

Explore Europe

Spain, Cyprus, Italy, Greece, Buulgaria

KRISTĪNE BĀRDULE MAY 25, 2020 09:34AM

Reičela Skudrovska - Spain

Famous person

Antoni Gaudí i Cornet was a Catalan architect known as the greatest exponent of Catalan Modernism. Gaudí's work was influenced by his passions in life: architecture, nature, and religion. Gaudí was not only satisfied with the decorating of the surfaces, but he designed the whole building as a sculpture, designed from a plastic point of view. In his buildings he carefully detailed each detail, including ceramic tiles and even tiles, steel wedges and grille, and Gothic sculptures that overflowed into fantastic plants, mushrooms and even water creatures.

https://lv.wikipedia.org/wiki/Antonio_Gaudi

<https://jauns.lv/raksts/skaistums/253926-kas-ir-barselonas-legenda-antonio-gaudi-dieva-arhitekts-vai-svetais>

<https://www.uzdevumi.lv/p/pasaules-vesture/9-klase/kultura-arhitektura-19-gs-beigas-20-gs-11544/re-fe6da119-d14b-4706-ac48-709978cfd6a3>



Rebeka Ķude - Spain

Festivities

Las Fallas De Valencia (Festival Of Fire)

This festival brings gigantic colorful characters out on the streets. Most of these statues or figures are mostly a result of satire or pop-culture events that have happened throughout the year.

The Fallas fiesta which takes place in Valencia from 15th to the 19th of March every year is undoubtedly one of those 'super-festivals' attracting many foreign visitors as well as Spanish tourists from all over the country.

<https://www.spanish-fiestas.com/festivals/las-fallas/>

<https://traveltriangle.com/blog/spanish-festivals/>



Spain's Las Fallas festival: A celebration of art, satire and fire
by CGTN

YOUTUBE

Ance Pakalniņa - Spain

Modern Music

Las Ketchup is a group of four girls, all of whom are four sisters. Their names are Lola, Pilara, Lucia and Rosio Muñozas from Córdoba, Andalusia, Spain. At first they were three, but now they are joined by a fourth sister. They became popular with the international hit "The Ketchup Song" in fiction and Spanish. In the summer of 2006, they became famous with the hit "Aserejé" (realized as "The Ketchup Song" in Great Britain and other countries), which entered the Top 40 of many countries, including Spain, UK, Italy, Greece, France, Finland, Sweden, Norway, Belgium, The Netherlands, Switzerland, Germany, Romania, Argentina, Mexico, the Baltics and even the United States and Puerto Rico.

https://lv.wikipedia.org/wiki/Las_Ketchup



Rūta Krūmiņa - Spain

Festivities

La Tomatina, Buñol

One of Spain's most weird and wonderful festivals takes place in the small town of Buñol, hosting 30,000 visitors in late August annually. La Tomatina invites participants to collect overripe tomatoes and throw them at each other in a ridiculous but entertaining ceremony. The games begin around 11am when a ham is placed on top of a large, greased pole and people race to climb to the top and bring it down. With the victory, the tomato throwing officially begins. It's not a competition but rather a fun opportunity for everyone to let their hair down with music, parades, dancing, and fireworks alongside the tomato fight. <https://www.omio.com/blog/10-best-festivals-in-spain/>



Sofija Lapiņa - Spain

Traditional music

The symbol of Spanish music and dance is flamenco. Flamenco is a rhythmic music that combines guitar, long-drawn singing and rhythmic dance. The beginnings of flamenco can already be found in the Moor music culture. Flamenco is characterised by leg beats performed with flamenco shoes.

<https://gnvgalaicane.wordpress.com/2011/05/02/flamenko-spanijas-muzikas-un-dejas-simbols/>



Jēkabs Balodis Spain

Traditional food

Pulpo a la gallega.

This food is really popular in Spain. It's a food with some octopus legs. The main ingredients are paprika, rock salt, and olive oil which brings out the best flavors for the octopus.

