

Link video : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xqaLbHz5FXc>

Maslenitsa Festival

About: **Maslenitsa Festival** is Traditional Russian customs during the Pancake Week In the old days Maslenitsa was for remembrance of the dead. So the burning of the figure of Maslenitsa means her funeral, and blini (pancakes) – coliphia. But with time the Russians longing for fun and entertainment turned the sad holiday into jolly Maslenitsa with blini - round, yellow and hot as the sun, sledding and horse sleigh riding, fistfights and mother-in-law chatting. The rituals of Maslenitsa are very unusual and interesting because they combine the end of the winter holiday rituals and the opening of new spring festivals and ceremonies, which were to promote a rich harvest.



History: Perhaps the most cheerful holiday in Russia is the Pancake week (Shrovetide). This holiday is considered to come from pre-Christian times, when the Slavs were still pagans. Maslenitsa is celebrated during the week preceding the Lent. Every day of Maslenitsa was devoted to special rituals.



Activities :

- **On Monday Maslenitsa was welcomed. On that day people made the straw-stuffed figure of Winter, dressed it in old women's clothing and singing carried it on sleigh around the village.**
- Tuesday was called "zaigrysh" (game day). From that day on the whole village started all sorts of activities: sleigh riding, folk festivals, skomorokh (traveling actors) and puppet shows.
- Wednesday - gourmand – opened feasts in houses with blini and other dishes. Each household had tables with delicious food, baked pancakes, and brewed beer
- thursday – revelry – came the climax of games and fun. It was then that the hottest fistfights took place.
- Friday it was their turn to arrange evenings with blini. On the day before mothers-in-law had to send to their sons-in-law homes everything necessary for blini making: pans, ladles etc., and fathers-in-law sent a bag of buckwheat and some butter
- Saturday was devoted to the visits of relatives paid to young wives.
- Sunday was named "forgiveness". On that day people asked each other for forgiveness for all grievances and troubles; in the evening people went to cemeteries and "bid farewell" to the dead.
- Maslenitsa ended with the first day of the Lent – Clean Monday, which was considered the day of purification from sin and fast forbidden food

