

Santas Around the World



“We are honored to provide this beautiful exhibit of Santas Around the World. We hope you enjoy their beautiful costumes and one-of-a-kind faces, and somehow feel the Spirit of Christmas in which they were created.”
~ Rosewood Roots and Wings Foundation

*Sparkle in
Holiday Ambience*

Our Santas



AFRICA - FATHER CHRISTMAS

Father Christmas comes from the jungle to visit Christian families in the African Republic of Ghana.

AUSTRALIA - AUSSIE SANTA

Aussie Santa wears the traditional clothing of Australian cattlemen. The kangaroos pull Santa's sleigh. The Joey, as the baby kangaroos are called, lives in the mother's pouch and helps the mother carry out her Christmas duties.

BRAZIL - PAPAÍ NOEL

Father Noel comes from the rain forest and is the traditional bearer of gifts. Some children leave a sock in the window, if Papai Noel finds your sock he will exchange it for a present.

CHINA - DUN CHE LAO REN

Christmas Old Man comes during the Holy Birth Festival (Sheng Dan Jieh). He fills stockings with gifts from his wicker basket.

ENGLAND - FATHER CHRISTMAS

The English gift giver is called Father Christmas. Father Christmas delivers gifts during the night before Christmas. The children leave an empty stocking or pillowcase hanging at the end of the bed. In the morning, they hope it will be full of presents.

FRANCE - PERE NOEL

Pere Noel left gifts in wooden shoes left out by good children. His little companion, Pere Fouchette, left switches for the bad children.

GERMANY - ST. NICHOLAS

Father Christmas, der Weihnachtsmann, comes in the night between December 5th and the 6th and puts presents and candies into the shoes of children, who usually place them by their doors.

ICELAND - JOLA SVEINAR

The Icelandic folk believe that one of these characters arrives each day for the 13 days before Christmas and each one bears a little gift for every child in the household.

ITALY - LA BEFANA

La Befana comes down the chimney with gifts and firewood on Epiphany Eve., January 5th. She carries a hand bell and waves a cane to warn bad children.

KOREA - SANA HARABOJI

Since Christianity took hold in Korea, Christmas has been a growing holiday. It is a little different than in the West because many young people will use Christmas as a day to go out and party and then will spend New Year's with family, which is just the opposite of many western families.

LATIN AMERICA - VIEJITO PASCUERO

Old Man Christmas is the central figure in the Latin Christmas celebration.

LAPLAND (FINMARK) - JOULUPUKKI

The people of Lapland (Samis) are nomads who have lived there for thousands of years. Their entire existence is connected to the reindeer herds, which they follow through migrations. Perhaps this is where myth has placed Santa's home and has him deliver gifts in a reindeer-drawn sleigh.

LITHUANIA - KALEDU SENELIS

Father Christmas scatters grain into the corner of honor behind the table (krikstasuolis) and brings gifts for the children. The children are required to earn their gifts by reciting a poem, singing a song, dancing or playing an instrument.

MIDDLE EAST - HOLY MAN

The Holy Man is an ancient King who bears gifts.

MONGOLIA - TSAI SEN YEH

Tsai Sen Yeh is the Mongol/Chinese version of St. Nick. Tsai Sen Yeh was a Chinese God who showered children with money and gifts each Herdsman's Day which was celebrated at the end of each year and featured gift exchanging and a rodeo among the nomads.

POLAND - STAR MAN

Star Man visits Polish homes after Christmas Eve supper with small gifts for children.

NETHERLANDS - BLACK PETE

Black Pete has a role in St. Nicholas' decisions as to what Dutch children receive for Christmas. The naughty children would be taken away by Black Pete or be punished.

NORWAY - JULES VENN

Jules Venn (gift bringer' of Norse Mythology) comes during mid-winter festivities of "Jul" to hide lucky barley stalks around the house.

RUSSIA - GRANDFATHER FROST

Grandfather Frost travels from house to house bringing gifts on the non-religious holiday of New Years, often appearing in a bishop's robe.

SCOTLAND - ABBOT OF UNREASON

The Abbot of Unreason was elected at the end of the year festival to lead festivities.

SWITZERLAND - SAMICHLAUS

Each Christmas, Swiss children receive a visit from Samichlaus who consults his big book of sins (provided by parents) and asks the children to earn forgiveness by reciting a poem. He provides treats such as tangerines, nuts, gingerbread, etc.

US CONTEMPORARY(- SANTA CLAUS (

Contemporary Santa Claus was born in the United States thanks to a myriad of artists, writers, legends and the evolving nature of our country at the time. It is thought that the name is derived from the Dutch word for St. Nicholas, Sinterklass.

AMERICAN - SANTA CLAUS

American Santa Claus which comes from the Dutch Sinterklass was a Christian leader from Myra (in modern-day Turkey in the 4th Century AD) he was very shy and wanted to give money to poor people without them knowing about it. He would drop money from the roof which landed in a stocking, this is how the belief of him coming down the chimney came to be.





Santas Around the World is a unique exhibition of 23 International Santas representing countries and regions from around the world. These life-sized Santas were handcrafted by local artisan Loretta Miller. Her amazing ability to capture captivating facial expressions, paired with beautiful costumes from the Santas native origins, makes this special display one to enjoy.

Since their creation, the Santas have gained State and National recognition including being featured on A & E Networks "Ultimate Holiday Town USA." The Santas provide a pleasant daytime addition to the shopping and social experiences being enjoyed downtown. The inspiring display is a fitting complement to Great Bend, which is well known for its "Trail Of Lights" evening holiday attraction.

Open For Public Viewing

Santas Around the World traditionally opens the evening of the Holiday Parade, on the Saturday after Thanksgiving. The public can visit the International Santa display at 1223 Main in Great Bend, from 4-6 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays, and 1-6 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. The Santa exhibit will be on display until Dec. 23rd.

Appointments may be scheduled outside of those hours by calling Rosewood Roots & Wings Foundation Office at 620-603-6502.

Donations are accepted for visiting the exhibit. Children 10 and younger must be accompanied by an adult. Admission donations help fund the maintenance and care of the Santas.

The Santas are cared for and maintained by a special group of dedicated "Santa Friends", and are often hosted by volunteers from the Retired Senior Volunteer Program.

A Special Gift

"The Santas are exquisite pieces, created by an exceptionally gifted artist, Loretta Miller". These Santas represent Cultures from around the world, and embrace the unique rich traditions in which others celebrate Christmas, and share treasured moments with family and friends. We hope you will enjoy these wonderful pieces of art, and invite you to include the Santas as part of the holiday tradition for your family, and share for just a moment the spirit of peace and hope they hold"...



Tammy Hammond

Tammy Hammond
Executive Director, Rosewood Services