Recipe:

- 1.1 whole fresh or frozen octopus, around 2 kg.
2. 500g of Desiree or King Edward potatoes, peeled.
3. Sea salt flakes.
4. Spanish smoked paprika.
5. Extra virgin olive oil.

<https://www.expatica.com/es/lifestyle/food-drink/spanish-food-106723/>

<https://www.bascofinefoods.com/spanish-recipes/pulpo-a-la-gallega/>



Elizabeth Sudmale - Spain

Remarkable place in Spain

The Guggenheim Museum Bilbao

is a museum of modern and contemporary art designed by Canadian-American architect Frank Gehry, and located in Bilbao, Basque Country, Spain. The Guggenheim is a concrete masterpiece, featuring a top-heavy spiraling form that certainly makes for a unique space for displaying art. It is also one of the longest museums in Spain.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guggenheim_Museum_Bilbao
<https://www.architecturaldigest.com/story/you-didnt-know-new-york-city-guggenheim-museum>



Rendijs Kārklīņš - Cyprus

Modern music

Monsieur Doumani

Monsieur Doumani from Nicosia became popular in 2011. This band is known as one of the very best alternative bands on the island. Monsieur Doumani gained international recognition very fast.

In 2014 the band was nominated for 'Best Newcomer' in the acclaimed international Songlines Music Awards.

This band rearrange traditional Cypriot songs and compose their songs in the Cypriot dialect. They've played at world festivals and venues. Their music can be heard playing on international radio stations like BBC.

During their 8-year career Monsieur Doumani have received many awards:

- * the 'Best Group' Award in **Songlines Music Awards 2019**
- * the 'Critics Award' in **Andrea Parodi World Music Awards**
- * the **German Records Critics' Award** for their album 'Angathin'

<https://mycyprusinsider.com/cyprus-uncovered/music-to-your-ears-5-cypriot-bands-you-have-to-hear/>

<http://www.monsieurdoumani.com/>



Leonards Ozols - Cyprus

Famous people

Pavlos Kontides

The **first Olympic medal** won by Cyprus was at the London 2012 Olympics.

In July 2012, at the Olympic Games, Pavlos Kontides won the silver medal in sailing in Laser class.

Pavlos Kontides was born in Limassol on the 11th of February 1990. He has been sailing since the age of nine years. At fourteen he started training more seriously, turning the sport from hobby into lifestyle.

However, he is not only a top athlete, but he has also been socially active. In Cyprus, when he has time away from his sailing, Pavlos trains young athletes in sailing, he lectures primary-school students about the importance of sports in our lives and he takes part in charity events.

<https://thefactfile.org/interesting-facts-cyprus/2/>

<https://pavloskontides.com/about.php>



Leonards Ozols - Cyprus

Famous people

Singer Anna Vissi

Anna Vissi was born on December 20th, 1957 in Cyprus.

Anna Vissi is singer and songwriter. She is a Queen of the music scene. She has 141 singles, 32 albums and around 10 million sales globally.

She is also an actress, television presenter, radio personality, and businesswoman.

She is one of the most talented artists in the world. Some of her hits have charted in Russia, Austria, the US dance chart and she even had a Turkish number 1!

She has participated in the Eurovision Song Contest three times: twice for Greece and once for Cyprus.

<https://www.thefamousbirthdays.com/people/anna-vissi>
<https://neoskopos.com/en/38068/the-ten-greatest-recording-artists-from-greece-and-cyprus/>
<https://escextra.com/2019/12/24/anna-vissi-flegomenos-trohos/>



Joanna Šterna - Cyprus

Festivities

Kataclysmic and Anthestiria Flower Festival

There are many celebrations in Cyprus that are common all around the world like New Year, Easter, May Day, Independence Day (October 1st), Christmas. But there are some celebrations that are unique only in Cyprus.

One of them is **Kataclysmic festival**. It is truly Cypriot. It is organised fifty days after Easter. Kataclysmos celebrate “the flood” and salvation of humans and nature that Noah celebrates, according to the Old Testament. The festival takes place near the sea. A popular tradition is to spray each other with seawater.

