



# Carlton Cards Shares Easter Traditions from Around the Globe



Mississauga, Ontario (February 2016)

Many Canadians love to carry on the Easter traditions they have enjoyed from childhood, like decorating eggs and indulging in a little too much chocolate, but have you ever wondered how the holiday is celebrated in other parts of the world? The Carlton Cards trend experts would like to share with you some of the interesting Easter traditions from around the world we have uncovered.

**Bermuda:** If you are vacationing in Bermuda on Good Friday, don't be surprised if you see the sky filled with colourful kites. It is believed the origin of kite flying on the holiday began after a teacher from the British Army constructed a kite shaped like a cross to explain Christ's ascension to heaven to his Sunday school class. Though traditional Bermuda kites are made of colourful tissue paper, long tails, metal or wood and string, many Bermudians have taken their kite designs to the next level, with intricate designs. And to round out a day of kite flying, Bermudians enjoy dining on codfish cakes and hot cross buns!

**Sweden:** Though Easter is specifically a religious holiday in many countries, it has become a secular one in Sweden typically celebrated at home with family. A Swedish Easter meal is hearty, featuring eggs, pickled herring and Jansson's Temptation (potato, onion, pickled sardines baked in cream). Another tradition that may be more reminiscent of Halloween to Canadians, Swedish children dress up as Easter witches, wearing discarded clothing in the days leading up to Easter Sunday. Like trick or treaters, the kids go home to home in their neighbourhood but trade their paintings and drawings for sweets.

**Scotland:** Many Canadians have participated in egg rolling contests, competing to see who can roll their egg (hardboiled of course) with a long handled spoon to the finish line to fastest. In Scotland, their egg rolling contests have a totally different spin as groups find a hill and roll their decorated eggs down them. The person whose egg rolls the farthest distance without breaking is the winner of the contest.

**Switzerland:** The Swiss have another spin on a game played with painted hardboiled eggs that sounds very enterprising. Children challenge people to try to break their painted eggs with a coin. The rules are simple, after the egg is placed at a fair distance, the coin is thrown. If the coin misses or the egg stays intact, the child gets to keep the coin. If the person tossing the coin succeeds in cracking the egg, the coin and the egg are theirs!

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**Norway:** Mysteriously enough Easter is the most popular time for Norwegians to read crime novels! Yes, during the holiday season, books store are filled with new crime novels known as Easter-Thrillers or Påskekrim while at the same time new crime series hit the television and radio airwaves. It is believed that the tradition took shape in 1923 when a publisher wisely advertised a new book on the front page of a Norwegian newspaper. The ad, presented like a news story about a train being looted the night before, intrigued Norwegian readers and the book was a huge success.

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