

# EASTER FAMILY FUN Guide



# Easy Easter Dessert

Hosting an Easter meal? Once the ham or turkey is devoured, your guests will be looking for a rich dessert to top off their holiday experience.

Fortunately for them, the Easter bunny is ready to share his carrots this year for a delicious carrot cake. Follow the instructions below to create this Easter classic at your gathering.

## CARROT CAKE

### Ingredients

2 1/2 cups all-purpose flour  
12 ounces grated carrots  
1 teaspoon baking powder  
1 teaspoon baking soda  
1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
10 ounces sugar  
1/4 cup dark brown sugar  
3 large eggs  
6 ounces plain yogurt  
6 ounces vegetable oil

### Directions

- Preheat oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Butter and flour a 9-inch cake pan.
- Put carrots into a large mixing bowl.
- Process flour, baking powder, baking soda, spices and salt for 5 seconds in food processor; add this mixture to the carrots.
- In the bowl of the food processor, combine the sugar, brown sugar, eggs,



yogurt and vegetable oil; pour this mixture into the carrots and stir until combined.

- Pour into the prepared cake pan and bake for 45 minutes.

### Cream Cheese Frosting

8 ounces cream cheese  
2 ounces unsalted butter  
1 teaspoon vanilla extract  
9 ounces powdered sugar

### Directions

Combine the cream cheese and butter. Add vanilla and powdered sugar gradually until smooth. Refrigerate until ready and top the cake.

## CHOCOLATE MARSHMALLOW FONDUE

Looking for a simpler dish? This chocolate marshmallow

fondue is perfect for kids and adults alike. We all have surplus candy after the Easter egg hunt. Enjoy your extras in this dessert:

### Ingredients

8 ounces chopped white chocolate  
1/2 cup heavy cream  
8 Easter marshmallows of your choice  
Pretzels

Fruit for dipping

### Directions

- In a medium saucepan, combine the chocolate, cream and marshmallows.
- Place over medium-low heat; stir constantly until the white chocolate and marshmallows melt.
- Remove from heat and place in a small bowl. Serve with pretzels and fruit.

# Creative Basket Ideas

There's no reason to spend \$40 on an Easter basket this year. Let's get creative and support local business at the same time.

There are numerous creative twists you can take this year to create the perfect handmade basket. You'll love the cost and your kids will appreciate the thought you put into the project.

Whether you want to include fresh food, snacks, gift cards, recipes or more individualized gifts, remember to consider your recipients. The more tailored to their interests, the more they will enjoy your basket gift.

## FRESH FOOD BASKETS

Does your recipient love fresh fruits and vegetables? Visit your local farmer's market for their favorite foods and fill up a vintage woven basket.

Be sure to pick out rich, vibrant colors to give your basket a bright appearance. Mix in nuts, cheeses and crackers that your special Easter someone can enjoy at brunch.

Add some embellishments to the basket, such as glittered ribbon or brightly colored bows. These details can put your basket over the top.

As always, let your recipient know where you got the gifts. You might inspire them to shop locally more often.



## EASTER EGG BOUQUET

Give your baskets the holiday feel by including an assortment of plastic Easter eggs filled with miniature gifts or

clues to a scavenger hunt.

You can lay the eggs in the basket or affix them to rods or bamboo skewers for a floral bouquet look. Place the eggs at

different heights on the rods to give the basket more depth.

Choose tissue paper or artificial grass that complements the colors of your eggs.

Remember to think of the basket as a complete visual package with plenty of room for creative touches and diverse colors.

# Decorating for Easter

Out with colder weather, in with spring cleaning — and decorating. Easter is the perfect time of year to up your decor game as you invite family and friends over for a special holiday meal.

The right Easter decorations feature a combination of simplistic beauty and pastel coloring. If pulled off correctly, your Easter feast will go down as a beautiful celebration of memorable conversation and great design.

## THE PATIO

It's time to clean off the leaves from your patio and replace them with planters featuring fresh flowers.

Don't forget to tackle the mess that might be surrounding your patio.

Sweep your walkway and clean out garden beds around the area. Winter has a way of heaping leaves and twigs onto your patio. You can place the fanciest of decorations on the patio, but they will be overshadowed by any mess you leave behind in the yard.

## THE KITCHEN

The kitchen is likely the room in your house where guests gravitate and converse. Keep the area fresh with colorful flowers and potted

daffodils.

Bring the garden inside with beautiful herbs and spices. Not only will the appearance of bright greens offer a stunning visual, but their scents will provide an extra burst of energy to the room.

You also can use them in recipes or floral centerpieces, making them versatile elements of any kitchen this Easter.

## SPRING DECOR

Colored eggs are great, but don't depend solely on them for your decor inspiration. Remember that spring is in the air — and the season offers plenty of tangible experiences that can be translated into memorable design.

Choose pastel-colored plates for your Easter dinner. Add succulents and moss to your table centerpiece. The more you rely on spring to drive your decorating decisions, the more materials you'll have left to decorate your home the rest of the season.





# Dyeing Easter Eggs Naturally

**D**o you have a house full of little artists? Exposing their hands and clothes to artificial dyes is not ideal. There are plenty of natural ingredients you can use this Easter to make the egg-coloring experience more enjoyable for everyone involved.

Start by buying white eggs from your local grocer or farmer's market. The white color allows colors to shine through. You can mix in some brown eggs on which to start with a darker base color, if you prefer.

