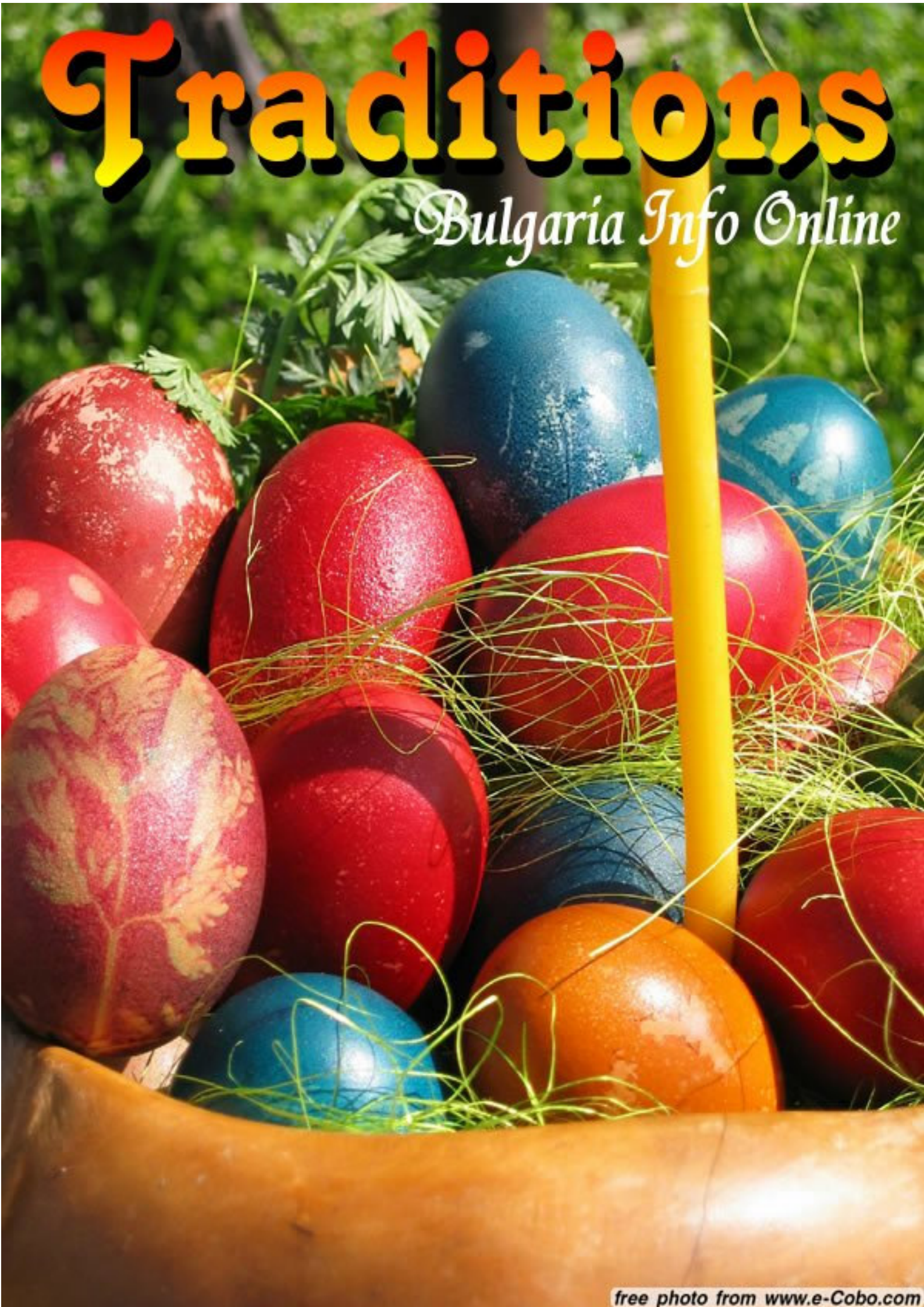


# Traditions

*Bulgaria Info Online*



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# Easter Time In Bulgaria

The first and most popular ceremony in Bulgaria's Easter traditions is called Lazarovden, it is a holiday devoted to the pastures, fields and woods. However it is also a holiday for young girls that are coming of age, called Lazarki. It is always celebrated on a Saturday, eight days before Easter.



