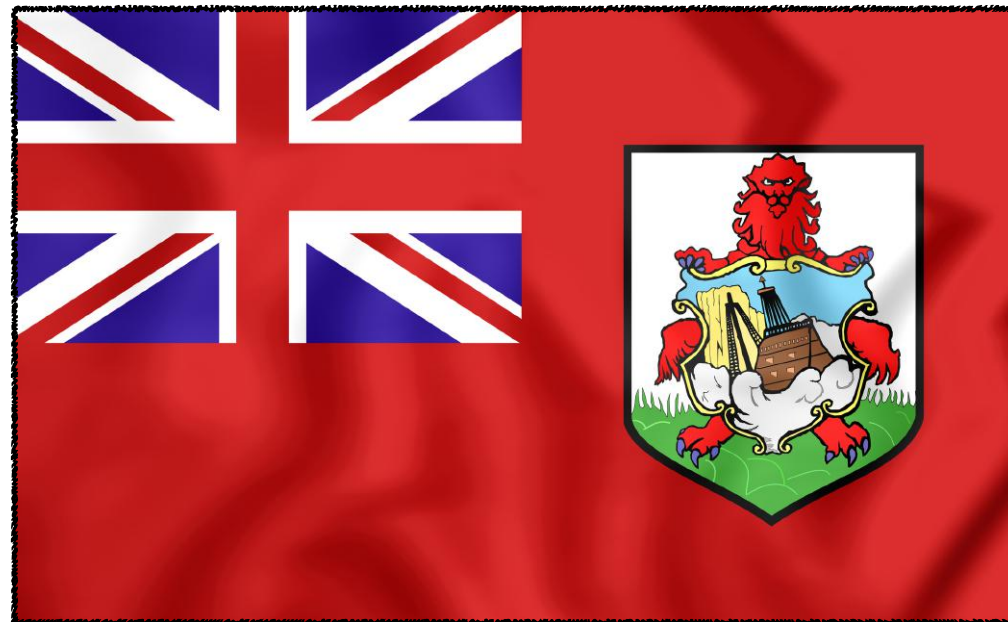


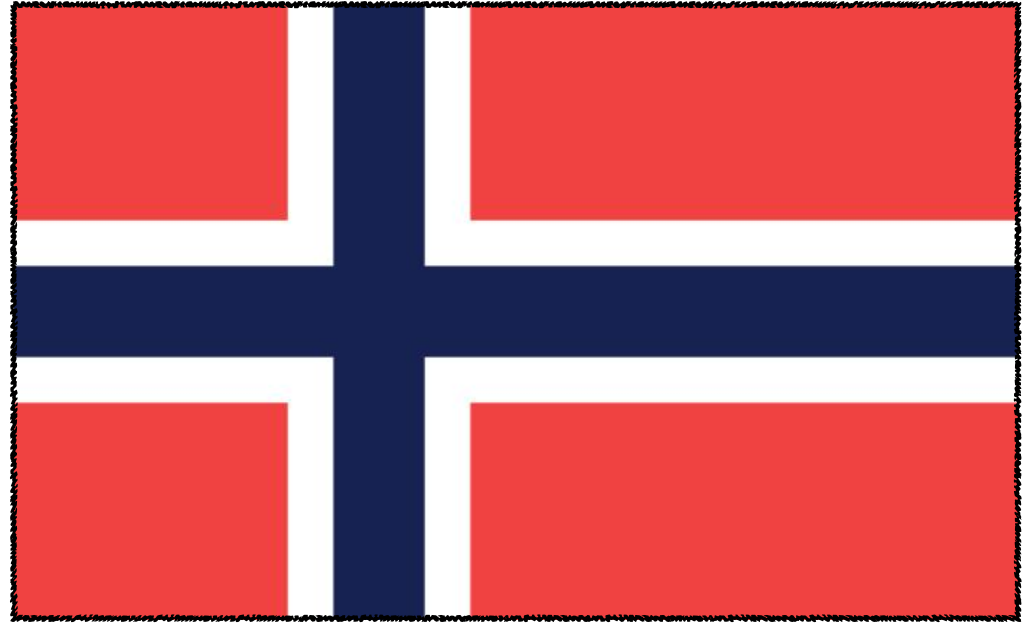
# BERMUDA

Many Bermudians enjoy codfish cakes inside a hot cross bun at Easter. On Good Friday, home-made kites are flown on the beaches. It is thought that this is because a teacher was trying to explain Jesus' ascension to heaven and used a kite to demonstrate. On Easter Sunday, many people attend sunrise services, held outside at dawn.