Once you choose, hard-boil and cool your eggs, it's time to get colorful.

## **A MESS IS OK**

The key to a fun egg-coloring experience is giving the kiddos plenty of room to experiment with colors and design techniques. Clear the area and lay out all the necessary materials

ahead of time.

Don't forget the newspaper barrier between the dyes and your countertop (especially if you've got a countertop with a porous surface).

The more prep work you can do beforehand, the more you'll be able to actually enjoy coloring eggs.

## **NATURAL INGREDIENTS**

Working with natural dyes is the best way to go this Easter. Try using ingredients such as blueberries or powdered drink mix to dye your eggs.

Vegetables offer great materials for color. Try spinach, red cabbage, beets

and dill seeds. These ingredients are easy to find and will let you stay au naturel while also saving some money along the way.

## **GET FANCY**

If you have any fans of glitter in your home, there is a glamorous way to decorate eggs that might be right up their alley.

A bit of glue and colorful glitter are all you need to create over-the-top Easter eggs. You can find glitter in a variety of sizes and colors, or go with sequins instead, for a pop of stunning color.

# The White House Egg Roll

You've likely seen news coverage of the annual White House Easter Egg Roll. How did it start and what is its significance to our country?

Read on for more information on what has become on the most celebrated holiday tradition in the United States.

## ORIGINS OF THE ROLL

The first annual White House Easter Egg Roll was held on April 22, 1878. This significant event came after President Rutherford B. Hayes agreed to open the White House grounds on Easter Monday to children who wanted to roll Easter eggs.

Indoor egg rolls officially started a few years later when President Grover Cleveland invited young egg rollers into the East Room in 1885.

The event was taken one step further in 1889, when President Benjamin Harrison added music to the Easter Egg Roll. According to the White House Historical Association, he ordered the United States Marine Band to play tunes while children rolled eggs on the South Lawn.

## CANCELLATIONS

The egg roll has been canceled numerous times throughout its history. The 1918 event was called off due to wartime restrictions on food

consumption. Food administrator Charles Wilson announced, "Nothing that is an article of diet should be destroyed."

World War II put a halt to the festivities from 1943 to 1945.

Food conservation efforts led to more cancellations in 1946 and 1947, and yet again from 1948 to 1952, as the White House's South Lawn became a construction zone for various projects. President Dwight D.

Eisenhower revived the tradition.

## KEEPSAKES

Today, every child under 12 is given a wooden keepsake egg inscribed with the event's

theme and the signatures of the president and first lady. This tradition began with President Ronald Reagan and First Lady Nancy Reagan, who hosted a hunt for wooden eggs bearing signatures of famous people.



PETE SOUZA/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS



# Easter Weekend Getaways

Looking for a fun family trip this Easter weekend? There are plenty of local and global getaways that can lead to special memories for years to come.

Head downtown or jump on a plane. It's time to make this the most enjoyable, fulfilling

Easter you've ever experienced.

## GO GLOBAL

The week leading up to Easter is known as Holy Week, with countries including Brazil and Spain hosting special events every day to celebrate Jesus and his resurrection.

Buenos Aires is home to the Holy Land theme park and features special performances every Easter weekend. The city's restaurants pump out plenty of delicious foods to attract locals and tourists alike.

Rio de Janeiro is another city to consider visiting during the Easter holiday. During the week leading up to Easter Sunday, locals decorate the city with colorful flowers to create a special aura for rituals and processions.

## HOTEL HERSHEY

What better getaway for Easter weekend than a chocolate-lover's dream?

Hotel Hershey in Hershey, Pa., features a broad assortment of Easter events — as well

as plenty of chocolate for your sweet tooth. The hotel advertises events that include Easter weekend cookie decorating, egg hunts and character appearances.

Check in with the hotel for special weekend accommodations and tickets to Hersheypark.

A weekend in Hershey heaven will be one the family will remember forever.

## BOARD A CRUISE

If you live in a colder climate,

it's likely still a bit chilly in your neck of the woods when Easter Sunday rolls around. What better way to beat the snow and ice than heading to the Caribbean?

Experience a fun-filled family cruise and all the food and events that come with it. Check in with your local tourism agents to help you find the best cruises this time of year. They will make the trip experience as seamless as possible, allowing you to focus on having a great time with your family.

# Easter by the Numbers

**E**aster is a special holiday for Christians around the world. It also is a day of gift-giving, Easter egg hunts and special family meals.

Read on to learn more about Easter through a collection of surprising facts and figures.

- About 75 percent of Americans identify themselves as Christian, as reported by Gallup in December 2014.

- People across the United States spend more than \$16 billion every year, according to the National Retail Federation.

- The first “sunrise service” was organized in 1773 by members of the Moravian Church in Winston-Salem, N.C., according to a report by CNN.

- More than 35,000 attendees participate in the White House Easter Egg Roll every April.

- According to Just Born Candy Co., Americans consume more than

1.5 billion marshmallow Peeps every year.

- About 32 percent of Americans buy extra chocolate for themselves around Easter, according to Mintel.

- The National Confectioners Association reports that 89 percent of chocolate bunny eaters go after the ears first.

- The National Confectioners Association reports that 77 percent of Americans buy or put together Easter baskets for their children.

- More than \$17 billion was spent celebrating the holiday in 2016, according to a Wallet Hub report.

- The National Retail Federation reports that more than half of Americans will visit with friends and family this Easter, while 50 percent will attend church.