The young girls gather in groups of about a dozen, dressed in colourful traditional costumes with wreaths of flowers, they walk around the village singing songs that praise their own beauty and express their wishes for happiness, health and prosperity. They also sing about farmers and their hopes for a good crop. This ritual is important to all young girls as they show the entire village that they are now women, or complete maidens, which means that they acquire a new social position and are free to date and get married. Once the girls have been around the whole village they go to the main square and perform a folk dance, they then return to the house where they started and share out the presents that they have received (the only gifts that they receive are white eggs).

It is said that if a girl does not participate then she cannot get married and is likely to get carried away by a dragon!

On Lazarovden the Orthodox Church celebrates the memory of a man named Lazar, from the town of Vitinia, just outside Jerusalem. This man took Christ into his small, modest house and in return Jesus raised Lazar from the dead on the fourth day after his funeral as a sign of gratitude for his hospitality.

Also on Lazarovden all those named Lazar or Lazarina and all those named after flowers, plants or trees celebrate their name-days (this is like another birthday for Bulgarians so in essence an excuse to have a big party!)

The next important day after Lazarovden is Palm Sunday, known in Bulgaria as Tsvetnitsa-Vrabnitsa. On this day the girls that participated in Lazarovden gather at the river to take part in a ritual called the umichene, in which they drop their flower wreaths or ritual bread in, whichever wreath or bread is carried away fastest determines who becomes the kumitsa or the best girl and in whose home the rest of the girls will have a feast! Once they have eaten, a special dance called the lazarscko horo is played.

**Tsvetnitsa- Vrabnitsa is a very big Bulgarian holiday which includes a variety of customs. The holiday is held every year on the last Sunday before Easter, this year it takes place on Sunday 16th April 2006.**

**The church celebrates this date because it is the time when Jesus entered Jerusalem on a donkey and was welcomed with palms and olive branches and glorified as the Messiah King. The Bulgarian Church chooses to use willow branches as they are more readily available. Everyone attends the official service and they bring a branch of a willow tree and if anyone from the family becomes ill they will use this branch in a number of different ways to heal them.**

**For example, they will burn a willow branch, which acts as incense! Some people wear willow wreaths on their head and waist in order to prevent pain in those areas.**

**The week from Tsvetnitsa- Vrabnitsa until Easter is called The Great Week or The Passion Week. In the past each of these days has been full of suffering. The first three days- Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday are used to carefully clean out the house- like spring cleaning. It is very important to give young children a bath as this is seen as a symbol of health. On Wednesday the women cannot weave or sew.**

**On the Great Thursday preparations for Easter begin with the painting of eggs. The very first one is ALWAYS painted red. The mother of the house must be left alone to paint the eggs until the red is finished. After this the cheeks of the very young children are rubbed with the egg to show that they are healthy with very red-cheeks! Bulgarian people believe that the red eggs have curative properties. This day is celebrated in the hope that there will be no hail at this time of year.**

**Women and men do not work, this continues for the next six Thursdays until Spasovden, which this year will fall on June 1st 2006. The Great Thursday is an important date for the church as it is believed to be the day of the Secret Dinner of Christ and the twelve apostles. This is the dinner when he says that Judas has betrayed him and sure enough the soldiers come to take Christ while he is praying.**

**Bulgarian Easter Cake (kozunak) and cookies are eaten.**

**Great Friday or Good Friday is the day that Christ was crucified on the cross, it is also known as Crucified Friday. On this day in Bulgaria a service is held in which a representation of the cloak that Christ's body was wrapped in after he had been removed from the cross, is taken from the altar and then a burial service is held. After the funeral On the day before Easter, The Great Saturday, everyone gathers for midnight mass and brings their painted eggs with them. The priest talks of the Resurrection, when The Virgin Mary and Maria (Mary) Magdalena visited Christ's grave and found it empty. Then an Angel announced to them the resurrection of Christ.**

**After this the congregation hit their eggs against one another, whoever has the Easter egg that remains in one piece, has been blessed and they will be safe until next Easter arrives.**

