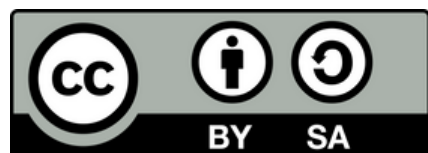




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INTERNATIONAL NEWSPAPER 6



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INTERNATIONAL NEWSPAPER

Ethnic cultures and customs in our country

Our country, a vibrant tapestry of diverse cultures, offers a rich landscape of customs and traditions that have been passed down through generations. From the ancient traditions of Austria to the modern dynamism of Turkey, each ethnic group contributes unique elements that shape the fabric of our nation. This journey will take us across geographical borders and cultural landscapes, unveiling the captivating stories of people, customs, and traditions that make our country truly special.



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Austria: Rich Traditions and Vibrant Celebrations



Austria, nestled in the heart of Europe, boasts a rich tapestry of traditions and celebrations that embody its cultural heritage. From the picturesque Alpine landscapes to the vibrant cities, Austria's customs are deeply ingrained in its history and reflect the warmth and hospitality of its people.

- One of the most cherished traditions is the **Christmas market**, a spectacle of twinkling lights, festive decorations, and the aroma of roasted nuts and spiced wine. These markets offer a unique opportunity to immerse oneself in Austrian culture, indulging in traditional crafts, regional delicacies, and the magical ambiance of the season.
- The **Fasching**, or Austrian Carnival, is a vibrant celebration that precedes Lent, characterized by parades, masquerades, and exuberant festivities. This joyous occasion brings communities together in a burst of color and laughter, where people dress up in elaborate costumes and revel in the spirit of merriment.
- Another iconic tradition is the **Sommernachtsfest**, or Midsummer Night's Festival, a celebration of the longest day of the year. This festive occasion typically includes bonfires, music, and dancing, bringing communities together under the starry summer sky to revel in the beauty of the season.

Austrian Attire: Lederhosen and Dirndls

Lederhosen, the traditional leather trousers, and Dirndls, the women's folk dress, are iconic symbols of Austrian culture. These traditional garments are a testament to the rich history and heritage of the country, often associated with festivals, celebrations, and even everyday life in rural areas.

Lederhosen, traditionally made from sturdy deerskin or goatskin, are known for their durability and comfort. They are typically worn with a white shirt, a colorful vest, and knee-high socks. The Dirndl, on the other hand, features a bodice, a skirt, and a distinctive apron, often worn with a white blouse and a decorative hair comb.

The Dirndl's apron is a symbol of marital status. A tied apron on the left side indicates that the woman is single, while a tied apron on the right side means she is married. An apron tied at the back symbolizes that the woman is widowed. These sartorial cues add an interesting layer to the traditional attire.



Austria: Culinary Delights



Wiener Schnitzel

The Wiener Schnitzel, a thin, breaded, and pan-fried cutlet of veal, is a quintessential Austrian dish. This crispy and flavorful delight is often served with a side of potato salad or fries and a squeeze of lemon. While the origins of the Wiener Schnitzel are debated, its popularity in Austria and beyond is undeniable.



Apfelstrudel

Apfelstrudel, a pastry filled with apples, raisins, and cinnamon, is another beloved Austrian culinary treasure. The pastry's flaky crust, sweet apple filling, and subtle hint of cinnamon create a harmonious blend of textures and flavors. It is traditionally served warm with a dollop of vanilla sauce and a sprinkle of powdered sugar, providing a delightful sweet ending to a meal.



Goulash

Goulash, a hearty stew with tender beef, vegetables, and a rich paprika-based sauce, is another staple of Austrian cuisine. It is often served with a side of dumplings or noodles, providing a warm and comforting meal, particularly during the colder months. This dish reflects Austria's culinary heritage and its appreciation for rich, flavorful dishes.



Sachertorte

Sachertorte, a rich chocolate cake with a thin layer of apricot jam and a generous glaze of chocolate, is a renowned Austrian dessert. This decadent treat is a testament to Austria's love for chocolate and its dedication to creating exquisite culinary masterpieces. It is often served with a dollop of whipped cream, adding a touch of sweetness and indulgence to the experience.

Latvia: Folklore and Landscapes



Latvia, a Baltic nation nestled between Lithuania and Estonia, is renowned for its captivating folklore and enchanting landscapes. Its folklore, rich in mythology and ancient traditions, weaves a tapestry of captivating tales, captivating audiences for generations. The stories of deities, spirits, and mythical creatures have been passed down through generations, enriching the cultural identity of Latvia. Latvia's enchanting landscapes are a testament to the country's natural beauty. From the vast stretches of verdant forests to the shimmering coastline, the land provides a breathtaking backdrop to the country's folklore and traditions.

