

WHERE DO I BELONG 2017



ARE YOU EU WARE



**SIMONA
SLOVAKIA**

**SOFIA
CYPRUS**

**RESUL
TURKEY**

**YASSIN
BELGIUM**

**EFE
TURKEY**

**ECE
TURKEY**



SLOVAKIA

To burn or drown Morena to bury the winter, to jump over a bonfire in the Midsummer Night to bring the rain, to put up the maypole by a young man for the girl he loves, or just to meditate in the quiet of candlelight during All-Hallow's Day.

Many of the customs have survived to the present day. Let me tell you about one in particular, **ŠIBAČKA**. This custom, spread all over the territory of Slovakia, is performed on the last day of Easter – Easter Monday. This day is associated with a lot of fun and laugh, but only if you are not a girl. Otherwise you will be whipped with a willow rod, chased and bathed with freezing water. But on the other side, it will provide you health and beauty for the rest of the year, so it worth it, right? In return, young men receive painted Easter eggs and coloured ribbons on their rods.

Every custom and tradition always had a regional character, but as our predecessors were living in close connection with nature, all the customs and traditions of the Slovak nation are very closely linked to it.

Upálenie, či utopenie Moreny pre pochovanie zimy, preskakovanie vatry počas Svätójánskej noci pre privolanie dažďa, stavanie Mája mládencom pre dievča, ktoré miluje, alebo len rozjímanie v tichu svetla sviečok na Sviatok všetkých svätých.

Množstvo zvykov pretrvalo dodnes. Rada by som vám povedala obzvlášť o jednej – o ŠIBAČKE. Tento zvyk, rozšírený po celom území Slovenska, sa uskutočňuje v posledný Veľkonočný deň – Veľkonočný pondelok. Tento deň sa spája s množstvom smiechu a zábavy, ale iba pre mládenčov. Tí dievčatá vyšibú korbáčmi z víbového prútia, naháňajú a oblievajú ľadovou vodou. Na druhej strane, toto dievčatám zabezpečí zdravie a krásu po celý rok, takže to stojí za to, však? Na oblátku, mládenci obdržia výslužku – kraslice a farebné stužky na ich korbáče.

Všetky zvyky a tradície mali a stále majú regionálny charakter, avšak vzhľadom na to, že naši predkovia žili v úzkom kontakte s prírodou, všetky zvyky a tradície Slovenského národa sú s ňou veľmi úzko späté.



TURKEY

Our country where we have been living in play host to many civilizations for many years. That's why, we have a wide culture.

Our culture which comes from past still influence our lives in present. Especially, our food and celebrations influence our daily lives. For instance, "Hünker Beğendi" that is based on Abdülaziz who is one of the Ottoman Sultans. The food is loved and eaten by the people in our country.

Our celebrations continue in the same way like we protect our culture in numerous fields. Our feast celebrations, asking for the girl's hand in marriage culture, dance culture are still lived by almost all people in our country. For example, on April 23 National Sovereignty and Children's Day, we invite to many children from all over the world.

At times even though there is a little conflict, as a nation we protect our culture.

Bulduğumuz topraklar, uzun yıllardır birçok medeniyete ev sahipliği yapmıştır. Bu yüzden oldukça geniş bir kültüre sahibiz.

Geçmişten gelen kültürümüz hala etkisini sürdürmektedir. Özellikle yemeklerimiz ve kutlamalarımız günlük hayatımızda hala geçerlidir. Mesela, tarihi Osmanlı Padişahı olan Abdülaziz'e dayanan "Hünker Beğendi" yemeğimiz hala halk tarafından çok beğenilip yenilmektedir.

Birçok alanda kültürümüzü koruduğumuz gibi kutlamalarımız da aynı şekilde devam etmektedir. Bayram kutlamalarımız, kız isteme adetimiz dans kültürümüz etkisini hala sürdürmektedir. Örneğin, 23 Nisan Ulusal Egemenlik ve Çocuk Bayramında dünya genelinden çocukları ülkemize davet ederiz.

