



Winter Decorations Around the World

 **beanstack originals**



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Read about some of the coolest winter decorations around the world.



For many people around the world, winter is a time of snow and cold. However, it is also a time for festive decorations! Check out some of the amazing and unique ways people make winter sparkle.

Super Cool Structures

First stop on the worldwide winter tour: Harbin, China! From the end of December to early March, this town goes all out to celebrate ice and snow. In fact, artists build enormous sculptures out of snow and ice—including entire buildings. Visitors can cross ice bridges and climb ice stairs. They can even view entire castles and palaces made of ice.

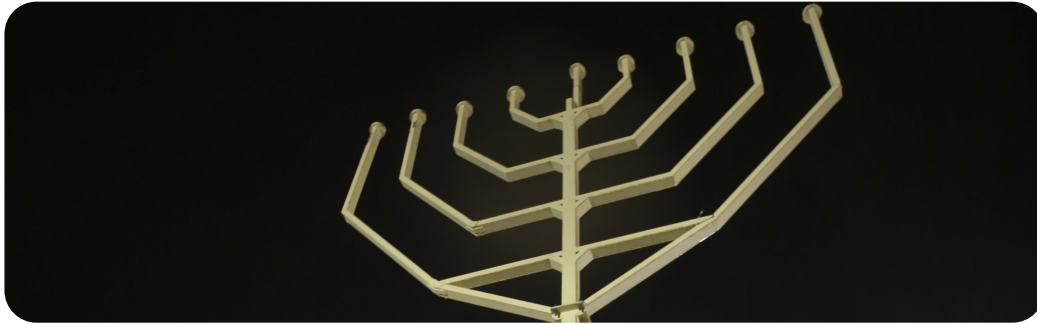
But that's not all—for people wanting more, there are ice hotels located around the world. That's right: people can stay overnight in buildings created entirely from ice. Some, like the Hôtel de Glace in Canada, have furniture made of ice. And some, such as the Lapland Hotels SnowVillage in Finland, even have restaurants made from ice. Brrr!

FUN FACT

There are ice-carving competitions where people use chainsaws to carve ice into amazing sculptures.



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The world's largest menorah in New York.

Big Spirit

While some people celebrate by making huge sculptures from the snow and ice around them, others show off their enormous holiday spirit. In 2022, the mayor of New York City arrived in Central Park to celebrate the lighting of a menorah. A menorah is a candelabra that holds nine candles. During the Jewish holiday of Hanukkah, one candle is lit each night along with the central candle. So, what was so different about this menorah? Its size! This menorah is the largest one in the entire world. It stretches 36 feet (11 m) high. That's almost as tall as a four-story building.

Unique Decorations

When it comes to celebrating wintertime, some people get extra creative. Take people who celebrate Christmas in India, for example. In many countries, people bring green trees, like firs or pines, into their homes for Christmas. They then decorate these trees with lights and ornaments. In India, however, it is too warm for these trees to grow. Instead, people place their decorations on mango trees, which grow in

DID YOU KNOW?

One of the largest Christmas trees in the world was located in Gubbio, Italy. It was made entirely of lights and stretched up the whole side of a mountain!



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Mango tree decorated for Christmas.

many places. Thousands of miles away in Ukraine, there are plenty of fir and pine trees. However, the way people decorate these trees is unique. In Ukraine, one legend tells the tale of a Christmas spider who helped bring good luck and money to a poor family by spinning her webs over a Christmas tree. The webs then magically turned into gold! Because of this, it is thought to be good luck to have spiderwebs on your Christmas tree in Ukraine. Many people place ornaments designed to look like webs on the tree—or, if they are lucky, a spider might spin a real one!