**On Easter day everyone celebrates and enjoys the merriment. The traditional greeting, whether you are religious or not is, Hristos voskrese! Which means, Christ has risen! To answer to this statement is, Voistina voskrese! Literally meaning, Indeed he has! All children host various competitions with their eggs, and the owner of the egg whose shell doesn't crack gets awarded the name borak, (fighter)! The meal that most Bulgarians will eat on this day consists of Boiled eggs, Roasted Lamb and Easter Cake kozunak).**

**The week after Easter is called quite simply, Empty Sunday, because of the rules which state that everyone should rest and do no work, this week ends the Easter holi(day cycle. This is connected to the first appearance of Christ and the fact that Tomas refused to believe that he was resurrected until Christ appeared to him and made him believe! So, that is the wonderful celebration of Easter in Bulgaria. As yet the Western tradition of giving chocolate eggs has not taken off here. Children learn the religious meaning and significance of Easter, while still making it fun with the painting and decorating of their boiled eggs.**

**by Debbie Lockhart**



# The Festival Of The Roses

The area around Karlovo and Kazanlak, at the base of the Balkan mountains is famous for rose production. To celebrate this industry, each year a festival is held in the first week of June. This festival has been taking place since 1903 and is an extension of the celebrations that local rose growers used to have at the beginning of each rose harvesting season.

My partner and I happened to be staying not far from Kazanlak, arranging our house renovations at the start of June this year and so on the first Sunday in June we decided to drive into Kazanlak and watch the parade. The main town centre was cordoned off and police directed us down narrow back streets where we abandoned the car and made our way towards the centre.

The streets were lined with coaches from all over Bulgaria and thousands of people lined the main street and filled the town square. Parked outside the hotels were numerous blacked-out Mercedes with embassy number plates and flags for visiting dignitaries from as far a field as South Africa and Japan. In fact the festival is incredibly popular with the Japanese and there were numerous coach parties and organised tours of Japanese tourists.



We took up our position at the back of the crowd, opposite the main square and stood waiting in the blazing sunshine for the parade to start. We had no idea what to expect and so you can imagine our amusement when all of a sudden the theme tune to Star Wars blared out and the President of Bulgaria appeared on the stand in front of us. After a speech, the only words of which I could make out were 'rose' and 'Bulgaria', the President and his escorts left the stage and the parade got under way.

First to appear were young men dressed in sheep's wool and animal skins with huge cow bells tied around their waists, which created a deafening din akin to hundreds of drums beating as they danced along the street. These were followed by processions of horses with the riders dressed up as ancient soldiers from various periods, children dressed as roses and plant pots, local school groups in traditional costumes and groups of dancers.

Mixed in-between the more traditional elements of the parade were local clubs such as a local football team and an automobile club.

Overhead a paraglider swooped up and down the street spraying the crowds underneath with refreshing rose water and dropping rose petals from above. And every now and then there would be a roar of engines as an old Russian airplane flew over the main square so low that it was literally only feet above the trees and lower than the roofs of surrounding hotels. Flying so low and close to crowded areas would simply never be allowed in the UK.

Towards the end of the parade the Queen of the Roses was driven along in an open topped Mercedes with the former Queen and several 'bridesmaids' all following. Each year a local girl is picked to be the Queen of the festival.

After an hour, my feet were starting to get rather tired and so we left the main street in search of food. Afterwards, once the parade was over, we walked around the lovely pedestrianised main square of Kazanlak where groups were partaking in traditional dancing and street stalls were selling balloons and toys for children. There are many street cafes and bars and a lot of money has recently been spent updating Kazanlak's image and main town centre. While the outskirts of the town are still pretty drab and ugly with the usual high rise concrete tower blocks, the centre is a lovely contrast with fountains and small park areas.



# Veliko Turnovo International Folklore Festival

*“Silviya Minkova tells Bulgaria Info Online readers about the Veliko Turnovo Folk Festival.”*

The biggest international folklore festival in the Balkans is the Annual International Folklore Festival which takes place in Veliko Turnovo and the surrounding area (villages of Arbanassi, Novo Selo, Beliyakovec, Balvan, Dorkovo, and towns Triyavna, Kilifarevo and Razgrad). The Veliko Turnovo International Folklore Festival has been granted the status of a Festival of CIOFF (International Council of the Organisers of Folklore Festivals) and Traditional Arts at UNESCO. During the 1998-2006 period, there have been more than 5500 guests and participants in the world famous event.