One prominent aspect of Latvian folklore is the belief in various deities and spirits, each embodying distinct powers and influences. The god of thunder, Pērkons, is considered a protector of the people, while the goddess of fate, Laima, dictates the course of human life. The Latvian spirit world is also populated by a host of mythical creatures, such as the firebird, the forest spirit, and the water nymph. These creatures often feature in Latvian folklore and are intertwined with the country's history and culture.

Latvia's enchanting landscapes are an integral part of its folklore and cultural identity. The vast stretches of verdant forests are believed to be home to various mystical creatures, while the serene lakes and rivers are said to be inhabited by water nymphs and other mythical beings. The country's coastline, dotted with sandy beaches and picturesque fishing villages, is also a source of inspiration for Latvian folklore. The mesmerizing beauty of Latvia's natural wonders continues to captivate visitors and residents alike.

Latvia: Līgo Celebration: Midsummer Solstice Festivities

1

Ancient Roots

Līgo, celebrated on the night of June 23rd, is a Latvian tradition deeply intertwined with the celebration of the summer solstice. It's an ancient pagan festival marking the longest day of the year, with origins rooted in pre-Christian Latvian folklore. It's a time of joy, abundance, and a connection with nature. People gather to celebrate the bounty of the harvest and the power of the sun.

2

Festivities and Rituals

Līgo celebrations are a vibrant spectacle filled with traditional songs, dances, and customs. Bonfires are lit, symbolizing the cleansing power of fire and the strength of the sun. The night is filled with joyous singing and dancing, often accompanied by the sound of traditional Latvian instruments. People wear colorful traditional costumes, adding to the festive atmosphere.

3

Modern Celebrations

While Līgo retains its ancient traditions, it has also adapted to modern times. The celebrations have become a national holiday, bringing Latvians together from all walks of life. Families and friends gather in rural areas or by the sea, enjoying traditional foods like cheese, rye bread, and beer. The Līgo celebration is a reminder of the rich cultural heritage of Latvia, a celebration of life, and a time to cherish the beauty of nature.

Amber Craftsmanship: A Latvian Artistic Legacy

Latvia boasts a rich history of amber craftsmanship, a tradition deeply intertwined with its cultural heritage. This Baltic nation sits on a treasure trove of amber, a fossilized resin prized for its beauty and believed to possess mystical powers. For centuries, Latvian artisans have honed their skills, transforming raw amber into exquisite jewelry, ornaments, and decorative objects.

From simple beads and pendants to intricate carvings and sculptures, amber artisans in Latvia showcase their mastery of the material. The unique golden hue and natural patterns of amber inspire elaborate designs, each piece reflecting the individual touch of the craftsman. This tradition has been passed down through generations, ensuring that the art of amber craftsmanship remains a vibrant part of Latvian culture.





Czech Republic: Old and New

The Czech Republic, a landlocked nation in Central Europe, boasts a rich history that seamlessly blends with modern vibrancy. Its cities, particularly Prague, are captivatingly picturesque, adorned with medieval architecture and cobblestone streets that whisper tales of emperors and kings. Yet, Prague isn't frozen in time. It pulsates with a youthful energy, evident in its bustling cafes, trendy boutiques, and captivating street art. This dynamic interplay of historical grandeur and contemporary charm defines the Czech Republic's unique character.

While Prague's architectural wonders draw millions, the country offers a treasure trove beyond the capital. From the rolling hills of Bohemia, where castles stand as sentinels of the past, to the enchanting Moravian countryside, dotted with vineyards and quaint villages, the Czech Republic invites exploration. The nation's cultural tapestry is woven with traditional folk music, vibrant festivals, and a renowned love for beer, making it a destination that truly satisfies both the history buff and the modern traveler.

Prague's Architectural Wonders: Gothic, Baroque, and Beyond

Prague, the capital of the Czech Republic, is a city steeped in history and renowned for its architectural marvels. The city's skyline is a captivating tapestry of styles, from the soaring spires of Gothic cathedrals to the opulent grandeur of Baroque palaces. A stroll through Prague's historic center is a journey through centuries of architectural evolution, showcasing the city's enduring legacy as a cultural and artistic hub.

