

Holidays in Russia

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Every country has customs and traditions. I want to tell you about some holidays and traditions of my country. Russians really love holidays.

We usually celebrate them with a lot of food, presents and in big companies of

There are three types of holidays in Russia:

**state
holidays**

**religious
holidays**

**family
holidays**

Religious holidays include Christmas, Easter and others.



Christmas

We celebrate Christmas on the 7th of January. On the 6th of January people cook much food because the day after we must not work. On this day we have a sacred supper. It begins when the first star lights up. As the legend says, this star announced the birth of the Gods Son.

We celebrate Christmas for two days. In the evening a group of boys comes. They sing songs. By these songs they congratulate on holiday.



Easter

Another religious holiday is Easter. It is movable. It is usually the first Sunday after the first full moon after the beginning of spring. In Russia we have special attributes of Easter: Easter eggs, and Easter "paska" that are baked according to the special recipe. It is a very nice spring holiday.

Happy Easter



There is also a pagan holiday —
Shrovetide or Pancake Day.



Shrovetide is an ancient Russian holiday which dates back to the 9-th century. This holiday lasts for a week. Russian people celebrate it at the end of February or at the beginning of March. They say "good-bye" to winter in these days. It is an old tradition to cook pancakes.



A pancake is the symbol of the sun. Shrovetide is the most cheerful of all Russian holidays. Each day of Shrovetide has its own rituals. Usually this holiday is celebrated in parks and squares. People dance, sing, toboggan, build ice sculptures. People prepare fires and burn straw scarecrows of winter. On Sunday during Shrovetide, they forgive people for their offences. We like this old Russian tradition.

Family holidays

Let me tell you about family holidays. They include birthdays, anniversaries, weddings and others. Each family has its own traditions of celebrating this or that holiday. For example, my family celebrates my birthday for two days. On the first day I celebrate it with my parents, grandparents, my uncle and aunt. The second day of celebration is only for my close friends. They usually come in a big group with a lot of presents. I like my birthday very much.



I like Russian holidays!!!