Another unique celebration in Cyprus is **Anthestiria Flower Festival**. It is held each May to celebrate spring and the rebirth of man and nature. The main focus of Anthestiria Festival is the flower parade in Larnaca with stunning decorated floats and people carrying flowers, but the festival also features exhibitions, flower markets and shows.

<https://www.property-canvas.com/articles/festivals-in-cyprus>
<https://www.myguidecyprus.com/usefulinfo/important-days-and-festivals-in-cyprus>



Patrīcija Zavicka - Cyprus

Important place

Larnaka “Salt lake”

Cyprus Larnaka 'SaltLake' is a beautiful place in Cyprus. This place has a network of four salt lakes and contains many migratory bird species. In winter flamingos fly to this lake. Over the summer, high temperatures force water to evaporate. Salt was previously harvested and was one of the island's largest exports. The site is located only 4 km from Larnaka International Airport.

https://theculturetrip.com/europe/cyprus/articles/20-must-visit-places-in-cyprus/?itemCardId=hwt4lvjgcj4vse0p7wp5l&branch_match_id=791940865652133374



Rēzija Jakute - Cyprus

Traditional food

One of Cyprus traditional food is "Meze". A traditional selection of hot and cold appetizers, Meze is basically Cyprus's equivalent to tapas. To prepare this food you need a yogurt dip made with garlic, cucumber, and olive oil; Tahini, which is a paste of crushed sesame seeds, olive oil, lemon, and garlic; Taramosalata, a type of fish roe mixed with pureed potatoes, olive oil, lemon juice and onions and some more ingredients.

<https://www.escapehere.com/destination/europe/10-traditional-foods-to-enjoy-in-cyprus/>



Raivo Samausks - Italy

Modern music

Ivatore “Toto” Kutunjo was born on July 7, 1943. He is a

contemporary Italian pop singer, songwriter and musician. Toto Kutunjo was born in Fosdinovo, Tuscany. Soon after his birth, the family moved to Liguria. He won the 1992 Eurovision Song Contest with the song "Insieme". He began his musical career as a drummer, but later formed his own group. Drums weren't the only musical instrument he played. He also played the piano and he was a vocalist. Kutunjo collaborated with a French singer Joe Dasen, executing some of his most famous songs, including L' Ete Indien, Et Si You n' existais pas and Le Jardin du Luxembourg.

