



Russia

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Geography

Russia - a state located in Eurasia (eastern Europe and northern Asia). Largest state in the world (17 075 400 km² or 11.46% (1/9) throughout the Earth's land area, or 12,65% (1/8) man inhabited the land.

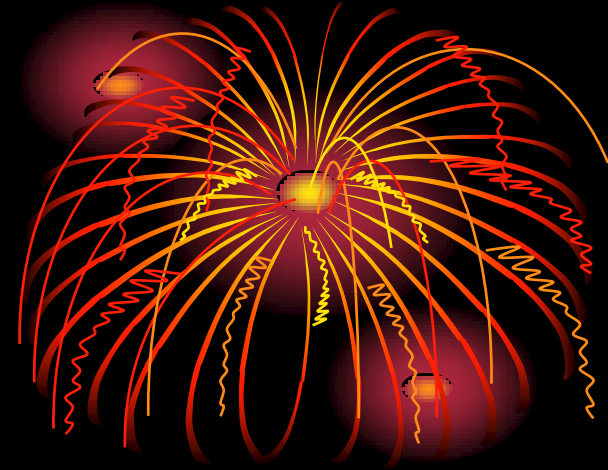
Population - 141 927 297 people. At present, Russia ranks ninth in the world on this indicator. Russian constitute 79.83% of the population. Official language of Russia - Russian.

It shares borders with 18 countries are on land with the following countries: Norway, Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Belarus, Ukraine, Abkhazia, Georgia, South Ossetia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, China, Mongolia, North Korea, **only by sea borders with** Japan and the United States.

The capital of Russia - Moscow. In Russia in 11 cities with populations over one million people: Moscow, St. Petersburg, Novosibirsk, Yekaterinburg, Nizhny Novgorod, Samara, Omsk, Kazan, Chelyabinsk, Rostov-na-Donu, Ufa.



Coat

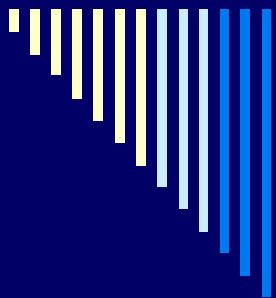


National Emblem of Russia is an official state symbol of Russia.

National Emblem of Russia is a rectangular, with rounded bottom corners, pointed at the tip of the red heraldic shield with a golden double-headed eagle, raised their loose wings. The eagle is crowned with two small crowns and - above them - a large crown, connected tape. In the right talon the eagle - the scepter in his left - Power. On the eagle's breast, a red shield - silver rider in a blue cloak on a silver horse, striking the silver spear inverted black horse on his back and trampled snake.

The three crowns symbolize the sovereignty of Russia as a whole federation, and its parts, the subjects of the federation. Scepter of Power, that double-headed eagle holding in its claws, symbolizing the state power and united states.





Flag

State flag of Russia - its official state symbol (along with the emblem and anthem). It is a rectangular cloth of three equal horizontal bands: upper - white, middle - blue and lower - red. The width of the flag to its length is 2:3.

White, blue and red colors from ancient times in Russia meant:

- white - the generosity and frankness;
- blue - loyalty, honesty, perfection and virtue;
- red - courage, bravery, generosity and love.



History

Historical forms of Russia's statehood:

- The Old State (Kievan Rus) (862-1242)
- Grand Duchy of Vladimir (1157-1389)
- Duchy of Moscow (1246-1389)
- Grand Duchy of Moscow (1389-1547)
- Kingdom Russian (January, 16 1547 – January, 22 1721)
- Russia Empire (January, 22 1721 – September, 1 1917)
- Russia Republic (September, 1 - October, 25 (November, 7) 1917)
- Russia Soviet Federated Socialist Republic (established on October, 25 (November, 7) 1917, from 1922 to 1991 in the USSR)
- Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (December, 30 1922 – December, 26 1991)
- Russia (RSFSR renaming December, 25 1991 - present)

Capital:

- 862-882 - Novgorod
- 882-1243 - Kiev
- 1243-1389 - Vladimir
- 1389-1712 - Moscow
- May, 21 1712-1728 - St. Petersburg
- 1728-1732 - Moscow
- 1732-1918 - St. Petersburg (August, 18 1914 was called Petrograd)
- March, 12 1918 to present - Moscow

Folk art

Folk epics, tales, typical for the peoples of Russia, brought us popular wisdom from the depths of centuries.

