

By:  
Andriana  
Angelina  
Andriy  
Vlada  
Cris

# Ukraine



# INTRODUCTION:

Ukraine is the largest country in Europe that is not made up of island. It is located in Eastern Europe and shares borders with Russia, Belarus, Poland, the black sea and some more. About 40 million people live in Ukraine, and the main language is Ukrainian. Its culture is diverse and rich in traditions. The climate is continental, meaning cold winters and warm summers. Areas near the Black sea have milder winters. Ukraine's location and natural features have played an important role in its history

# Monuments

Ukraine is very rich in terms of monuments and architecture, since it has had many changes throughout history and there are many examples that no longer exist in the world.

Some of the most important monuments are the cathedrals, such as the Cathedral of Saint Sophia, Saint Vladimir or Saint Andrew.

Let's not forget the statue of the motherland, considered the most important statue in Ukraine as it represents strength and freedom.

Also the golden gate, which was built by Yaroslav the wise, with which he wanted to show that his country was just as powerful as the Byzantine empire.

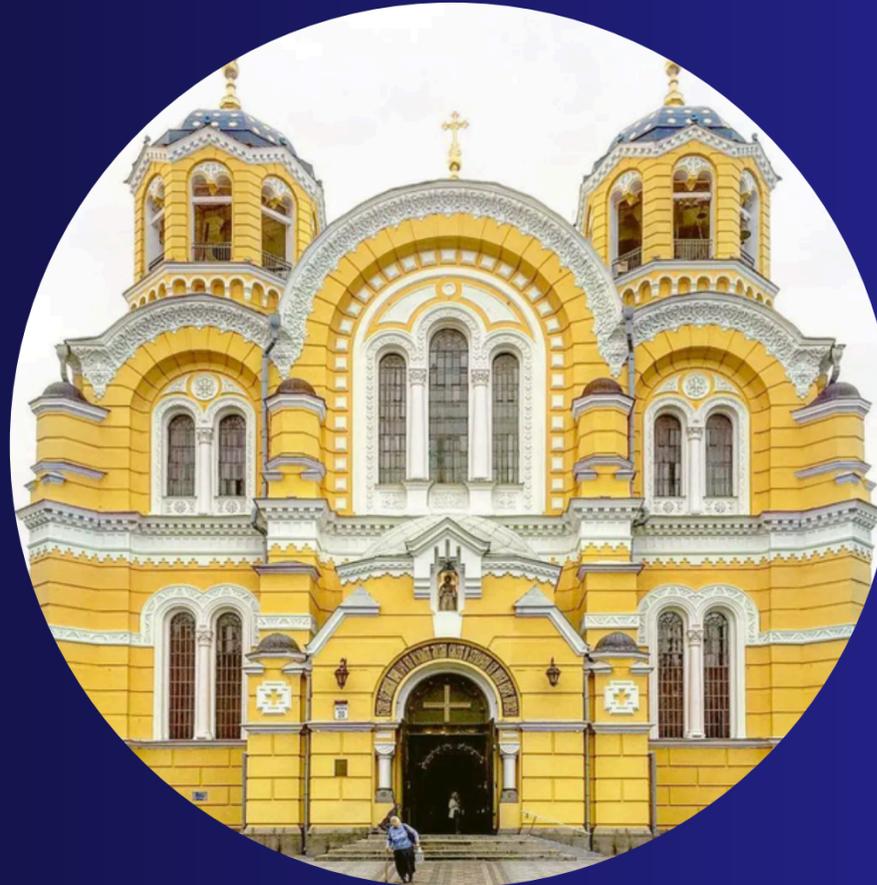
The Potemkin Staircase that connects the city with the Black Sea has 10 landings and 192 steps. Also the national botanical garden of kyiv, which although it is not a monument is also worth visiting because it is incredibly beautiful