https://lv.wikipedia.org/wiki/Toto_Kutunjo



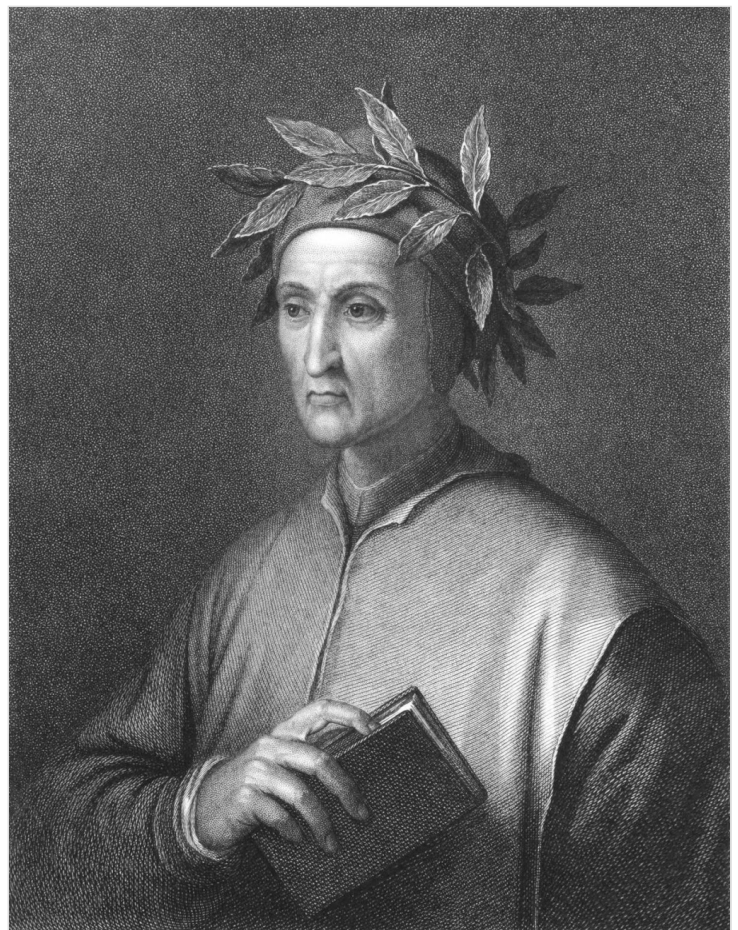
Evelina Serija - Italy

Famous people

Dante Alighieri or better known as Dante was born in May or June 1265 and died in September 1321. Dante was a poet, prose writer, literary theorist, moral philosopher and political thinker. He is considered the greatest Italian poet, best known for 'The Divine Comedy', an epic poem that is one of the world's most important works of literature. The poet is also described as the 'father' of the Italian language.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/>

<https://www.britannica.com/>



Evelina Serija - Italy

Festivities

The Ivrea Historical Carnival including the Battle of Oranges Takes place From Thursday to Wednesday in February.

The core of the celebration is the locally famous Battle of Oranges That involves townspeople being divided into nine combat teams who throw oranges at each other during the traditional carnival days: Sunday, Monday, Tuesday.

It ends on the night of Shrove Tuesday with a solemn funeral. At the end of the march everybody says goodbye with the classical fraze "arvedse a giobia a 'n bot" which means "we'll see each other on Thursday at one" referring to the Thursday the carnival will start next year.

<https://www.italybyevents.com/>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/>



Hugo Šakalis - Italy

Island Sardinia

Cagliari - is the capital city of Sardinia.

There are many peacock families in the park di Monte Urpinu.

You will find big and small slow turtles in the park di Monte Claro.

Botanical garden Botanico has more than 3000 plant species. Bonarija basilica is the biggest and the most important in Sardinia.

Sardinia traditions:

A journey of over 80 km on foot unites Sardinia. This celebration takes place from May 1 till May 4 every year.

Le cantine aperte is an old traditional celebration of the new wines. Every village celebrates this festivity in a unique way, from August till December.

<http://www.bellasardinija.com>



Edwards Grickus - Italy

Folk musical instrument

Mandolin is a small stringed musical instrument in the lute family. It evolved in the 18th century in Italy. When playing mandolin strings, touch it with your fingers, mediator, or bird feather. Traditional Italian mandolins, such as the Neapolitan mandolin, meet the necked bowl description. It commonly has four courses of doubled metal strings tuned in unison (8 strings), although five (10 strings) and six (12 strings) course versions also exist.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mandolin>

<https://www.britannica.com/art/mandolin>



Marks Oskars Tučis - Italy

Folk dance Tarantella

The tarantella is a lively folk dance performed to a distinct, upbeat musical style. Danced at weddings and other celebrations, the tarantella is a quick, energetic and festive dance. The name "tarantella" derives from the city of Taranto, Italy. The name of the tarantula spider comes from the town of Taranto as well. The choreography and name of the dance are based on an old folk belief about the effect of a poisonous spider bite. It was believed that when someone was bitten by the tarantula, the only cure would be to dance the poison out of his system. For this reason, many consider the tarantella to be a healing or medicinal dance.

<https://ourpastimes.com/the-history-of-the-laos-dance-12334026.html>

Italian tarantella,italian folk dance

by Anna Pipoyan

YOUTUBE

Sabine Dana Kļava - Italy

Traditional food.

Italy's traditional food is pasta and pizza. There are a lot of different types of pasta. It is usually eaten with Parmesan cheese. Pizza is usually eaten with mozzarella cheese. I like Italian food, especially pizza.