# NORWAY

In Norway, the shops close on the Wednesday before Easter and it is the last day of work. Lots of people use the long Easter break to take a trip to the mountains. Skiing competitions are often organised for Easter Saturday. Norwegians enjoy crime and detective stories, and reading them at Easter is a popular tradition.



# GERMANY

The Osterfeuer (Easter Fire) is a German tradition. Large bonfires are lit to welcome the spring and people gather together to have a party.

The fires are allowed to burn until Easter Sunday or Monday, depending on the area. It is also traditional to spring clean the house.

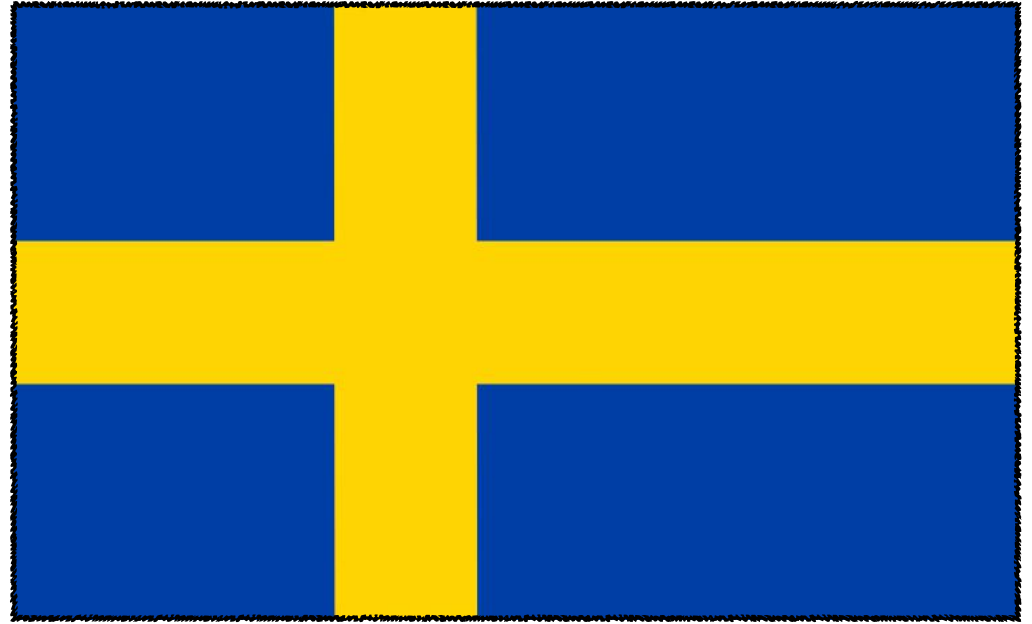




# SWEDEN

Swedish children dress up as Easter witches and go from door to door on Maundy Thursday, asking for sweets.

Birch twigs covered in feathers are placed in vases to decorate houses. The main Easter Sunday meal includes pickled fish, eggs and meatballs.



# ITALY

In Florence, Easter Sunday is marked with the Scoppio del Carro, or exploding cart. A cart packed with fireworks is paraded through the streets before the fuse is lit during mass and everyone enjoys a spectacular fireworks display!

In Rome, the Pope leads the Easter celebrations at the Vatican.