# Cathedral

**Saint Sophia**



**Saint Vladimir**



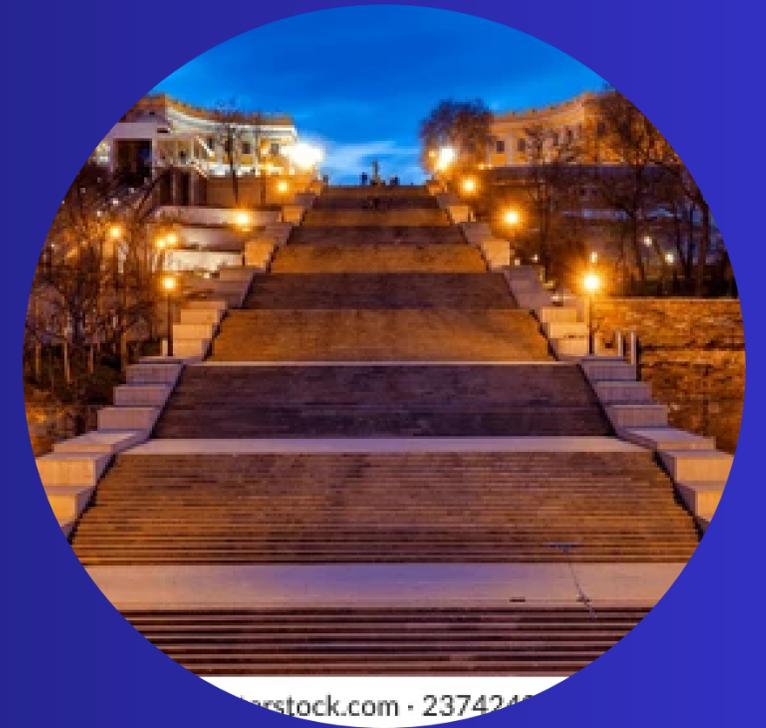
**Saint Andrew.**



**golden gate,**



**The Potemkin Staircase**



**statue of the motherland**



**botanical garden**



# TRADITIONAL CUISINE OF UKRAINE



## Borscht

A red beet soup with cabbage, potatoes, and meat. Served with sour cream and garlic



## Vareniki

Dumplings with various fillings: potato, cabbage, cherry, and meat.



## **Holubtshi**

Cabbage leaves stuffed with meat and rice,  
baked in tomato sauce



## **Chicken Kiev**

Chicken fillet stuffed with butter and herbs,  
breaded and fried



**Ukrainian Traditions: A Celebration  
of Heritage and Community**

# 1. Folk Art and Embroidery

Embroidery, or vyshyvanka, is a cornerstone of Ukrainian tradition. Each region has unique patterns and colors, symbolizing local identity and beliefs. Vyshyvanka shirts are worn during celebrations and festivals, serving as both a fashion statement and a spiritual talisman believed to protect the wearer.

