

## Bulgarian Festivals Month by Month

Key:

++ / Movable dates

### JANUARY

++ - Weather in Bulgarian Folk Lore

1 - Vassilevden (Saint Vassil's Day) - Sourvaknitsa Kukeri Carnival Nestinarski dances

2 - Sylvestrovden - Saint Sylvester's Day - Karamanovden - Rinatchov - Moukovden

5 - Krustovden (Vodokrust, Nejadka, Popova Koleda)

6 - Bogoyavlenie - Yordanovden - Saint Yordan's Day (Epiphany) Tayany (Men's water day)

7 - Saint Ivan's Day - Ivanoden (Saint John the Baptist) - Wedding Season Nestinarski

8 - Babin Den (Midwife's Day) Grandmother's day

9 - Saint Tatiana's Day

13/14 Winter Masquerade Rituals - Surva

14 - Vassilitsa - the day of Vassil (Basil)

16 - Yuzhnitsa - Verizhnitsi Feast day - (Sveti Verigi) The chains of Saint Peter

17 - Saint Anton's Day (Saint Anthony) Antonovden Nestinarski dances

18 - Saint Atanas's Day (Saint Athanasius) Atanasoven Nestinarski dances

19 - Eslama-gunu - the Feast of the Three Kings - dipping day Nestinarski dances

20 - Petlyovden - Rooster's Day (Day of Fertility) - Petelarovden - Ihtima

20 - Saint Evtimiy, Patriarch of Tarnovo - Saint Euthymius Nestinarski dances

21 - Grandmother's Day - childbirth assistance - another Midwife's Day

21 - Saint Agnes' day

21 - Saint Maximus the Confessor

22 - Saint Timothy the Apostle

24 - Saint Xenii's Day

25 - Saint Gregory the Theologian

++ - Fireplace Rituals - folk lore

++ - Buy a Neighbour, not a House - Bulgarian Wisdom

### FEBRUARY

++ - The Fox (vixen) in Bulgarian Folklore

1 - Saint Trifon's Day (Trifon Zarezan) Wine Festival. Kukeri Carnival. - (Trifuntsi)

2 - Candlemas - Meeting of the Lord Feast Day - Sretenie Gospodne (Trifuntsi).

2 - Another Rooster's Day (Trifuntsi) Winter Virgin Mary.

2/3 - Wolf Days (Trifuntsi)

3 - Semen Den (Seed's Day) - Holy Mother (Christ's Mother) (Trifuntsi)

3 - Saint Simeon's Day (Trifuntsi)

5 - Saint Agatha (Nameday for Agatha)

6 - Saint Photius' Day

8 - Saint Theodor Stratilat

10 - Saint Haralampi's Day - Saint Haralambos (Charalambos) the Martyr

10 - Valentin, Valentina's Day

11 - Saint Vlas's Day (Shrove Day) Mooring Day.

11 - Saint George New of Sofia (Georgi Novi Sofiyski)

14 - Saint Trifon's 2nd Day

14 - Catholic Saint Valentine's Day

++ - All Souls' Day (Goliama Zadoushnitsa) on Saturday before Mesni Zagovezni

++ - Mesni Zagovezni (Meat Fasting Day) - 2nd Sunday before Lent

- ++ - Sirni Zagovezni - celebrated the first Sunday before Lent
- ++ - Koukerovden (Mummers' Day) - Curs' Monday Kukeri Carnival.
- ++ - Easter Lent / Great Lent (the 40 day Fast before Easter)
- 22 - Shrovetide tradition in general
- 23/25 - Trimiro - Live All Soul's Day

## MARCH

- ++ - Todorovden - Saint Todor's Day (Horse Easter) 1st Saturday of Easter Lent in March
- 1 - Granny Marta's Day (Martenitsa Day) Granny March's Day (Baba Marta's Day)
- 3 - Bulgarian Liberation Day
- 4 - Saint Gerasimus' Day
- 8 - Ladies' Day
- 9 - Saint Saint 40 Holy Martyrs (Svetoto) Mladentsi
- 17 - Saint Alexis, the Man of God
- 25 - Annunciation (Blagovets - Blagoveshtenie) Cuckoo, Stork and Swallow.
- 26 - Holy Archangel Gabriel's Day
- 28/31 - Babini Dni - Granny Marta's 3 last Days