Folk rhyme - a short Russian folk song, usually humorous, usually transmitted orally. Folk rhyme is part of folklore. Smart development of oral creativity gets in the areas prohibited by the censor.



Arts and crafts

Crafts in Russia were formed on the basis of folk art, which, thanks to professional artists and business people in the beginning of XX century was transformed into a professional decorative art.

Matryoshka

Matryoshka - Russian wooden toy in the form of hollow painted dolls, inside which are similar to her dolls are smaller. Traditional painting dolls often portrays peasant girls in traditional attire. Recently, the possible range of those paintings is not limited, from the fairy-tale characters and ending with the Soviet leaders. Was borrowed from the Japanese culture at the turn of the XIX-XX centuries. Today matryoshka is one of the most popular souvenirs for foreign tourists in Russia.



Khokhloma

Khokhloma is a decorative painting wooden utensils and furniture, executed in black and red (and, occasionally, green) color of golden background. On the tree in the performance of the painting is applied is not gold, silver and tin powder. After this product is covered with varnish, and three or four times is treated in a furnace, thus achieving the unique honey-golden color, which gives a light wooden utensils effect of massiveness.



Dymkovo toy

Dymkovo toy - Russian clay toy, schedules and baked in the oven. The name comes from the place of manufacture - Sloboda Dimkovo Vyatka province (now the Kirov region). Along with other products of handicrafts is one of the symbols of Russian handicrafts.



Pottery Gzhel

Gzhel - from the XVII century and formerly a center of production of porcelain and ceramics in the territory of modern Ramensky District. Since the second half of the 20 years of the XIX century, many products just painted blue. At present, it is this characteristic pattern determines the style Gzhel. Products manufactured in another place, but of similar blue-white ornament, often called the products "under Gzhel."



Kasli molding

Kasli molding - artistic works (sculptures, grilles, architectural elements, etc.) of cast iron and bronze, carried out on the ironworks in Kasli. Traditions Kasli casting (graphical clarity of the silhouette, a combination of carefully trimmed details and generalized plane with a vigorous game highlights) formed in the XIX century.