Estere Niedre - Italy

Verona

So in case, you wanted the ultimate romantic spot, here it is. Besides being the home of the set for *Romeo and Juliet*, a few medieval castles, Roman ruins, and specularly historic churches, it's also considered one of the most beautiful cities in Italy. The sightseeing is truly breathtaking, leave the piazzas as your escape for the end of the day to nourish yourself with the welcoming Italian cuisine.

<https://www.insidermonkey.com/blog/9-places-to-visit-in-italy-that-are-safe-and-beautiful-352180/>



Elina Viksne - Greece

Folk music

The Cretan lyra is the most popular melody instrument on the island of Crete.

Nothing is more Cretan than this ancient instrument, which according to Greek mythology, was first created by the god Hermes.

The Cretan lyra is an instrument made of wood, carved to create the sound box. It is similar to the violin. It has three strings and is played with a bow. The lyra player has to touch the strings with his nail from the side without tapping on them.

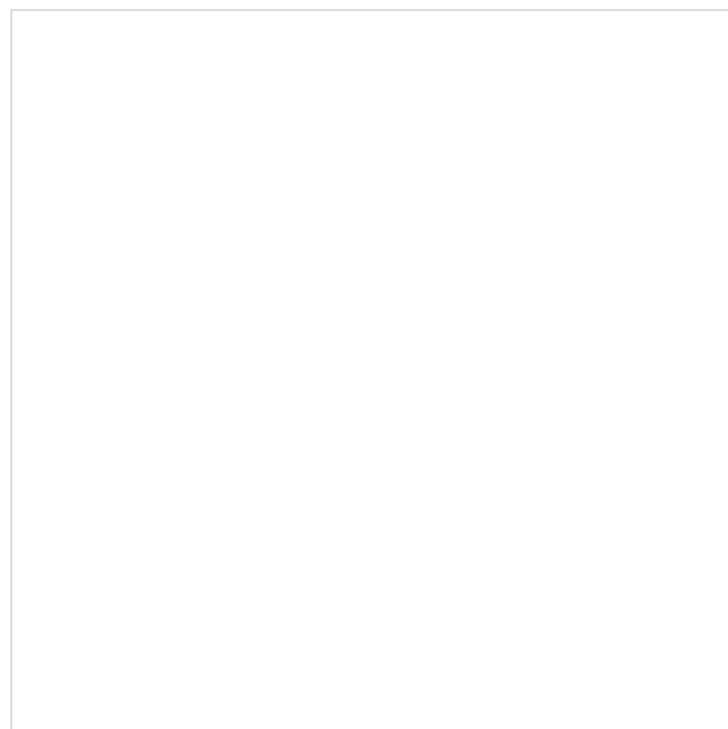
The lyra players play the lyra in an upright position. They sometimes rest it on the knee, or, if they are standing, they will put one foot up on a chair and rest the lyra on the thigh.

The province of Rethymno is very important in the history of the instrument. Rethymno is the place to find one of the finest lyra makers in Crete, Manolis Stagakis, who creates lyras for many of Crete's top professional musicians as well as international buyers. The Museum of Cretan Lyra is located in Rethymno.

<http://www.greekfolkmusicanddance.com/instruments.php>

<https://www.georgioupolihotels.com/revealing-lyra-cretan-music-gods/>

<https://www.greeksongs-greekmusic.com/traditional-stringed-instruments-in-greek-music/>



The Greek Folk Instruments: Lyra - Λύρα

by kourostatís

YOUTUBE

Laura Kļaviņa - Greece

Festivities

In Greece, the **Carnival** is called "Apokries". The festival consists of two weeks of the feast, beginning from the Sunday of Meat Fare and ends with the first day of the Lent, called *Clean Monday* (Kathari Deutera).

Everyone is costumed and parties take place in the streets and bars, throwing colored confetti to each other. The most famous

Carnival Parade takes place in the city of Patra. In many towns around Greece and in the islands, local customs revive. The Carnival is believed to come from paganism, and more precisely from the old festivities worshipping Dionysus, the god of wine and feast.