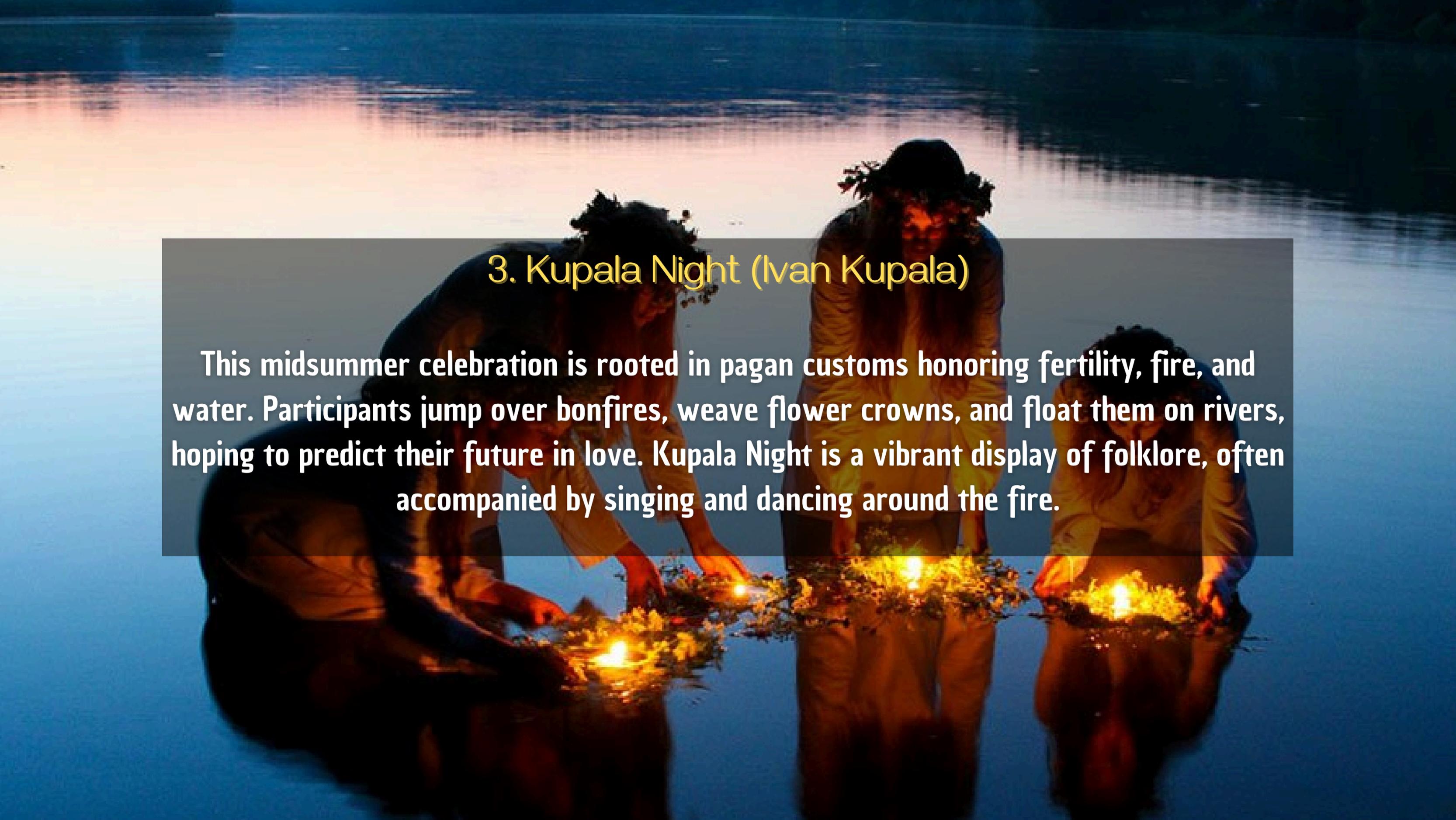




## 2. Easter (Paskha) and Egg Decoration

Easter is one of the most important holidays in Ukraine, celebrated with religious fervor and communal joy. A highlight of Ukrainian Easter is the art of pysanky, intricately decorated eggs created using wax-resist techniques. These eggs often carry symbolic motifs of prosperity, health, and protection. Traditional Easter baskets are filled with bread, eggs, sausage, and other foods, blessed during church services.



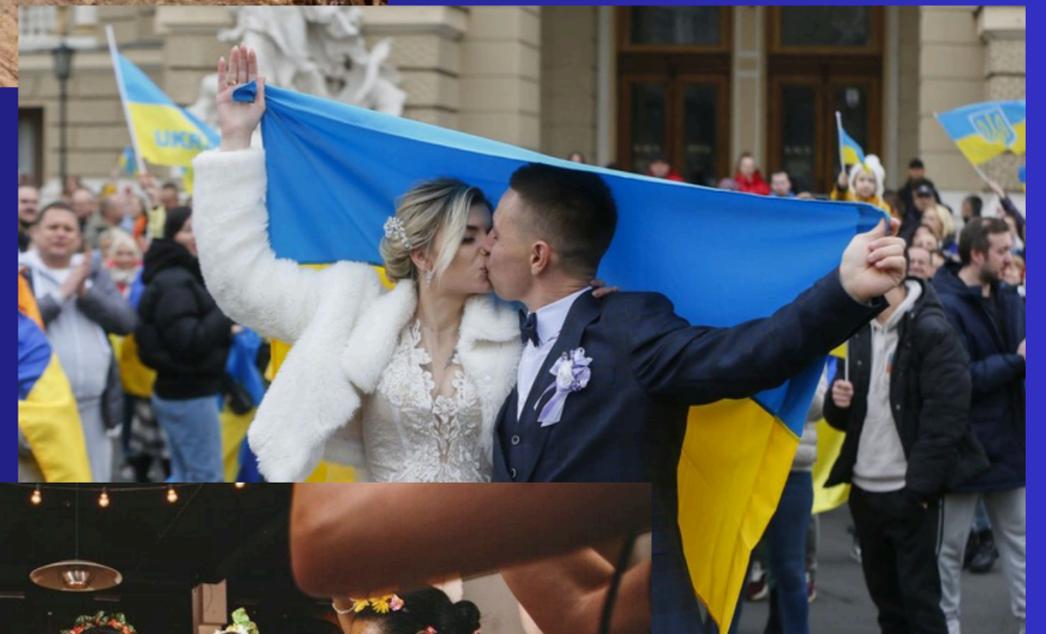
The background image shows three women in traditional white dresses and flower crowns, kneeling by a river at dusk. They are holding glowing baskets of flowers, likely for a festival. The scene is reflected in the water, and the sky is a mix of blue and orange. The text is overlaid on a semi-transparent grey box in the center.

