

BULGARIAN TRADITIONS

Tsvetnitsa in Lovech



Erasmus + programme

KA2 PROJECT

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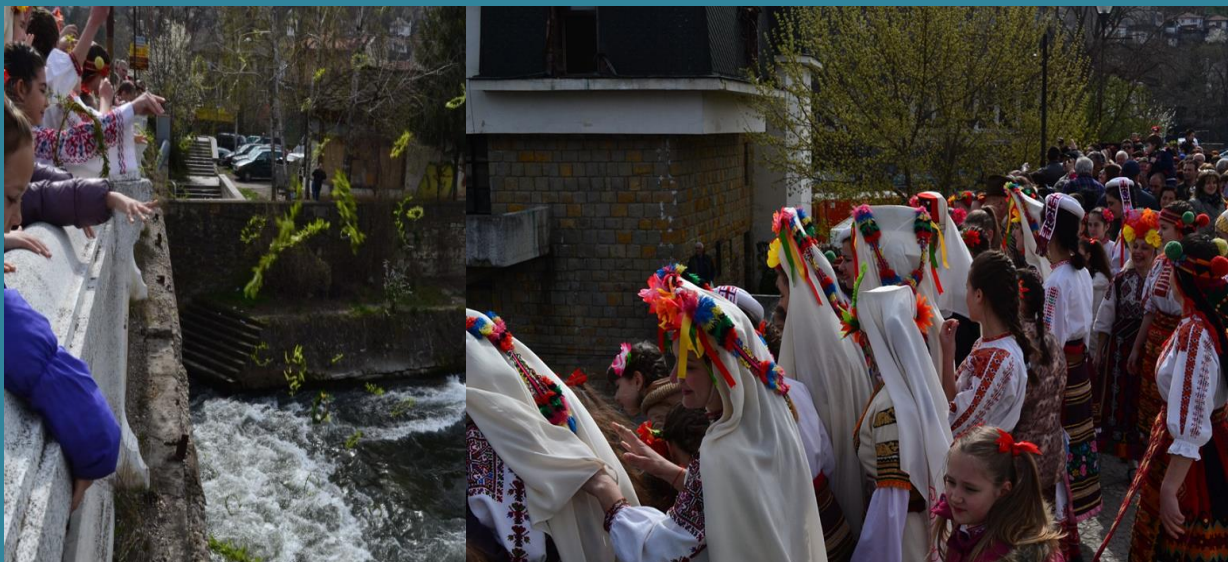


Tsvetnitsa, or Vrabnitsa, (Palm Sunday) is a week before Easter, and it is one of the biggest Bulgarian holidays. The “holiday of flowers and trees” is rich in a variety of customs, songs and melodies.





Tsvetnitsa is held annually on the last Sunday before Easter. Being one of the most beautiful spring holidays, it celebrates the day when Jesus Christ entered Jerusalem, welcomed with palms and olive branches. Bulgarian Orthodox tradition uses more readily-available willow branches instead of palm ones, and people wind them into small wreaths they put on the heads of the children for health and blessing.