Name day celebration

Most Greeks are named after a religious saint. A very important tradition is that everyone who has a name coming from a saint celebrated by the church celebrates his name on a given day of the year. On the "name day" of someone, his friends and family visit him without invitation and offer wishes and small presents. The hostess of the house offers pastries, sweets and hors d'oeuvres to the guests. In Greece, name days are more important than birthdays.

Clean Monday or Lent Monday is the first day of the Lent (Saracosti) during which families go for a picnic in the countryside and fly kites.

Easter

Easter is the most important celebration for the Greeks, even more than Christmas. On Good Thursday or Good Saturday, women dye eggs in red and bake buns. On Good Friday, the day of mourning, the Epitaphios, the tomb of Christ with its icon, decorated with flowers, is taken out of the church and carried around the village followed by a slow procession. After the procession returns to the church where the believers kiss the image of the Christ.

During the night of the Holy Saturday (Megalo Savato), everybody dresses well and goes to the church. Corfu island is the most famous place for Easter.

(Found this on www.greeka.com

<https://www.greeka.com/greece-culture/traditions/>)



Rūta Vaivode - Greece

Modern music

One of the most popular Greek modern singers is **Filippos Pliatsikas**. He started his career in 1989 in the group "**Pix Lax**". From 2004 he sings by himself, because the group broke up. In 2011, Pix Lax reunited. These old friends reunited on stage for a series of shows.

He has bunch of gold and platinum records. He has collaborated with famous singers like R.E.M, Sting and many more. Now he's still active and makes music.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Filippos_Pliatsikas



Filippos Pliatsikas - Pigeno Monos (Live) - YouTube.MP4

by GetGreekMusic

VIMEO

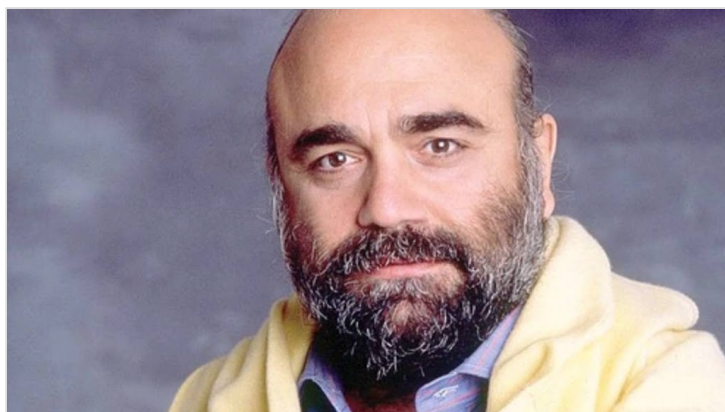
Daniela Krušatina - Greece

Famous people

Demis Roussos is a creative pseudonym for the famous Greek singer Artemios Venturis. During his long and successful career, he managed to publish more than 40 solo music albums. The young man's real musical career began in 1963, when he and his two friends formed their own band.

Believing in his musical powers and making sure the band limits the creative space, Artemios left the team, picked up the pseudonym "Demis Roussos" and began his solo career. Some songs, such as "Happy to be on the island in the Sun", climbed to the top of the world's music charts, and some were not sold in a hundred copies. The musician died in 2015 in the Greek capital Athens, where he was buried. From the Internet

<https://en.fullersociety.com>



Nika, Sokolova - Greece

Traditional dishes

Moussaka is one of the most traditional Greek dishes. It is a casserole made of fried eggplant slices, tomatoes and meat. Between the layers of eggplant, tomato and minced meat, there is a Béchamel or white sauce.

It consists of three layers - the first is eggplant fried in olive oil, the second - minced meat fried in tomatoes, and the last - creamy Béchamel sauce.

There are many of versions of moussaka. Sometimes the meat is lamb, sometimes it is beef and in other recipes it is a mix of both.