Zaman zaman ufak kültür çatışmaları yaşansa da genel anlamda baktığımız takdirde kültürümüze oldukça sahip çıkıyoruz.

BELGIUM

The majority of people don't know our Belgian traditions and customs. Most of the time people talk about our fries, beers, chocolate and our complex political system. Even if this is understandable, Belgium is just a 'small fry' compared to all those European giants, our country does offer so much more. Belgium has always had a rich culture. You can see this both in our big cities and in our smaller cities and villages. When people do a quick research on our country, they'll likely find our (very) old traditions and customs. People find things like: pigeon racing, multiple religious processions, tartes from Geraardsbergen, syrup from Liège, cuberdons from Ghent, etc.

Some traditions and customs are flexible by nature. In other words, they evolve with their time. This is quite clear during the carnivals of Aalst and Binche. You have both the traditional clothing/ costumes and the more modern ones.

Another example are the different giants we have, that are all different depending where you live. On the one hand you have old rulers, religious figures, local figures in traditional clothing (weavers, hunters, etc.) and on the other hand you also have giants with mobile phones, modern clothes or they represent some present-day local figure. In other words, you also have a representation of the actual society.

Other traditions and customs stop existing or new ones are created. An example of a dying tradition is making roosters sing. But since Belgium became a big melting pot, we gained a lot of new traditions and customs from foreign countries that are part of our culture. For example: Hanukkah, the fasting during Ramadan, Afghan and Moroccan folktales and lots more.

Last but not least we also create new traditions and customs. Examples that were recently created: are the festival-culture, the SMS-language, etc.

It's the sum from all of the above that makes Belgium so rich in traditions and cultures.

Dutch version–

De meeste mensen kennen onze Belgische tradities en gebruiken niet. Meestal spreekt men enkel over onze frieten, bieren, chocolade en ons ingewikkeld politiek systeem. Hoewel dit verstaanbaar is, België is uiteindelijk niet zo groot vergeleken met al die Europese reuzen, heeft ons land zoveel meer te bieden. Sinds jaar en dag heeft België een rijke cultuur. Dit zie je zowel in onze grote steden als in onze kleinere gemeenten en dorpen. Als men snel zaken opzoekt over ons land zijn het vooral de 'oer'-oude gebruiken en tradities. Men vindt dan zaken zoals: de duivensportcultuur, de verschillende religieuze processies, Geraardsbergse mattentaarten, Luikse siroop, Gentse neuzen, enz.

Enkele tradities en gebruiken zijn ook flexibel van aard. Met andere woorden evolueren ze met hun tijd. Dit merk je vooral bij de carnavals zoals de carnavals van Aalst en Binche. Er zijn zowel de traditionele, alsook nieuwe (modernere) kostuums. Een ander voorbeeld zijn de verschillende reuzen die we hebben, die trouwens allemaal verschillen van gemeente tot gemeente. Enerzijds heb je oude heersers, religieuze figuren, lokale figuren in folkloristische klederdracht (wevers, jagers, etc.) en anderzijds heb je ook reuzen met gsm's, moderne kledij of het zijn hedendaagse lokale figuren, met andere woorden heb je dus een weerspiegeling van de huidige maatschappij.

Soms stoppen ze ook met bestaan en soms komen er ook nieuwe bij. Een voorbeeld van een uitstervende traditie is bijvoorbeeld het hanenzetten. Maar omdat België ook één grote smeltkroes is, komen er héél wat nieuwe tradities en gebruiken uit het buitenland die de dag van vandaag deel uitmaken van onze cultuur. Zo mogen wij het Joodse Chanoeka en het vasten tijdens de ramadan erbij rekenen. Zo-ook Afghaanse en Marokkaanse volksverhalen en talloze andere zaken. Daarnaast hebben we ook gebruiken en tradities die in eigen land recentelijk zijn ontstaan, zoals jongerentaal, sms-taal, de festivalcultuur, enz.

Het is heel deze optelsom dat België zo'n rijk land maakt.