The traditional centre of the festival is the old capital of Bulgaria and my native town - Veliko Turnovo. The Bulgarian word "Veliko" means great and this is a true reflection of this picturesque town! Veliko Turnovo is one of the most ancient Bulgarian towns and the capital of the Second Bulgarian Kingdom. The artistic beauty and rich cultural and historical heritage wins Veliko Tarnovo the recognition as a tourist center of contemporary Bulgaria.



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Veliko Turnovo offers marvellous opportunities for cultural tourism and the surrounding area offers ample opportunities to learn all about Bulgarian customs and traditions. Veliko Turnovo became the first East European town to receive the "Special Award for a Sustainable City" granted by the European Union. It is an acknowledgement for the efforts of many generations to preserve the town. It also gives a unique opportunity for implementing the transition to European values, thus enabling Veliko Tarnovo to become a reliable partner to the European development strategy.

The International Folklore Festivals Foundation organised the event with the aim to develop cultural exchanges between nations and the popularisation of Bulgarian folklore in the country and abroad. Organisers believe that the best way to achieve a culture of peace is for youths to learn about the arts and the traditions of their countries.



This year was the 9th annual festival and it took place between July 25 - August 05, 2006. There were 1,200 participants from over 15 countries (Bulgaria, Brazil, Colombia, Egypt, Georgia, Greece, Israel, Korea, Kosovo, Mexico, Philippines, Scotland, Taiwan, Ukrain, USA) Among whom, there was a six-year-old boy from Taiwan, and a 70-year-old piper from Scotland. There were 450 foreign dancers and 750 Bulgarian dancers. The main stage of the festival was in a beautiful park in the central part of Veliko Tarnovo named "Marno Pole". There were wonderful performances on the stage every evening from 8.00 pm.



The 9th Folklore festival opened on 22nd of July with a parade of the all the dancers marching along the main street of Veliko Tarnovo and then the concert began on the main stage in the Park "Marno Pole". The evening began with the speech from the mayor of the town, Rumén Rashev and the President of the festival, Emil Pavlov.

The mayor said that during the next two weeks our town would be a hospitable host of people with different races, religions and cultural traditions. He told us that difference is not an issue, when everyone works together it will open up a door of opportunity.

Mr. Pavlov said that the folklore would fascinate us with its variety and carry us away into a magical world, where everything is a harmony of sounds and motions.

The Balkan Transit group, created with the participation of the world renowned folklore singer Yanka Rupkina, also took part in the event. Simon Loynbach from the group said from the main stage: "We have the honour to be here with you to celebrate wonderful music without any borders. Bulgarian music inspires us in Denmark and now we will sing one Bulgarian song which you know very well. We respect you and your lovely music and culture."

The dance group Prefectura Pirea from Rentis, Greece danced Thracian ring dances, while the beautiful dancers from the Brazil Sarandeiros dance troop filled the streets. Many Bulgarian folklore dance groups have shown the beauty and magic of the Bulgarian folklore dressed with unique Bulgarian national costumes from different regions of Bulgaria. Among the Bulgarian groups were:

- "Balgarche" and "Tarnovche" from Veliko Turnovo.
- "Balkan"- Driyanovo
- "Varna"- Varna
- " Zvezditsa Iasnogreinitsa"- Elshitsa village and
- " Malinarka" -Berkovitsa.



I was lucky to be in my native town for a week, during the festival. I was there to spend time with my favourite niece - Siyana, 9, and his brother Stefan, 3, who are visiting Bulgaria -from America- for the summer. Siyana was 2 years old when she left Bulgaria with her parents, so she was very excited to see the folklore of her native country. Every evening she wanted to be in the park and see the dancers. The groups from Egypt and Brazil were her foreign favorites. When there was nowhere to sit, we sat on the ground, next to the water - this reminded me of my childhood



Many people sat on tables around the fountain and drink beer and eat fried potatoes or fish or something else. There were many pavilions with food and drink around the fountain and near to the stage.

For me it was interesting to see "Folklorico Phipippinico" from the Philippines. This group is made up of Philippines in Toronto. They have preserved in their dances the authentic customs of the Philippines. The female dancers had skimpy clothing and little red pillows on their heads and on top of the pillows were interesting pots. It was very impressive how these women managed to balance these pots on their heads and to dance and sing all at the same time. The only clothing of the male dancers was a bandage, quills on their heads and a necklace consisted of wild animals' teeth.