### 3. Kupala Night (Ivan Kupala)

This midsummer celebration is rooted in pagan customs honoring fertility, fire, and water. Participants jump over bonfires, weave flower crowns, and float them on rivers, hoping to predict their future in love. Kupala Night is a vibrant display of folklore, often accompanied by singing and dancing around the fire.

## 4. Wedding Traditions

Ukrainian weddings are lively, multi-day celebrations filled with music, dance, and symbolic rituals. One notable tradition is the korovai, a beautifully decorated bread baked by the community as a symbol of good fortune for the couple. Wedding ceremonies often include symbolic acts, such as the tying of the bride and groom's hands with an embroidered cloth to signify unity.



# 5. Harvest Festivals

Agriculture has always been central to Ukrainian life, and harvest festivals like Obzhynky celebrate the end of the farming season. Communities come together to give thanks for the crops, sharing food, music, and dance. Wreaths made from wheat are often crafted to honor the earth's bounty



**Ukrainian traditions are not just preserved in rural areas; they thrive in modern cities and among the Ukrainian diaspora worldwide. Through these customs, Ukrainians maintain a strong connection to their heritage, ensuring that their unique culture continues to flourish for generations to come.**

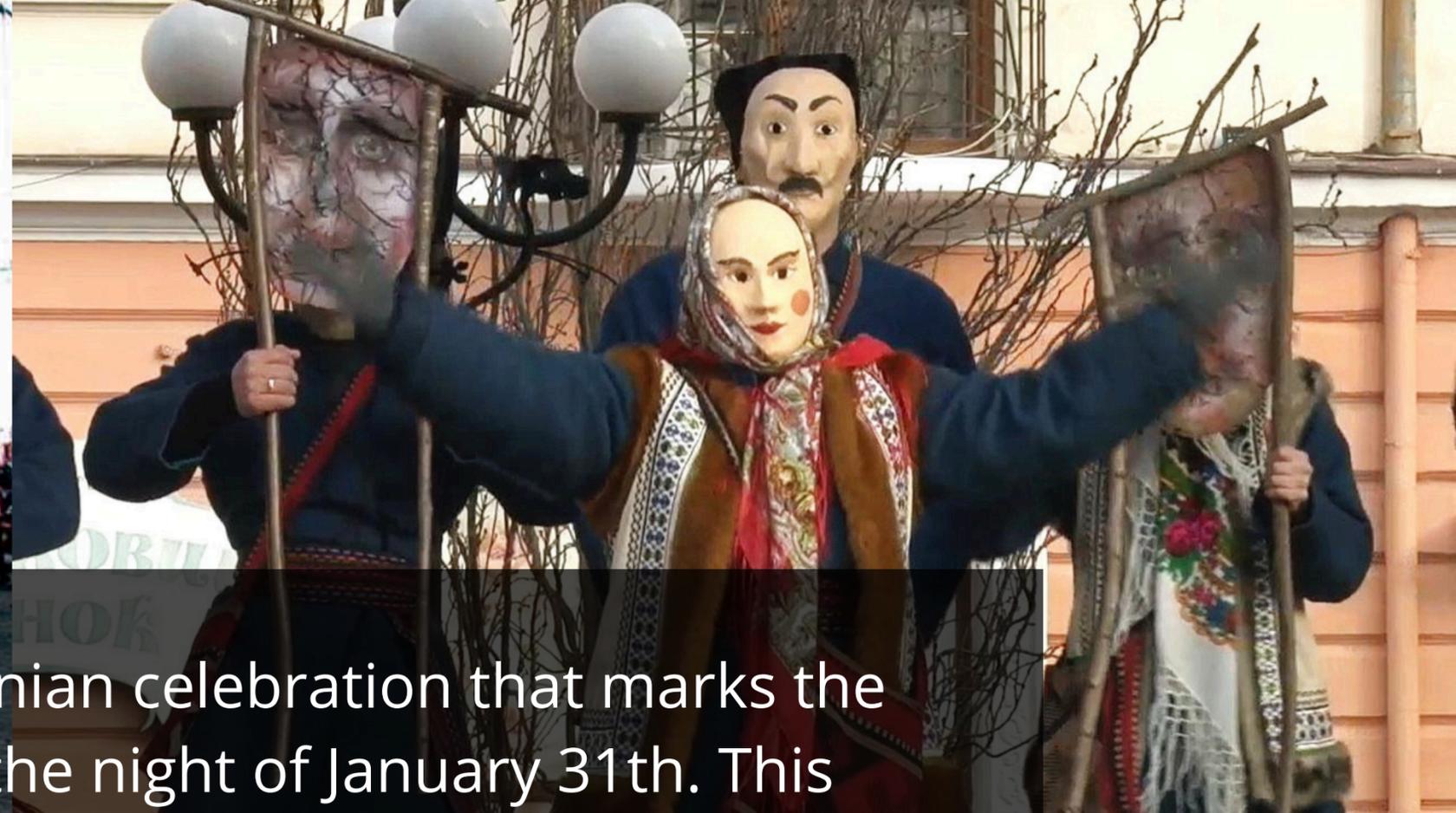
A person dressed in a traditional straw suit and mask stands in a cluttered workshop. The person is holding a wooden staff. In the background, another person in a similar costume is visible. The workshop is filled with various tools, equipment, and materials, creating a rustic and busy atmosphere. The lighting is warm and focused on the central figure.

