

The Gumtree.com Guide to Christmas

Between parties, presents and visiting the parents Christmas can be an expensive time of year. To save cash, Gumtree.com has devised top tips to have fun in your local area without spending a fortune.

1. **All I want for Christmas.** If your friends are all as broke as you at this time of year organise a Secret Santa instead of all getting each other presents. You can even set a price limit to make sure it really is the thought that counts.
2. **Deck the halls.** Instead of spending Sunday afternoon in the pub go for a walk in the countryside with your friends and collect real holly and ivy to make your own Christmas decorations. You'll save money on decorations and beer, and if they're really good you could sell them and actually make money.
3. **Driving home for Christmas.** Gumtree can't get you out of seeing your family this Christmas, but it can help you avoid a long lonely drive or carrying a sack full of presents on the train. Check out the Rideshare section of Gumtree.com to find someone else going your way, or offer your spare seat and halve your petrol costs. You could even get a cheap ride to Poland: <http://www.gumtree.com/london/07/15621407.html>
4. **Lonely this Christmas.** If you're away from your family and friends this Christmas you're not the only one. There are lots of websites out there where you can find a festive friend or two in your area or even a Christmas party date.
5. **The twelve days of Christmas.** Everyone loves dressing up for Christmas parties, but finding something different to wear to each one can be difficult and expensive. Save money by swapping clothes with friends, or if like this girl you really can't be seen in the same dress twice sell or swap it on Gumtree <http://www.gumtree.com/london/32/14228332.html>

6. **Hark the herald angels sing.** Take a break from shopping and drinking and get together with friends to spread some festive cheer by carol singing. Set up your own group, or search online for one in your area
7. **I saw mommy kissing Santa Claus.** Christmas can be a stressful time of year, from cooking your first turkey to dealing with other people's traditions and customs. You're not alone in needing tips from the perfect Christmas lunch to dealing with your in-laws, so log on to a community forum for advice from people in similar situations; you might even be able to borrow somebody else's secret family recipes for the perfect Christmas lunch
8. **Away in a manger.** If you're going away this Christmas you could make a bit of cash by letting your home out to people travelling to your area over the holidays. If you fancy a real change of scenery this Christmas, why not try a holiday home swap which could take your festivities further than you imagined <http://www.gumtree.com/london/76/16159076.html>
9. **Rocking around the Christmas tree.** New Year's Eve is one of the most expensive nights of the year and for families who need a babysitter the costs can be huge. Share a nanny with friends or neighbours to save money and make the night more fun for them too – the kids that is, not the babysitter
10. **Do they know it's Christmas?** If you really can't face another wet Christmas in London why not take a seasonal job abroad and make some money? You could even spend Christmas in Dubai: <http://www.gumtree.com/london/08/15653408.html>