<https://www.delfi.lv/tasty/jaunumi/10-grieku-virtuves-edieni->

[kas-obligati-janobauda-atvalinajuma-laika.d?](https://www.delfi.lv/tasty/jaunumi/10-grieku-virtuves-edieni-)

[id=47801499&page=1](https://www.delfi.lv/tasty/jaunumi/10-grieku-virtuves-edieni-)

<https://flymetothemoontravel.com/history-moussaka-delicious-taste-greece/>



Luize Dimza - Greece

Important places

Acropolis of Athens

is notable for its ancient architecture. The **Parthenon** is the religious center of Athens. It is located on a mountain in the center of Acropolis.

22,000 tons of marble were used to build the entrance gate and the Parthenon.

The sculpture was covered with gold and ivory. The sculpture was created by the sculptor Feidi. The group of sculptures on one side tells the story of the birth of Athens. The other side depicts the fight between the goddess Athens and Poseidon for the power to rule over the city of Athens.

"Skolēna enciklopēdija", apgāds Zvaigzne ABC, 2014.



Markuss Nerets - Bulgaria

The most prominent place

MADARA RIDER.

Madara Rider is a unique relief, an exceptional work of art, created during the first years of the formation of the Bulgarian State, at the beginning of the 8th century. It is the only relief of its kind, having no parallel in Europe. It has survived in its authentic state, with no alternation in the past or the present.

The Madara Rider, representing the figure of a knight triumphing over a lion, is carved into a 100-m-high cliff near the village of Madara in north-east Bulgaria. Madara was the principal sacred place of the First Bulgarian Empire before Bulgaria's conversion to Christianity in the 9th century. The inscriptions beside the sculpture tell of events that occurred between AD 705 and 801.

<https://visitmybulgaria.com/20-places-you-need-to-visit-in-bulgaria/>

<https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/43/>



Madara in north-eastern Bulgaria. Madara was the principal sacred place of the First Bulgarian Empire.

Madara Rider

by GlobusMediaGroup

YOUTUBE

Mārtiņš Lubiņš - Bulgaria

Folk music

Bulgarian folk music is unique in its complex harmonies and highly irregular rhythms. These kinds of rhythms were introduced to musicologists only in 1886 when music teacher Anastas Stoyan published Bulgarian folk melodies for the first time.

Bulgarian vocal style has a unique throat quality, their voices are low and soprano and children love singing.

Musical instruments (also characteristic of the whole Balkan region) include gaida (bagpipe), kaval (rim-blown flute), zurna or zurla (another woodwind), tambura (guitar-like), gadulka (violin-like), and tapan (large two-sided drum).

Dances have complex steps matching the rhythm, and are often fast. Most are circle-dances or line dances called horo; but some are done singly or in pairs, like the 7/8 dance Rachenitsa.

Although traditional music and dance are not popular among Bulgarian city youth, they are often performed at weddings, and generally countryside fiests.

Source of information:

<http://mm-travel.eu/en/bulgarian-folk-music/>



Трио Българка - Заплакала е гората / Trio Bulgarka - The Forest Is Crying (Full Album)

by forgotten realms

YOUTUBE

Markuss Augustovskis - Bulgaria

Traditional food

Tarator (Cucumber Soup) is one of the traditional Bulgarian dishes. It is prepared mainly in the summer months, because it has a cooling effect, but many people prepare it all year long.

In the various parts of the country you can taste various recipes for making tarator.

In its essence, tarator is a cold soup.

INGREDIENTS

Nutrition

2 cucumbers (about 500 g or 1 lb)

500g plain yogurt (1 lb)

3-4 garlic cloves

2-3 tablespoons of crushed walnuts (optional)

bunch of fresh dills

oil

salt

water (optional)

DIRECTIONS

Cut the cucumbers into cubes and put them in a bowl.

Beat the yogurt with a fork until it gets liquid and pour it over the cucumbers.

Add the crushed garlic, the walnuts and the minced dill as well as salt and oil to taste.