On July 31st Miss Bulgaria 2005 Rositsa Ivanova singled out the most beautiful dancer. This years Miss Festival became Judis Estremor Marmor from Columbia.

The Festival this year was fantastic but I believe that it could be even more spectacular if there were more participants from the UK. I suggest that you come and see it with your own eyes next year, when we will celebrate its ten-year anniversary.

**Welcome to Veliko Turnovo !**

Article by Silviya Minkova - [www.zabolekar.info](http://www.zabolekar.info)

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# My Bulgarian Wedding Day by Silviya Minkova



There are various marriage ceremonies nowadays. All wedding rituals have a specific meaning and are performed by strictly appointed persons. Our wedding was in the town of Veliko Tarnovo - the old capital of Bulgaria.

It depends what the young couple wishes and sometimes the wish of their parents (because in most cases they get the expense of the wedding party) For our wedding party, my husband and I got the expenses and our parents were our guests. I think this is the more appropriate variant, because it gives to the couple freedom to do everything their own way. Many traditions today are forgotten, others are changed and updated.

Most of the weddings in Bulgaria take place on Saturday or Sunday and there are no (or much less) weddings in period of fasting i.e before Easter. Our wedding was on Easter Sunday.



On our wedding day, the friends and relatives of my husband gathered in his parent's home. Then they went to the best man's home. The groom presented the best man with grape brandy– and from that point on the best man's word is law as far as the wedding plans go. In the best man's house there was a table with drinks and small sweets, candies, peanuts and coloured eggs, because the group must be strong for the important deal ahead.



The best woman (she was our best man's future wife) and the best man then lead the procession to my house carrying a wooden vessel, Baklitsa, painted with many-coloured typical folk decoration. They also bring red wine, the marriage rings, the bridal veil, shoes, bouquet and handbag. When this group arrived in front of my house, they found two strong men (my brother and my cousin) guarding it. In order to get in, they have to pay ransom and fill my shoes with bank-notes, beautiful brides don't come easily or cheap - this moment was very interesting.



I was also guarded in my room by two girl-friends, who would not let the groom touch me until he promises to take a care of me after this day. One of my girls was jurist, so you can imagine how ardent this moment was for my husband, and what a revision was made.



The best woman then took my veil and rotated it 3 times over our heads for happiness and then let it down to cover my face. Finally the groom and I were led outside, each of us holding the opposite ends of a long white ribbon. The custom says that we must be led out by an unmarried lady from my family like a symbol of cleanness and purity so we go on together in this way, my niece had this duty.



When we went out of my home my mother gave me a dish filled with wheat, coins and a raw egg and I tossed it over my head and behind my back. The dish and the egg broke and this signifies good luck to come and fertility. After that my mum poured out in front of us some water from a metal vessel (“menche”, characteristic of Bulgaria in old times), ornate with wild geranium for health. Then she put the menche in front of my foot and I kicked it ahead to pour out the remaining water. The meaning of this is our new family will go ahead with ease and be healthy.



From my home we all went to the church where there were many guests waiting for us. The procession from the bride's house to the church was noisy and cheerful. However, it is considered bad luck for two unmarried brides to meet each other face-to-face, so if two bridal processions are winding through the streets they take great care not to meet each other. But I didn't have that problem.

The priest met us outside the church and led us to the lectern (a tall narrow table with an inclined surface). The bridegroom stood on the left, and I on the right side of the priest who blessed us with two lit candles and offered up prayers to God to bless our love as husband and wife. The exchange of rings was a pledge and sign of the strength of the union we stepped into. We wear our wedding rings on the right hand, not the left as in the West.

Then the priest crowned the bridegroom and I, blessed us once more and read some passages on marriage from Apostle Paul's writings. In conclusion, we - our best man and best woman drank from the handed glass of wine (a ritual symbolising also the Holy Communion) and went round the lectern making three circles "giving expression to spiritual joy and exultation".



We took pictures after the church ritual because the church is situated on the beautiful part of Veliko Tarnovo and we could not leave out the majestic view there. Then, we went to the hill Sveta Gora (Holy Forest) and the same named restaurant there, where our civil ceremony and our wedding-party was being held.