# Christmas traditions



Christmas in Ukraine is celebrated on January 25th. The festivities begin on January 24th with a special meal called Sviat Vechir (Holy Evening), which includes 12 traditional meatless dishes. The evening starts with the first star, symbolizing the Star of Bethlehem.

Families attend church services on Christmas Day. Traditional customs include caroling, Nativity plays (vertep), and the display of the Didukh (a wheat sheaf honoring ancestors). The holiday season lasts until January 31th, with Epiphany.



**Malanka** is a traditional Ukrainian celebration that marks the Old New Year, observed on the night of January 31th. This celebration blends pagan and Christian traditions and is especially known for its costumes, masks, and rituals.



## **Key Aspects of Malanka:**

- 1. Costumes and Masks:** People dress in costumes and masks representing folk characters like animals, mythical beings, or comical figures to scare away evil spirits and welcome the new year.
- 2. Caroling (Koliadky):** Similar to Christmas caroling, groups of people sing traditional songs, perform skits, and offer blessings at houses in exchange for food, drinks, or money.
- 3. Processions and Plays:** In some areas, there are street processions and theatrical performances that are humorous and satirical, known as vertep.
- 4. Traditional Foods:** Families gather to enjoy a large meal featuring dishes such as borscht, vareniki (dumplings), kutia (sweet wheat dish), roasted meats, and pastries.
- 5. Folk Rituals:** Rituals such as dancing and lighting fires are performed to symbolize the burning away of the old year and welcoming the new one.



**Vertep** is a traditional Ukrainian folk performance, usually associated with Christmas, that depicts the Nativity story. It can be performed with puppets or live actors and often includes humorous and satirical elements. The performances feature characters like the Holy Family, King Herod, and the Devil, and are accompanied by carols and songs. Originally performed in homes or villages, vertep combines religious themes with folk traditions, offering both spiritual and comedic entertainment during the holiday season.

**Epiphany** in Ukraine is a religious holiday focused on the baptism of Christ, featuring the blessing of water, church services, and traditional celebrations, including a symbolic purification through ice-water dipping. It signifies the end of the Christmas season and is celebrated with family, faith, and festive traditions.

