



Turkey

THREE WAYS

Gobbling down a delicious turkey baked in the oven is a holiday tradition around many tables, but you can break the mold with these three flavorful alternatives.



FRYING

A Southern tradition that's taking hold, deep frying produces a juicy bird with a crisp outer skin. Frying something as big as a holiday turkey requires a specialized set-up, however, and needs to be done outside. Peanut oil is the usual frying medium here, as its high smoke point and mild flavor lend itself well to this application. There is a measure of danger involved; a turkey that's even the least bit frozen could produce a dangerous fire. Make sure your bird is completely thawed and patted dry before you fry.

SMOKING

Low and slow gets you a bird with an intense smoky flavor. It's also slightly more involved than popping a turkey into the oven, but it does free up that oven for other uses, such as pies, sides and breads. You can use a grill with an offset smoker or fashion your regular grill into a smoker using a disposable metal pan. The type of wood chips you use will depend on what flavor you get. Finer grocery stores usually carry at least a few varieties near the charcoal; outdoor stores may offer more of a selection.

GRILLED

If you don't have or don't want to make a smoker, there's always the option of putting the bird on the grill. To be precise, in a roasting pan covered with foil on the grill. Keep an eye on the coals for even heat distribution. Keep the turkey from getting too dry by using beer or wine as a basting liquid, and don't forget herbs to compliment. Try to keep the lid of the grill closed as much as possible, using a thermometer with a probe to keep an eye on the temperature. As you close in on that magic 170-degree temp, remove the foil and allow the turkey to brown.

Christmas eve traditions

Christmas eve is one of the most tradition-filled days on the calendar. From wide-eyed children to full-grown adults, it is a special day that fills our bodies with anticipation and excitement.

Don't forget to include lessons about the true meaning of Christmas if you're looking to involve the kids with your traditions. It's easy to get wrapped up in the presents, decorations and cookies, but teaching children about the meaning of Christmas from a young age can be one of the most important traditions you make for your family.

Head to church

Many churches will have special Christmas eve services to help celebrate the season. Carve out a couple of hours of your day or night to join your church members in doing just that. Teach your children the stories of Christmas and how it has come to be such a big part of our lives.

Spend time together as a family discussing the meaning of Christmas over a nice meal after church. Ask your children questions to pique their interest and test their knowledge.

Santa time

Many families have an elder uncle or grandparent play the role of St. Nick on Christmas eve. Enlist the help of a willing participant and start the tradition in your family.

Make reindeer sounds on the roof to excite the youngsters and have Santa show up with a full sack of toys. Have Santa take a seat near the tree and have each child come up for their chance to sit on his lap and receive their presents. This can create magical memories for children — and adults.

New pajamas

What's better than a set of new pajamas on Christmas eve? Watch the holiday spirit envelop you and yours as you settle into your new comfy PJs on the couch for a marathon Christmas movie night.

Find pajamas that are brightly colored and vibrantly designed in holiday themes.

The more fun and outrageous your holiday pajamas are the better — and try to find matching sets for the family and even family pets.