Murder Mystery Under the Mistletoe

If your group loves storytelling, costumes, secrets, and a little harmless drama, a Christmas murder mystery can turn an ordinary dinner into an entire evening of entertainment.

The original concept uses Christmas characters, hidden clues, role-playing, and a surprise ending.
And you don't need an elaborate professional murder-mystery kit to make it work.

Choose your characters

Give each guest a festive character.

For example:

- The suspicious Santa
- The glamorous Mrs. Claus
- The jealous elf
- The mysterious snow queen
- The overworked toy maker
- The ambitious reindeer trainer
- The cheerful holiday baker
- The wealthy Christmas tree owner

Before the party, secretly give each person a short character description and one piece of information they know.

Then introduce the mystery.

Perhaps the host's special Christmas gift has disappeared. Perhaps the Christmas party's guest of honor has mysteriously vanished. Or perhaps someone has sabotaged the holiday celebration. The goal is to discover what happened.

Add clues around the room

Hide clues in:

Gift boxes

Under plates

Inside Christmas stockings

Near the tree

In books

You can also create fake text messages, handwritten notes, photographs, or “secret documents.” Keep the mystery lighthearted rather than frightening. The goal is laughter, not genuine suspense.

Give everyone a role

One reason murder mysteries work so well is that guests aren't just sitting around waiting for dinner.
They become part of the story.

Best for: Adults, dinner parties, groups of friends
Effort: Medium
Budget: Low to medium

And don't worry if your guests get completely carried away with their characters. That's usually when the party becomes memorable.