One of Prague's most iconic landmarks is Prague Castle, a sprawling complex that has served as the seat of Czech monarchs for centuries. Within its walls, visitors can explore a myriad of architectural styles, including the Gothic St. Vitus Cathedral, the Romanesque Old Royal Palace, and the Baroque Golden Lane. The castle's commanding presence atop a hill overlooking the city offers breathtaking panoramic views, providing a glimpse into Prague's rich history and architectural grandeur.

Beyond Prague Castle, the city is dotted with other architectural gems. The Charles Bridge, a 14th-century stone bridge adorned with statues of saints, connects the Old Town with the Lesser Town. The Old Town Square, with its iconic Astronomical Clock and the Church of Our Lady Before Týn, is a bustling hub of activity and a testament to Prague's vibrant history. These architectural wonders, each with its unique story and aesthetic, contribute to Prague's captivating charm and enduring allure.



Czech Republic: Old and New

1 Prague's Architectural Wonders

Prague, the capital of the Czech Republic, boasts a captivating blend of medieval and modern architecture. Its historic center, a UNESCO World Heritage site, showcases the city's rich past with its iconic Charles Bridge, Prague Castle, and the Old Town Square, each adorned with intricate details and stories etched in stone. From the soaring spires of Gothic cathedrals to the graceful arches of Renaissance bridges, Prague's architecture paints a vibrant tapestry of history and art.

2 Bohemian Glass Artform

Deeply rooted in Czech history and culture, Bohemian glassmaking is a centuries-old tradition renowned for its exquisite artistry and craftsmanship. Since the 13th century, skilled artisans have transformed molten glass into breathtaking masterpieces, encompassing intricate sculptures, delicate vases, and shimmering crystal chandeliers. Bohemian glass art has evolved throughout the ages, embracing new techniques and styles while preserving the essence of its heritage.

3 A Legacy of Creativity

The legacy of Bohemian glass art lives on in the hands of contemporary Czech artisans who continue to push the boundaries of creativity. From traditional techniques to modern designs, the artform continues to captivate with its unique blend of beauty, craftsmanship, and cultural significance. Today, Bohemian glass is celebrated worldwide, a testament to the enduring legacy of Czech artistry and innovation.

Italy: Cultural Tapestry



Italy, a land of vibrant landscapes, rich history, and diverse regional identities, presents a captivating cultural tapestry. From the snow-capped peaks of the Alps to the sun-drenched shores of the Mediterranean, each region boasts unique traditions, dialects, and culinary specialties, all woven together to form the fabric of Italian culture.

- The country's artistic heritage is renowned worldwide, with masterpieces spanning centuries. From the Renaissance marvels of Florence and Rome to the Baroque masterpieces of Naples and Sicily, Italian art has left an indelible mark on the world.
- Music plays a vital role in Italian life, with operatic traditions deeply rooted in cities like Milan and Verona. Traditional folk music, with its distinct regional flavors, adds another layer to the country's musical tapestry.
- The "dolce vita," or "sweet life," is a hallmark of Italian culture, where enjoying food, wine, and family time is deeply ingrained. From the rustic trattorias serving hearty pasta dishes to the chic cafes serving espresso and pastries, the pursuit of good living is a constant theme.
- The warmth and hospitality of the Italian people are legendary. Their zest for life, their love for family and friends, and their genuine openness to visitors create a welcoming atmosphere that makes Italy a truly unforgettable destination.

Carnevale: The Vibrant Masquerade Tradition

1

Historical Roots

Carnevale, a vibrant celebration of masquerades and revelry, traces its origins back to ancient Roman festivals. In those times, people would gather for extravagant processions and revelry, shedding their inhibitions and embracing a world of playful disguises. As centuries passed, the tradition evolved and spread throughout Italy, becoming a cherished spectacle in cities like Venice and Rome.

2

Masquerade and Mystery

A hallmark of Carnevale is the elaborate masks worn by revelers. These masks, often adorned with intricate details and vibrant colors, serve as a symbol of anonymity and freedom. During the festival, social hierarchies fade as people from all walks of life can indulge in a sense of liberation, unburdened by their everyday identities. The mystery of the masks adds an element of intrigue and excitement to the celebration.

3

A Feast for the Senses

Carnevale is a sensory delight. Streets overflow with vibrant costumes, the air fills with the sounds of music and laughter, and the aromas of delectable food and drink tantalize the senses. The festive atmosphere invites indulgence, creating a joyous and unforgettable experience for both participants and spectators. This captivating celebration is a testament to the enduring spirit of Italian culture and its ability to bring people together in a spirit of joyous revelry.