## APRIL

- 1 - House of Humour and Satire - Gabrovo - Proverbs and Sins of Bulgaria
- ++ - Green Wreaths for Health
- ++ - Saint Lazar's Day - The Saturday before Easter
- ++ - Holy Week before Easter How to make Easter eggs
- ++ - Palm Sunday (Tsvetnitsa-Vrabnitsa) The first day of Holy Week
- ++ - Good Monday - Veliki Ponedelnik
- ++ - Holy Tuesday - Veliki Vtornik
- ++ - Holy Wednesday - Veliki Sryada
- ++ - Holy Thursday - Veliki Chetvartak
- ++ - Good Friday - Veliki Petak
- ++ - Holy Saturday - Veliki Sabota
- ++ - Easter (Velikdensko) Passover Nestinarski dances
- Easter celebration: year 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017
- Orthodox church 8/4 27/4 19/4 4/4 24/4 15/4 5/5 20/4 12/4 1/5 16/4
- ++ - Easter Sunday (the Sunday of the Holy Week) Velikden
- ++ - The Week After Easter ( "The Week of Saint Thomas")
- ++ - The Wednesday after Easter and the Mara-Lishanka
- 14 - Martinia Feast - Saint Martin's Day
- 20 - Sofinden (Prayers for healthy cattle and no drought) Monday after Tomas Sunday
- 25 - Saint Mark's Day

## MAY

- 1 - Prophet Jeremiah's Day - Yeremiaya - Zamski Day (snake day) Nestinarski rituals
- 2 - Borisovden (Saint Boris' Day) Pine tree tales. Nestinarski rituals
- 5 - Aderlez - Muslim day of agriculture in the Rhodopi mountains
- 6 - Gergyovden - Saint Georgi's Day (Saint George's Day) Nestinarski dances
- 11 - Saint Cyril and Saint Methodius' Day
- 12 - Saint Gherman's Day (German - 1st Hail Man) - Butterfly Day
- 16 - The Feast of the White Stork in Belozem
- 21 - Saint Saint Konstantin and Elena's Day Nestinarski dances
- 21/22/23 - Nestinarski dances on red hot coals
- 24 - Saint Cyril and Saint Methodius' Day
- ++ - Nymph's Wednesday - the day before Spassovden
- ++ - Spassovden (Thursday) - 40 Days after Easter -

## “Ascension Day” - Saint Spas' Day Nestinarski dances

### JUNE ++ - Rose festivals - first week in June

- ++ - Zadoushnitsa (All Souls' Day) 49 days after Easter
- ++ - Petdesetnica (50 Days after Easter) Pentecost (Holy Trinity) Nestinarski dances
- ++ - Douhovden - Spirit' day (Monday 51 days after Easter) Nestinarski dances
- ++ - Roussalya (Holy Ghost) Russalii - Midsummer Week - Roussalka Nedelia
- 3/4/5 - Nestinarski dances on red hot coals
- 11 - Vartolomey - Saint Bartholomew's and Saint Barnabas' Day (Varnava) 2nd hail man
- 14 - Elissey Feast day - Saint Eliseus (Elisha) - Liseh's Day, the 3rd hail man
- 15 - Vivovden - Vidov Day (4th hail man)
- 24 - Enyo's Day - Enio's Day (Midsummer's Day) Birth of Saint John Nestinarski dances
- 29 - Petrovden - Peter's Day (Saint Apostle Peter and Saint Apostle Pavel -Paul)
- 30 - Pavlyovden - Pavlyov's Day (the Day of the 12 Apostles) - Saint Paul

### JULY

- 1 - Saint Cosmas and Saint Damian Feast Day (The Holy Healers' Day) Witches
- 5 - Summer Atanassovden - Saint Atanasius Harvester Day
- 8 - Saint Procopius the Bee-Keeper's Day
- 15/16/17 Gorestnitsi - the Dog Days
- 15 - Churuta (firstday of the Gorestnitsi)
- 16 - Purliga (second day of the Gorestnitsi)
- 16 - Saint Julitta and Saint Cyricus
- 17 - Saint Marina the Fiery Day (third day of the Gorestnitsi) Nestinarski dances
- 20 - Ilinden - Saint Iliya's Day - Saint Elias' Day - (Saint Elijah's Day) Nestinarski dances
- 22 - Saint Maria Magdalena's Day
- 25 - Saint Anna's Summer Feast day
- 27 - Day of Cyril and Methodius and Their Five Disciples
- 27 - Saint Pantelei's Day - Saint Panteleymon the All-Merciful Nestinarski dances
- 28 - Saint Julitta and Saint Cyricus - (old style)

### AUGUST

- 1 to 12 - Makavei's Days - Makaveyan Days
- 2 - Saint Elijah's Day (old style) Nestinarski dances
- 6 - Holy Transfiguration of our Lord Jesus Christ Nestinarski dances
- 15 - Assumption - Sveta/Goljama Bogoroditsa (Holy Virgin Mary's Day) Nestinarski dances
- 18 - Saint Ivan Rilski also called Saint John of Rila - Patron Saint of Bulgaria
- 20 - Prophet Samuel's Day
- ++ - The Green Forests of Bulgarian Folk-lore
- 26 - Saint Adrian and Saint Natalia the Martyrs
- 29 - Seknovenie / Equinox (Black Saint John)
- 31 - Saint Gennadios - Patriarch of Constantinople
- ++ - Working Bee Season - (Communal Work Parties) Love stories, folk-wise

