INTERNATIONAL TOURISM

The Department of Intercultural Communication and International Tourism

April, 2023



What's new?

On April 14, 2023, the students of our department took part in a round table "Cultural and historical attractions of the Gomel region of the Republic of Belarus and the Arkhangelsk region of the Russian Federation", organized online with the Department of English Philology, Languages of Northern Countries and Linguistics of M.V. Lomonosov Northern (Arctic) Federal University.

We prepared presentations in English about the national attractions in order to introduce the tourist potential of these regions. We also could ask questions and exchange comments about tourism of the Arkhangelsk region, industry of the city of Severodvinsk, as well as about the Novodvinsk fortress, which became the first fortification of the new bastion type in Russia.

It was quite an engaging event for us and we expressed the intention to organize interaction between students for the purpose of further communication, and exchange of educational experience.





Unique Easter Traditions That Show How the Holiday Is Celebrated Around the World

Easter is a holiday celebrated around the globe. And while some people may celebrate it in a familiar way that includes **Easter traditions** like tracking the Easter bunny or decorating Easter eggs, there's a whole world of other ways people mark the holiday.

In this issue we are going to present only some of the traditions. Let's start with **the Philippines.** It is a mostly Catholic country, so it makes sense that its inhabitants take Easter very seriously. Each year on Good Friday, a handful of people in San Pedro Cutud are nailed to crosses to honor Jesus' crucifixion. Though the Catholic Church has frowned upon these practices, it's an annual tradition that brings in thousands of tourists.



They're not the only ones, in **Mexico**, most of the more elaborate *Semana Santa* (Holy Week) celebrations include dramatic reenactments of the capture, trial, and crucifixion of Jesus. It's considered a great honor to take part in the productions. In more devout regions, such as Taxco, the reenactments include *penitentes* — individuals who show their penitence and prove their faith by inflicting physical pain on their bodies by whipping themselves or carrying large religious objects on their backs.

Papua New Guinea has found a creative replacement for chocolate Easter eggs, which wouldn't last long in the heat. They use trees and branches near churches as hooks to hang tobacco and cigarettes, which are then given to congregants after church services on Easter Sunday.

Those who live in **Norway** like to spend their Easter cozying up to a good book, according to Visit Norway. Many people use the holiday to hunker down in a cabin, ski, and read crime novels (or watch crime shows on television).

The tradition is said to have started in 1923 when a book publisher promoted its new crime novel on the front pages of newspapers. The ads resembled news so much that people didn't know it was a publicity stunt, so it received massive attention. The rest, they say, is history. It also helps that in Norway, there's plenty of time to relax and read, thanks to the length of the Easter holiday season.



In a particularly unique tradition, **Czech** boys tie ribbons to willow branch whips on Easter Monday and gently "whip" girls to wish them good luck and health. The practice isn't well received by all, with many Czech women disagreeing with the enduring Easter custom. Unfortunately for them, many believe it's an important piece of folklore and culture.



On the morning of Holy Saturday, the traditional "pot throwing" takes place on the **Greek island of Corfu**. People throw pots, pans, and other earthenware often filled with water out of their windows where they crash down to the street below. Some say the custom derives from the Venetians, who on New Year's Day used to throw out all of their old items. Others believe the throwing of the pots welcomes spring, symbolizing the new crops that will be gathered in the new pots.



In **Poland**, pouring water on one another is an Easter tradition called Śmigusdyngus, a.k.a. Wet Monday. People gather on Easter Monday to try and drench each other with buckets of water, squirt guns, or anything they can get their hands on. Legend says girls who get soaked on Wet Monday will marry within the year.

"Sprinkling," a popular Easter tradition in **Hungary**, is observed on Easter Monday, also known as "Ducking Monday." Boys playfully sprinkle perfume or perfumed water on girls after getting their permission to do so and sometimes even ask for a kiss. People used to believe that water had a cleaning, healing, and fertility-inducing effect.

To be continued

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