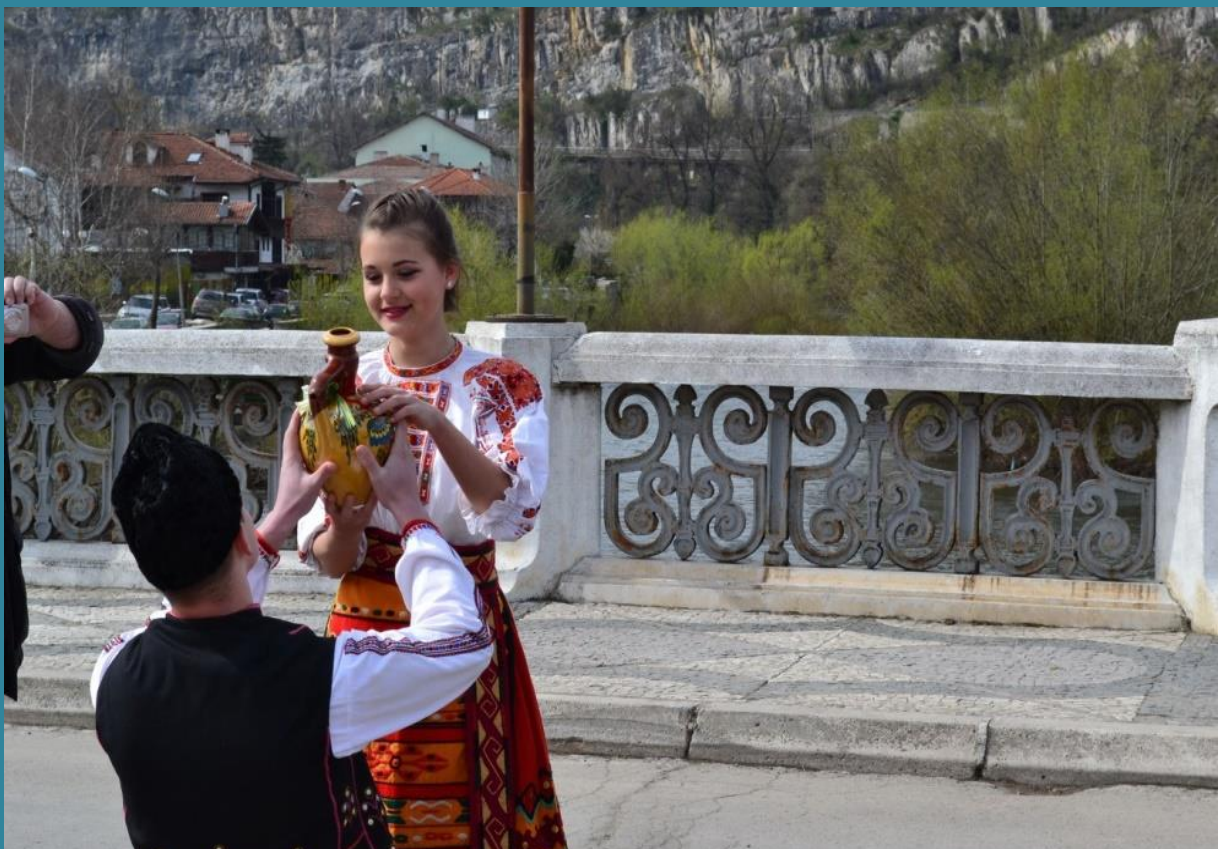
The Lazarovden ceremonies are among the best-loved Bulgarian traditions. The Saturday before Easter is a festival devoted to young girls, pastures, fields and woods.





In Bulgaria's village communities, Lazarovden was quite an event in the life of every young girl, for then she could

demonstrate to the townspeople that she had already grown to be a "complete maiden". The girls would gather in groups of about ten at the house of the prettiest one and start from there with their songs to make a round of the village. The songs praise the beauty of the maiden and her lover, the industry of the farmer, the purity of maternal love and express wishes for happiness and prosperity.



Since the end of the nineteenth century, two great Christian celebrations - Lazarovden and Tsvetnitsa - gather hundreds of people in the old quarter of Lovech - Varosha. For a whole week, local craftsmen demonstrate, and sell, their colourful pottery, handmade souvenirs, embroidery, and other pieces of applied art.



And, of course, there are a lot of flowers for sale everywhere.



Following the national tradition, the citizens of Lovech celebrate Tsvetnitsa by adding some extra splendour to the local events; it has become the most expected event throughout the cultural calendar of the town.



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People named after flowers, plants or trees celebrate their name day on Tsvetnitsa, and name days in Bulgaria are as important as any other festive occasion to have great moments with relatives and friends!





Thank you for your
attention!