The civil ceremony was very nice and at the conclusion of the ceremony we exchanged rings and the traditional wedding-kiss (the sweetest in my life). Once the official wedding papers are signed there comes another wedding custom - the "stepping." Whoever steps first on the other's foot will dominate and provide for the new family. In our case I stepped on my husband's foot first but he very quickly return it to me and everyone in the hall laughed.

It is at the reception that the groom's mother traditionally meets the new family. She lays a long, white cloth at the door for the newly-married couple to enter on as a symbol of health, happiness and purity in their new life together.

When we entered the restaurant my "svekarva"(the groom's mother) fed us with a piece of special loaf ("pitka") dipped in honey and salt wishing that our lives be sweet like the honey, but also telling us that in life there are salty moments too. My "svekar" (the groom's father) handed us a glass with red wine and wished us health in our long life together. Then my "svekarva" held a loaf –"pitka" over our heads and invited each of us to pull one end of it. The number of pieces we break it into signifies the number of children that we will have, two for us. Whoever gets the bigger piece will have the biggest role in the new family.

The best man made a speech to start the party. During the party there was a lot of eating, drinking and dancing.

"The guests cheered very often "GORCHIVO" (bitter) and then we made a long and sweet, sweet kiss."



Dancing is a large part of the Bulgarian wedding reception ritual. The Horo is a wonderfully entertaining common Bulgarian folk dance which is done at just about every type of celebration you can think of – weddings, holiday's, birthdays, etc. There are many different kinds (pravo-straight, dunavsko, elenino...), but all pretty much require dancing holding hands around in a circle with set dance steps, some quite complicated.



The other folk dance is rachenitsa, in this dance or game two people (in our case they were my husband's cousins- folk dancers) play with the bottle of red wine, the plate with pitka (round bread) and over it roast chicken, and the cake. These are presents from the new family to the best man's family. But the best man and best woman must outdance rachenitsa to take (steal) their presents. This moment is very interesting in every marriage party. Some couples don't wish to have this game, but I was firm in my decision to have this on my marriage. It is so funny and interesting. For example, during this game at our wedding, in the battle for cake, it finally ended up on the floor.



During the party our new family went about tables of the guests to say cheers and then guests give us their presents. I threw my bouquet to the unmarried ladies and whoever catches it will be the next bride. There wasn't a battle for the bouquet, the ladies stayed calm and jumped a little at the end.



But what happens when my husband took down my garter and threw it to the unmarried men, it was the last thing he gave them from me... It was an epic battle! They jumped, ran, fell down and got up again but there could be only one winner...







At the end of the party approximately 6 hours later, the best woman took off my veil and gave it to the groom's mother behind my back. One year I tried to find my bride veil in my svekarva's house but I didn't have success so I bought her a present and she returned the veil to me. If I found it, then she had to buy me a present.



“Weddings are a time to celebrate, to look forward with hope and courage and love. It was the happiest day of our lives and we will never forget and will remember it with tenderness and love.”

# Christmas In Bulgaria



Christmas Eve is just as important as Christmas Day in Bulgaria. It is also known as:

Sukha Koleda (Dry Christmas)  
Malka Koleda (Little Christmas)  
and Kadena Večer (Incensed Night)

On Christmas Eve the food is plentiful - there are always more than seven vegetarian dishes (always an odd number) The most common dishes are the round loaf, cabbage/vine leaves stuffed with rice, beans, stuffed peppers, pickles, pumpkin pie, banitsa, boiled wheat, stewed dried fruit, garlic, onions, honey, dried fruit, walnuts, apples, wine and traditional Bulgarian rakia. Once the table is laid and the house is incensed the feast may begin.

The eldest family member is in charge of incensing the house. Firstly, the table is incensed and then the rest of the house. It is believed that this process drives away the evil spirits.

In the round bread there is a hidden coin, the eldest member of the family breaks up the bread and gives a piece to everyone at the table. The person who finds the coin in his piece will have good fortune in the coming year.

There are walnuts for everyone in the family on the table, these predict what the new year will bring. Everyone cracks open their walnut - if it is delicious then their year is going to be lucky; if the walnut is empty then you can expect a very bad year!

