

WORLD BOX

BULGARIA & KUKERI DANCING

Travel the World of Faiths and Festivals.

Kukeri Dancing

Once a year, people all across the country will dress as these strange creatures to enter into parades and dancing to protect villages from evil spirits.

There are few kukeri festivals in different regions of Bulgaria, the biggest one in Pernik.

[Click here](#) to watch a short film featuring Kukeri Dancers.



Christmas in Bulgaria:

In Bulgaria Christmas is celebrated on December 25th, although many countries in Eastern Europe celebrate Christmas on January 7th. Christmas Eve (called 'Budni Vecher') is a very important day and the main Christmas meal is eaten in the evening of Christmas Eve.

The meal should traditionally have an odd number of dishes in it (normally 7, 9 or 11) and an odd number of people sitting around the table. Straw is often put under the tablecloth and you might even bring a wooden plough into the house and put it behind the door! These are meant to help you have good crops during the next year.

There's a special round and decorated loaf of bread called 'pita' which has a coin baked in it. If you find the coin you're meant to have good luck for the next year!

The bread is normally cut by the oldest person at the meal and they hand it around the table.

Walnuts are especially popular. If your walnut is delicious you will have a good year, but if it's empty or has a small nut you'll have a bad year!

It's traditional that the table is left with all the food on it until Christmas Day. Some people think their ancestors might like something to eat during the night!

Christmas Trees are now popular in Bulgaria and towns are decorated with Christmas lights.

Some people still have a traditional Yule Log known as a "Badnik" which is brought into the house on Christmas Eve.



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