If needed add some water to make the soup as liquid as you like but take care not to make it too "thin".

Put into the refrigerator to cool or add ice cubes.

<https://www.food.com/recipe/tarator-bulgarian-cold-cucumber-soup-62181>

<https://visitmybulgaria.com/bulgarian-must-eat-foods-12-delicacies-not-to-be-missed/>



Alise Anženko - Bulgaria

Folk musik

Many Bulgarian dances are line dances, with the dancers holding hands in a straight or curved line, facing in toward the center of the dance space. Originally men and women danced in separate lines in which the last woman and first man held opposite ends of a handkerchief, but today men and women often dance in mixed lines. Several different handholds are used in the different dances. Some types of line dancing are Tropanka, Lesnoto, Pravo horo, etc.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bulgarian_dances#List_of_Bulgarian_folk_dances

Beāte Patrīcija Saule - Bulgaria

Traditions, holidays and events

December 6 in Bulgaria is Nikulden day, families invite relatives, neighbors and other people for a meal of fish, usually its ribnik or a carp wrapped in dough, also they have 2 loaves of ceremonial bread which has been blessed at church or at home

Link: <https://www.foreigner.bg/bulgarian-traditional-celebrations/>

In photo: Carp wrapped in dough.



Sofija Ziverte - Bulgaria

Modern music

Krisia Todorova is a popular Bulgarian teenage singer, she is also a composer and a music writer. She became famous after performing at Junior Eurovision song contest 2014. After gaining second place in that contest, her popularity grew. Krisia started learning about music from a very young age. She usually writes pop rock music. She has other hobbies like dancing and drawing. Her favourite dance style is classical ballet. Todorova Also gained popularity by being an actress. She has won several awards and recognitions through her short yet hardworking career. Krisia is pursuing her studies and also training in music.

Information source:

<https://www.thefamouspeople.com/profiles/krisia-todorova-41482.php>



Roberts Untulis - Bulgaria

Famous people

Hristo Stoichkov is a retired Bulgarian international footballer.

He is generally regarded as one of the most talented players of his generation and widely considered the greatest Bulgarian footballer of all-time. He has played as a forward for clubs as well as for his country. He has been nominated twice as runner up for the FIFA World Player of the Year. Aside from this, he was the winner of the prestigious Ballon d'Or as well. Furthermore, in 2004, the legendary Pele had inducted him into the list of FIFA 100 which is comprised of the world's greatest living players. Along with being a very talented player, he was also a quite controversial one. He was notorious for his bad temper which affected his relationship with his fellow players and even the referees. Deportes, a Spanish language broadcast television network. He is 54 years old.

<https://www.thefamouspeople.com/profiles/hristo-stoichkov-35197>



Roberts Untulis - Bulgaria

Traditional holidays and events

Chasing the cross into the freezing waters: Jordan's Day on Epiphany

On 6 January each year, Christian Bulgarians mark Epiphany and the Baptism of Jesus, locally known as Jordan's Day (Йордановден, *Yordanovden*), with some rather manly traditions that make use of the icy winter waters. According to one

custom, a priest throws a cross into a river or lake and all willing men jump after the cross in a competition to reach and retrieve it. The saying goes that whoever catches the cross will be happy and healthy throughout the year.

Another Jordan's Day tradition is the **icy round dance**. Rather than chasing a cross, this involves men dancing in a freezing river to traditional Bulgarian tunes. This custom is best associated with the town of Kalefor, though it has been practiced in other places as well.

<https://www.kashkaval-tourist.com/7-unusual-bulgarian-customs-traditions/>



Nikola Anna Slavika - Bulgaria

Traditional holidays and events

March 1: Baba Marta

Baba Marta, or Grandmother March, is marked by the giving of red and white Martenitsa—red and white tassels that are handmade or sold by street vendors. The colors symbolize blood and snow, and Bulgarians put these tassels on their clothing to ensure good health and prosperity.

<https://www.tripsavvy.com/bulgaria-holidays-1501248>