French version –

La majorité des gens ne connaissent pas nos traditions et coutumes belges. La plus part du temps on ne parle que de nos frites, bières, chocolats et de notre système politique compliqué. Bien que ceci est compréhensible, la Belgique n'est qu'un petit point comparé à ces géants européens, notre pays a plusieurs choses à offrir. La Belgique a toujours eu une culture très riche. Et cela se voit aussi bien dans nos grandes villes, que dans nos plus petites communes et nos villages. Si on fait une recherche rapide sur notre pays, on trouvera très vite de vieilles et anciennes traditions et coutumes. Comme par exemple : la colombophilie, plusieurs processions religieuses, les tartes au maton de Grammont, le sirop de Liège, les cuberdons, etc.

Quelques traditions et coutumes sont aussi flexible de nature. En d'autres mots, elles évoluent avec le temps. Cela se voit par exemple pendant les carnavals de Binche et d'Alost. Il y a des costumes traditionnels, mais en même temps aussi des costumes beaucoup plus modernes. Un autre exemple sont les géants, différent de ville en ville. D'un côté il y a des anciens souverains, des personnes religieuses, des personnes en costumes folkloriques (tisseurs, chasseurs, etc.) et d'un autre côté il y a des géants avec des téléphones, en costumes plus modernes ou ils représentent des personnes locaux du présent. Il y a donc une réflexion de la société actuelle.

Parfois il arrive que des traditions et/ou costumes n'existent plus. Il arrive parfois aussi qu'on en crée de nouvelles. Un exemple d'une tradition qui s'éteint est faire chanter les coqs. Mais puisque la Belgique est un creuset de cultures, nous avons pu acquérir plusieurs de nouvelles traditions et coutumes venant de l'étranger. Ceux-là font maintenant tous partie de notre culture. Il y a par exemple la fête de la lumière, le jeûne pendant le mois du Ramadan, les contes d'Afghanistan et du Maroc et plusieurs autres.

Nous avons aussi de nouvelles traditions et coutumes qui sont créés récemment, comme nos festivals, le langage des jeunes, le langage de texto, etc.

C'est cette addition qui rend la Belgique aussi riche.

DO NOT FORGET TO EMBRACE

It seems that conflicts start with the differences we have as nations and as personalities. This might be true as often our customs and traditions are strong and we are proud of our lives.

So does that mean that we shouldn't have those traditions and customs? I believe that we should. It's actually impossible not to be different in any way. Not having a unique identity as an individual or as a Nation.

Culture influences people's lives in many ways, including where they decide to stay, what they do, their perception of education, what employment they consider suitable, their behaviors, their accent, what they read or what they do for entertainment. In addition, culture has a huge impact on human lives in regard to what people wear, say or find humorous.

Different groups of people have their own ways of doing things. Through culture, people develop a sense of belonging, personal growth and the capacity to empathize and associate with others.

Conflicts are created by narrow-mindedness in most cases, besides political manipulations using propagandas, that again is only possible because of lack of education.

A very simple way to help the unnecessary conflicts is actually getting together, especially the young people. Meet people and try to listen to them and anyone can find at least one similarity and make the rest differences actually interesting.

So before you judge any person just think how much do you know about them and generally, how aware are you?

FIND THE WORDS !

T U R K E Y I F T B E B P M
G G M O T A I K A V O L S S
E Q U C J P A L I N K A J U
N O I T I D A R T C J A L R
T Y G L Q Q B O F H M Q U P
S U L O L G K S P I V K A Y
E S E U G R G V B B I F P C
F S B K K I X B X A M G R R
E G G O G O O A A T U E A A
E Z G U F Q Q H Q C O C L C
S I Y M Q T L H N H L I I H
T H U T M V T G T K L H N T
E M E R X E J X L A A J E Q
N P H P A B E K U P H P S B

BELGIUM
CHIBATCHKA
CYPRUS
GENTSE FEESTEN
HALLOUMI
KEBAP

LOUKOUM
PALINKA
PRALINES
SLOVAKIA
TRADITION
TURKEY