Another tradition that brings prosperity is the yule log (badnyak), it is a three year old specially picked timber, cut down in the woods by a young male family member. It is left to burn throughout the night on Christmas Eve and this brings luck and make dreams become true.

When the meal is over the table is not cleared until the next day. The reasons for this tradition vary - some say that it is to insure that there will be plenty of food in the coming year, whilst others believe that their departed family members spirits will return to take part in the feast.



At midnight on Christmas Eve carol-singers, known as "koledari" start their rounds, these are strictly males only aged 8 upwards or non-married men. The preparations take some time as there are songs and dances to learn and costumes to decorate, which include fur hats (kalpaci) decorated with wild geranium; hooded cloaks (yamurluci), which are made to size; sandals and leggings. The purpose of this tradition known as Koleduvane is to wish health, good luck and fertility to the heads of households, to their houses, livestock and land.

The koledari group sing:

Stani nine - gospodine,  
Gospodine - bolyarine.  
Zaspal li si - sabudi se!  
Pijan li si, otrezvi se!  
Otvori ni chemshir-porti,  
Chemshir-porti, stari vrati,  
che ti idem dobri gosti,  
dobri gosti - koledare  
i ti nossim dobri vesti:  
Bog se kani da ti doide.  
Mozh li Boga da psreshtnesh  
i nagostish  
i vaz Boga sbor anghele?

The host replies:

Moga, moga, dobre doshli,  
dobre doshal, neka doide!  
Da mi sedne na trapeza,  
a pri nego - sbor anghele  
s dobri goste-koledare.



Get up Nine - Mister,  
Mister -bolyarine  
Do you sleep- wake up!  
Do you drink, become sober!  
Open the boxshrub's doors, old  
doors,  
because we come to you - good guests  
good guests - koledari  
and we bring you a good news:  
God will come to you,  
Do you can to welcome an feed and  
the God and angels?

The host replies:

I can, I can welcome,  
welcome let he come  
to sit on my table  
and with him angels with good guests  
-koledari...

N.B! Boliari are citizens of the old capital Veliko Tarnovo.

After the end of the song, the heads of the household present the group with beans, lard, meat, Christmas ring-shaped buns and small coins.



Christmas Day in Bulgaria is similar to our own, the whole family gather around the tree to open their gifts. Everyone has a special lunch, which this time includes meat, as the forty-day fasting period (no animal products or alcohol) finishes.

Everyone dresses in their best to attend the festive mass, which usually starts at 12:00 noon and afterwards, a long traditional dance called the "Horo" takes place in the village square and everyone joins in.



**“Christmas today is still a very meaningful and special family holiday in modern Bulgaria.”**

Article by Debbie Lockhart  
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# Traditional Bulgarian instruments

The traditional musical instruments of Bulgaria are:

## The Kaval

The kaval or wooden flute is similar to any woodwind instrument of its kind. It is blown into and an interesting woody sound emits from it.

The kaval was mainly played by shepherds, who needed some way to entertain themselves whilst grazing sheep

Sadly, in recent years the popularity of this instrument has declined and the number of Bulgarians who can play the kaval has dropped!

## The Gadulka

The gadulka is similar to a violin, but it only has three strings.



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It is held by a sling around the player's neck, so that the fingerboard is up near the players neck. Out of all the traditional Bulgarian instruments, the gadulka has declined in popularity the most, and is rarely heard anymore, even on folk music recordings.



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## The Gaida

The gaida is a bagpipe with one drone. The bag is commonly made of goats hide. The gaida sounds very different from its foreign brother, the Scottish bagpipe.



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## The Tupan

The tupan is a large drum which is played with a big drumstick on one side and a very thin drumstick on the other. Any person who has ever learned to play any kind of drum for "western" music, will be confused by Bulgarian rhythms, as they consist of short beats of two counts and long beats of three counts.

Other instruments which are common are **The Dumbek**, a small lap drum, **The Zurna**, a loud reed instrument, and **The Tamburitsa**, a plucked string instrument. However these are also common in Turkey, Greece, and other countries and are not solely Bulgarian.

Originally these instruments were used mostly for village dancing, and only one or occasionally two instruments would be played at a time. It is only recently that bands became popular and that instruments such as the accordion became part of the music.