

Commemorative coin

A CHRISTMAS DECORATION

On winter evenings, families gather around the festive table to celebrate the most anticipated holidays of the year – Christmas and the New Year – in a cozy atmosphere. These magical holidays, filled with warmth, joy and the light of hope, unite generations and preserve traditions. Ornamental decorations adorn windows, and traditional Ukrainian nativity plays (Verteps) – which are among the oldest Ukrainian traditions – tell the story of the birth of Jesus Christ.

New Year holidays are a time when, in addition to the cold wind, the sound of Christmas carols fills the house, when you need to remember, forgive, and let go. This period is fascinating and inspiring, renewing and empowering. From time immemorial, Ukrainians have believed that the way you celebrate the New Year is the way you will go on to live it. Therefore, they try to create a festive atmosphere in the house by decorating the house with *didukhs* (wheat sheaves), *vytynankas* (traditional ornamental decorations), and other folk symbols.

Before Christmas, on 24 December, Christians in Ukraine celebrate Christmas Eve. On this day, the whole family gathers around the table to taste 12 meatless dishes symbolizing the 12 months of the year and the 12 apostles.



The main dish is *kutia*, a festive porridge made from whole wheat grains, poppy seeds, honey, and raisins.

Christmas Day is celebrated on 25 December, marking the birth of Jesus Christ in Bethlehem. On this day, believers visit churches to take part in a festive liturgy. After the service, Koliada begins, a period when young people go from house to house singing Christmas songs and wishing their hosts happiness and prosperity.

The Christmas season lasts from Christmas Eve to the second day of Christmas, 26 December, and ends on Epiphany, 6 January. At this time, people greet each other with words: “Christ is born! – Praise Him!”

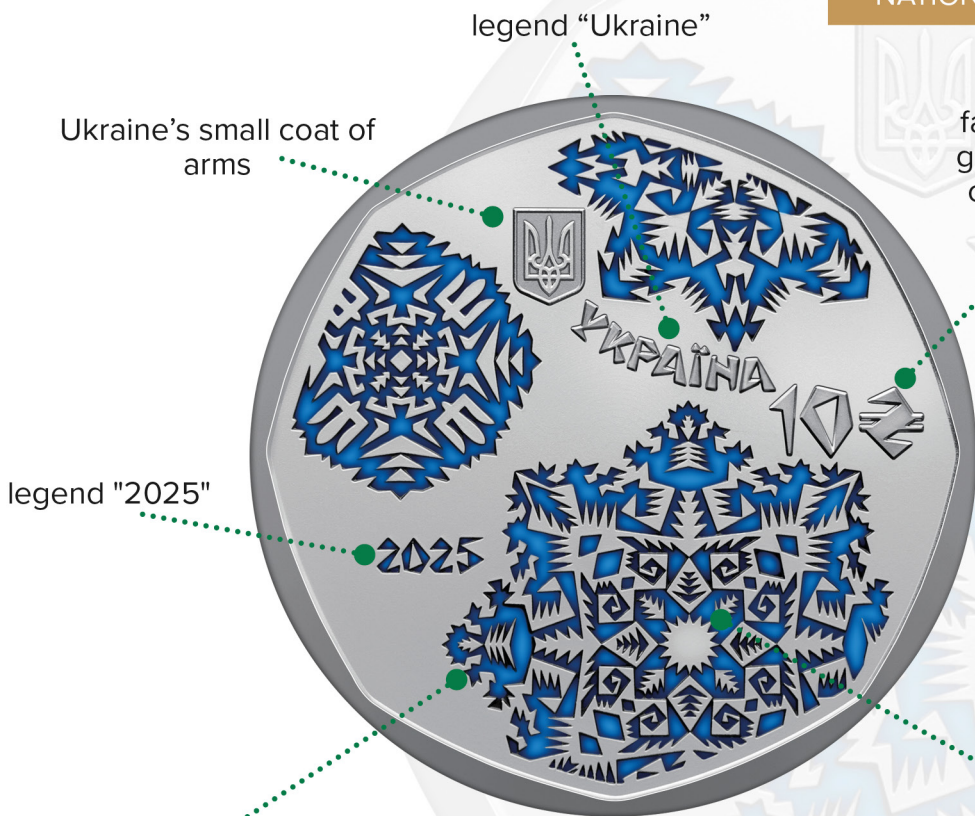
Despite the difficult times, Ukrainians believe that the coming year will bring peace and tranquility to every home, and the Christmas star will light the way to a longed-for future.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Designers – Volodymyr Taran, Oleksandr Kharuk, Serhii Kharuk.

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NATIONAL BANK OF UKRAINE



legend "Ukraine"

Ukraine's small coat of arms

legend "2025"

face value and graphic symbol of the hryvnia



symbolic image of a soldier, representing today's defenders

decorative elements – enamel and local gilding

stylized Christmas composition with nativity play characters

decorative ornamental motif – snowflakes

Issue date	Metal	Diameter	Quality	Edge	Mintage
19 December 2024	silver	38,6 mm	special uncirculated	smooth with incised inscriptions	up to 10,000

COMMEMORATIVE COIN • 2024