### SEPTEMBER

- 1 - Simeonovden - Saint Simon's Day (Start of the Agricultural New Year) Saint Martha.
- 6 - Wave the flag for Bulgaria Day
- 8 - Birth of the Holy Virgin - “Nativity of the Theotokos”
- 14 - Krustovden (Day of the Holy Cross) Grozdobernik - Grape Harvest Day
- 17 - Saint Martyr Sofia's Day - Vyara, Nadezhda and Lyubov - Faith, Hope and Love
- 24 - Saint Thekla's Day

### OCTOBER

- 1 - Pokrov Bogorodichen (Holy Protection of Mother of God)
- ++ - Chicken Church - first Saturday before Petkovden
- ++ - God's Church - first Monday before Petkovden
- 14 - Petkovden - Saint Petko's Day - Saint Petka's Day (Saint Paraskeva's Day)
- 18 - Saint Zlata of Muglen patron of gold and silversmiths
- 18 - Saint Luke, Holy Apostle and Evangelist
- 19 - Saint John of Rila - Patron Saint of Bulgaria
- ++ - Dimitrovska Zadoushnitsa" (Dimitur's All Souls' Day) Saturday before Saint Demetrius' Day
- 26 - Saint Dimitur's Day (Saint Dimitrius of Salonika) Saint Demetrius Nestinarski dances
- 27 - Mice Day (Prayers against the evil) Saint Nestor's Day.

#### NOVEMBER

- ++ - Archangelska (Goliamia) Zadoushnitsa - Great All Souls' Day - Saturday before Michaelmas
- 3 - The Day of Saint Pimen Zograph (the Feast Day of Artists)
- 8 - Archangelovden - Michaelmas (St Rangel Day) - Archangel Michael's Day
- 10 - The Holy Apostles of the 70: Erastus, Olympas, Rodion, Sosipater, Quartus and Tertius
- 11 - Saint Menas (or Minas), Victor and Vicentius
- 11 or 14 - Mratinyak Feast day - evil black spirit
- 13 - Koledni Zagovenzi (Christmas Shrove before Christmas Lent)
- 14 to 21 - Vultchi Praznitsi/Mratintsi (Wolf Days)
- 15 - Forty Day Christmas Fasting starts today
- 16 - Saint Matey (Saint Mathew's Day)
- 21 - Koutzoulan (The Most Terrible Wolf Day)
- 21 - The Entry into the Temple of the Most Holy God's Mother
- 23 - Saint Alexander Nevski's Day
- 24 - Katerininden (Saint Catherine's Day)
- 25 - Saint Kliment Ohridski's Day
- 30 - Saint Andrei's Day - Andreevden (Saint Andrew) Bear's Day Four Paws at Belitsa.

#### DECEMBER

- 4 - Day of Martyr Saint Varvara -Saint Barbara (Protects against Baba Sharka - Smallpox)
- 5 - Saint Sava's Day (Saint Androgin, Saint Savva or Saint Sabbas the Sanctified)
- 6 - Nikulden - Saint Nikolas' s Day (Saint Nicholas) Nestinarski dances
- 9 - Aninden (Saint Anna's Day - the Conception of the Holy Mother of God by Saint Anna)
- 12 - Spyridonovden (Saint Spyridon's Day)
- 17 - Holy Prophet Daniel and the Three Holy Youths Ananias, Azarias, and Misael
- 18 - Saint Modestos Day Nestinarski dances
- 20 - Ignazhden - Saint Martyr Ignat's Day (Saint Ignatius, the God-Bearer of Antioch)
- 22 - Anastasiyovden - Saint Anastasia - Nastasya the Deadly
- 24 - January 1 - Winter and Christmas Feast Days.
- 24 - Badni Vecher - Christmas Eve
- 25 - Christmas Day - Koleduvane ritual - (Rozhdestvo)
- 25 to January 6 - Mrasni Dni / Poganni dni ("Dirty Days") vampires, goblins and werewolves.
- 26 - David, Yosif Name Day (Saint Joseph's Day) Father's Day
- 27 - Stefanovden - Saint Stefan's Day (Saint Stephen's Day)
- 31 - New Year's Eve - Kukeri Carnival.
- ++ - The Bulgarian Cycle of Life, i.e. Birth, Christening, Marriage and Death.

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