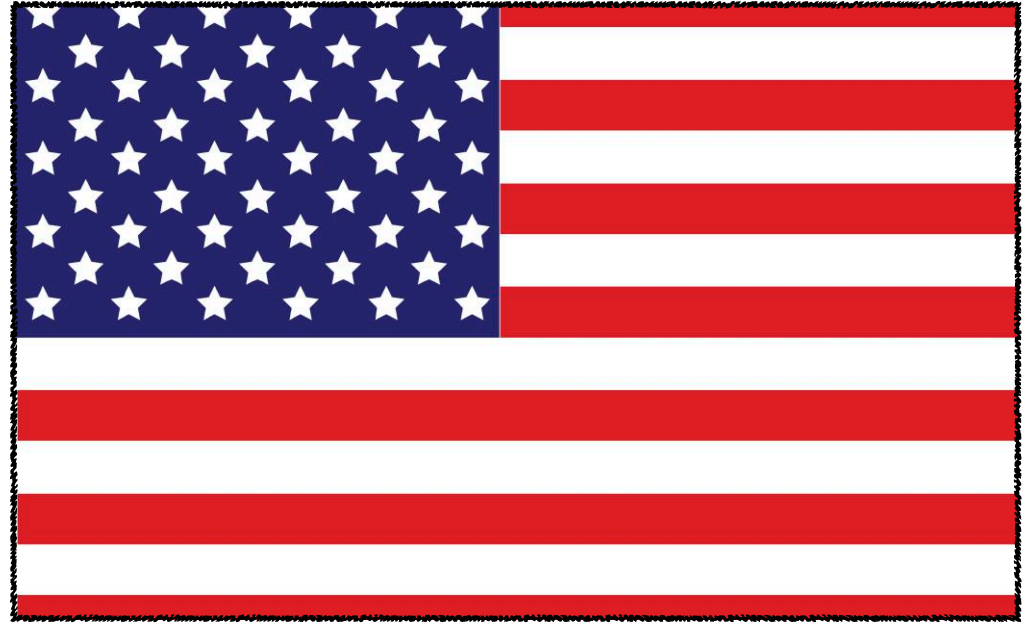




# USA

Every year the President of the United States holds an egg roll on the South Lawn of the White House. The tradition started in 1878.

In New Orleans, three spectacular parades are held across the city on Easter Sunday.



# POLAND

On Palm Sunday, Polish people make colourful palms from decorated branches to take to church to be blessed.

The palms are then kept in the house for the following year, before being burnt outside the church. The ash from the fire is used on Ash Wednesday.





# ISRAEL

Pilgrims from all over the world visit Jerusalem at Easter. On Good Friday, thousands of Christians follow the path that Jesus would have taken to his crucifixion. Some of them carry large, heavy wooden crosses.

On Easter Sunday, a church service is held at Garden Tomb, where it is believed that Jesus was buried.