Pasta and Pizza: Iconic Italian Culinary Delights



Pasta

Pasta, a cornerstone of Italian cuisine, is a canvas for countless flavors. From delicate spaghetti to hearty lasagna, each shape tells a story, crafted with passion and tradition. The origins of pasta can be traced back to ancient times, with its evolution intertwined with the history of Italy itself. Today, pasta dishes are a celebration of fresh ingredients, vibrant sauces, and the culinary artistry of generations of Italian cooks.



Pizza

Pizza, a beloved icon of Italian cuisine, is a culinary masterpiece born from simplicity. A thin, crispy crust, topped with a symphony of flavors, from classic tomato sauce and mozzarella to inventive combinations of meats, cheeses, and vegetables, embodies the essence of Italian gastronomy. The origins of pizza date back to ancient Neapolitan street food, with its modern evolution influenced by diverse cultural influences. Today, pizza remains a global phenomenon, a symbol of Italy's culinary legacy.



Wine

Italy's culinary landscape is richly complemented by its extensive winemaking tradition. From the rolling hills of Tuscany to the sun-drenched vineyards of Sicily, each region boasts distinct varietals, reflecting the nuances of its terroir. Wine plays a pivotal role in Italian culture, both as a beverage and as an integral part of the dining experience, accompanying the flavors of pasta, pizza, and other culinary treasures.

Greece: Traditions and Roots



Greece, steeped in history and mythology, has a rich cultural heritage that resonates through its traditions, beliefs, and customs. From ancient times, Greek culture has been shaped by its unique landscape, its connection to the sea, and its belief in the power of gods and goddesses. These influences are evident in many aspects of Greek life, from its vibrant festivals to its art, music, and cuisine.

The Greek people have long held a deep reverence for their ancestors and their stories. These stories, often told in the form of myths, are passed down through generations, shaping their understanding of the world and their place within it. Myths like the story of Odysseus's journey home or the tale of Pandora's box continue to inspire and inform Greek culture today. These stories serve as a reminder of the resilience and ingenuity of the Greek people, as well as their unwavering connection to their heritage.

- Ancient ruins and archeological sites like the Acropolis in Athens stand as testaments to the enduring legacy of Greek civilization.
- Traditional Greek music, characterized by its melodic rhythms and haunting melodies, reflects the soulful nature of the people.
- The vibrant colors and intricate designs of traditional Greek pottery and embroidery demonstrate the artistic talent and creativity that has been passed down through generations.

Zorba the Greek: Embracing the Zest for Life



The Spirit of Zorba

The iconic character of Zorba, immortalized in the novel and film "Zorba the Greek," embodies the spirit of embracing life with gusto. This zest for life is deeply ingrained in Greek culture, where every day is a celebration of life, love, and laughter.



Living Life to the Fullest

Greeks believe in cherishing every moment and finding joy in the simplest pleasures. This is evident in their love of dancing, singing, socializing, and enjoying the simple things in life, like a good conversation over a cup of coffee or a delicious meal with family and friends.



The Art of Sharing

Sharing is a fundamental aspect of Greek culture. Whether it's a meal, a dance, or a story, Greeks delight in sharing experiences with their loved ones. This sense of community fosters strong bonds and creates a warm and welcoming atmosphere.



The Beauty of Simplicity

The Greek way of life is rooted in the appreciation for nature and the simple things. The beautiful landscapes, from the Aegean Sea to the mountainous regions, inspire a sense of wonder and a connection to the natural world. Greeks cherish the outdoors and find solace and joy in the beauty of their surroundings.

Staples of Greek Cuisine

Olive Oil: A Culinary Treasure

Olive oil is the heart and soul of Greek cuisine, and it's not just about flavor. It's a symbol of health, tradition, and the land itself. Imagine centuries-old olive trees, their silver-green leaves shimmering under the Mediterranean sun, yielding a bounty of olives destined to become the lifeblood of Greek cooking. Olive oil graces every dish, from the simplest salads to the most elaborate feasts. It's the secret ingredient that unlocks the true flavor of Greek ingredients, giving each dish a bright, nuanced taste.

Feta: A Creamy Delight

Feta cheese, a tangy, salty delight, is another defining element of Greek cuisine. Made from sheep's or goat's milk, it embodies the spirit of the Greek countryside. Picture idyllic sheep grazing on verdant hills, their milk transformed into the iconic feta, a symbol of Greek tradition and culinary prowess. This crumbly cheese, with its distinctive tang and creamy texture, adds a layer of richness and complexity to every dish. It's the perfect companion to olive oil, creating a harmonious balance of flavors that define the Greek culinary experience.