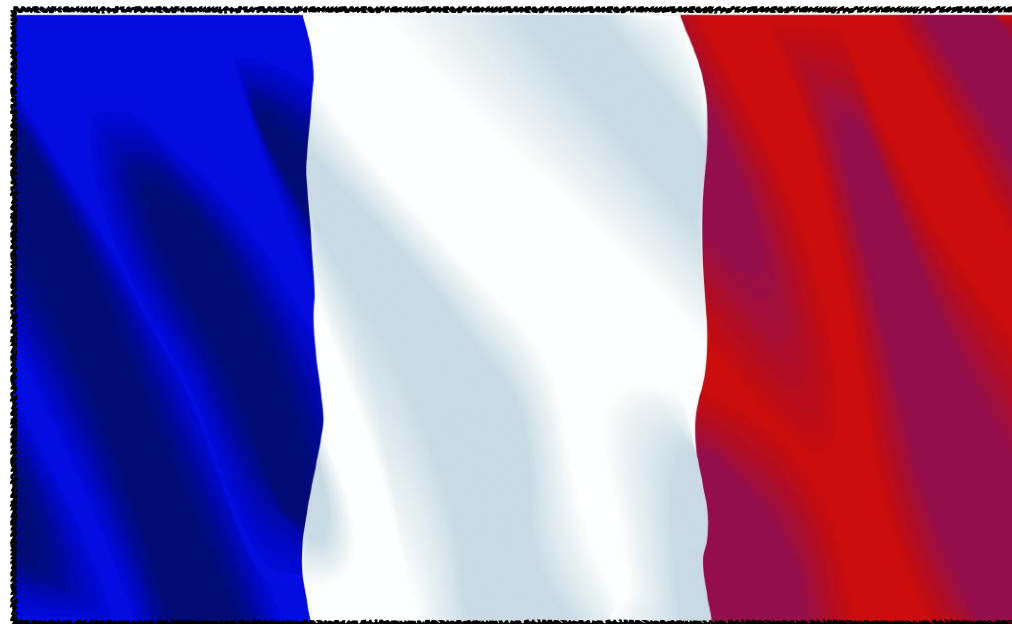




# FRANCE

Traditionally, French children's Easter treats are brought by the "flying bells". No church bells ring from Good Friday and Easter Sunday, as the tradition says that the bells fly to Rome to be blessed by the Pope during that time!

The children also play games with raw eggs, including rolling them down a slope and tossing them in the air until one breaks.



# SPAIN

Huge Easter processions take place right across Spain. Men wear hooded cloaks and women often wear a black lace veil called a mantilla.

People eat torrijas, a sweet snack of fried bread served with honey or sugar.

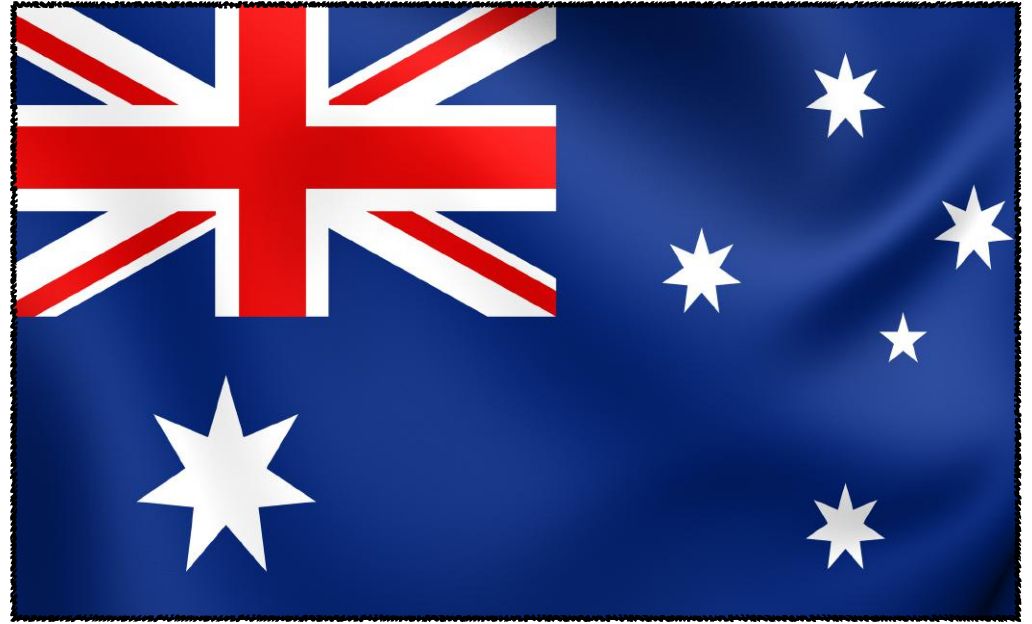




# AUSTRALIA

Rabbits are pests in Australia, so instead of the Easter Bunny, some Australian children get their eggs from the Easter Bilby.

The bilby is an endangered marsupial which lives in central Australia.



# GREECE

In Greece a sweet, plaited bread called Tsoureki is eaten.

A traditional soup called magiritsa is served at the main Easter meal. It is made from the offal (heart, liver and lungs) of the lamb. These are removed before it is roasted for the main course.