Turkey: Crossroads of Civilizations



Turkey, a land of ancient wonders, boasts a rich tapestry woven from threads of history, culture, and diverse ethnicities. Its strategic location, bridging Europe and Asia, has served as a crossroads for civilizations for millennia. From the Hittites and the Romans to the Byzantines and the Ottomans, each empire left its indelible mark on the nation's identity and landscape.

Istanbul, the heart of Turkey, is a vibrant metropolis where the past and present collide. The iconic Hagia Sophia, a masterpiece of Byzantine architecture, stands as a testament to the city's rich history. Its magnificent domes, intricate mosaics, and echoing silence transport visitors back in time. The Blue Mosque, with its stunning blue Iznik tiles and six minarets reaching towards the sky, is a symbol of Ottoman grandeur and Islamic faith.

Beyond Istanbul, Turkey offers a wealth of historical and cultural treasures. The ancient city of Ephesus, once a bustling port, features the Library of Celsus, a marvel of Roman architecture. The ethereal landscapes of Cappadocia, sculpted by volcanic eruptions, hide hidden cave churches and underground cities, offering a glimpse into early Christianity. The ruins of Troy, immortalized in Homer's epic poem, are a reminder of the timeless power of myth and legend.

Turkey's cultural heritage is not only visible in its architecture and monuments but also in its traditions and customs. The Whirling Dervishes, a Sufi order, perform a mesmerizing spiritual dance that symbolizes the journey towards divine unity. Turkish cuisine, a symphony of flavors, draws upon influences from across the globe, with dishes like kebabs, baklava, and Turkish delight captivating taste buds worldwide. From the bustling bazaars of Istanbul to the serene beaches of the Aegean coast, Turkey offers a unique blend of ancient history and modern vibrancy, leaving an unforgettable mark on the hearts of those who experience its diverse tapestry.



Whirling Dervishes: Spiritual Dance

Turkey's rich cultural tapestry is interwoven with the mystical tradition of the whirling dervishes, a captivating spiritual ritual that embodies the pursuit of divine union. These whirling dancers, known as Semazen, are members of the Mevlevi order, a Sufi sect founded by the 13th-century Persian poet and mystic Jalal ad-Din Muhammad Rumi.

The Sema ceremony is a mesmerizing spectacle of orchestrated movements, where dervishes, dressed in long white robes, spin gracefully in a clockwise circle, their arms outstretched as if embracing the universe. Each movement is imbued with symbolic significance, representing stages of spiritual ascent and the journey towards God. The dervishes' whirling symbolizes the ceaseless movement of celestial bodies, the cycle of life and death, and the quest for spiritual enlightenment. The white robe symbolizes purity and the black cloak symbolizes the tomb, signifying the shedding of ego.



The Sema ceremony is a profound experience, transcending the boundaries of language and culture. It is a testament to the power of ritual, dance, and music in expressing the deepest yearnings of the human soul. The mesmerizing dance of the dervishes serves as a reminder of the interconnectedness of all beings and the universal pursuit of spiritual enlightenment.

Indulgences of Turkish Cuisine

Baklava: Layers of Delight

Baklava, a beloved dessert in Turkish cuisine, is a testament to the country's culinary prowess. This intricate pastry consists of delicate layers of filo dough, meticulously brushed with butter and honey, and filled with chopped nuts, usually pistachios or walnuts. The result is a symphony of textures and flavors: crispy, flaky, and melt-in-your-mouth, with a delicate sweetness that lingers on the palate.

Turkish Coffee: A Ritualistic Experience

Turkish coffee, a strong and aromatic brew, is more than just a drink; it's a ritual and a cultural experience. The coffee is ground to a fine powder and brewed in a traditional cezve, a small copper pot with a long handle. It's served in small, handleless cups, leaving a thick layer of coffee grounds at the bottom. The coffee is typically accompanied by Turkish delight, a chewy, sugar-coated confection that complements the rich, earthy flavor of the coffee. The experience is one of shared moments, conversation, and a deep appreciation for the simple pleasures of life.

Beyond Baklava and Coffee

Turkish cuisine boasts a rich tapestry of flavors, influenced by the country's diverse history and geography. From savory dishes like kebabs and stews to hearty soups and fresh salads, Turkish food caters to every taste and preference. The use of fresh ingredients, aromatic spices, and traditional cooking techniques creates a culinary experience that is both satisfying and memorable.