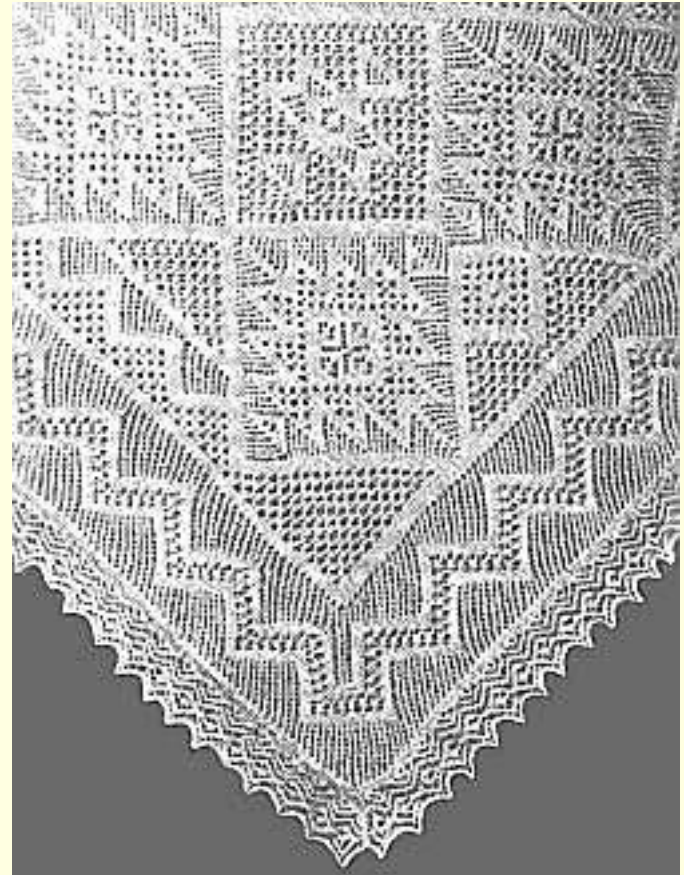


Orenburg shawl

Orenburg shawl - knit scarf from the goat down and the base (cotton, silk or other).

Puhovyazalny fish originated in the Orenburg region in the XVIII century. Gossamer and stole - are very thin as gossamer shawls.

Thin webs are usually complicated pattern and are used as decoration. Subtlety product is often determined by 2 parameters: whether the product passes through the ring and placed it in a goose egg.



Vologda lace

Vologda lace - Russian lace, wicker on the bobbins (wooden sticks), distributed in the Vologda region in XVI-XVII century. All the main images in coupling Vologda lace executed dense continuous, equal in width, gently meandering braid, they are clearly silhouetted against patterned arrays decorated nasnovkami in the form of stars and rosettes.





Public Holidays

- January, 1 - New Year (non-working days - from 1 to 5 January).
- January, 7 - Christmas (Christian feast in honor of the birth of Jesus Christ. It is celebrated on the Julian calendar, which adopted the Russian Orthodox Church).
- February, 23 - Defenders of the Fatherland (is the legal successor of the Day and Red Army Day Soviet Army and Navy, originally installed in honor of the Red Army's victory over the Germans during World War I in 1918).
- March, 8 - International Women's Day (originally established as a day of celebration of women workers in 1910 at the Eighth International Congress II in Russia and the USSR was celebrated in 1921, output - since 1965).
- May, 1 - Labor Day (originally celebrated as a day of international solidarity of workers, was established in honor of crackdowns, slaughterhouse workers in Chicago in 1886, in Russia and the USSR - an official holiday in 1918 as a Day of International Solidarity of Workers).
- May, 9 - Victory Day (established in honor of the Soviet victory over Germany in World War II in 1945. The day off since 1965)
- June, 12 - Day of Russia (established in honor of the Declaration on State Sovereignty of the RSFSR in 1990).
- November, 4 - Day of National Unity (installed in 2004 in honor of the liberation of Moscow from Polish invaders, which occurred during the Great Troubles in 1612)

In addition, in Russia people celebrate a number of professional and religious holidays.



Traditional cookery

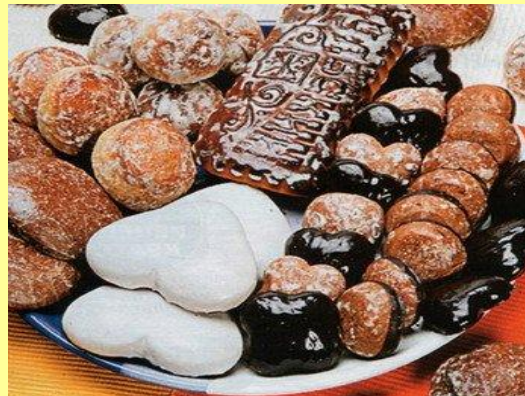
- Russian cookery - the traditional cuisine of the Russian people. Her dishes, recipes and flavor accents rather strongly vary depending on geographic location. Like the cuisine of other countries, Russian cuisine has absorbed the dishes neighboring countries and the peoples of Russia and other members of the former USSR.

Desserts

Kalatch



Spice-cakes



Honey



Jam



Baked apples



Drinkables

Kvass



Honey



Vodka

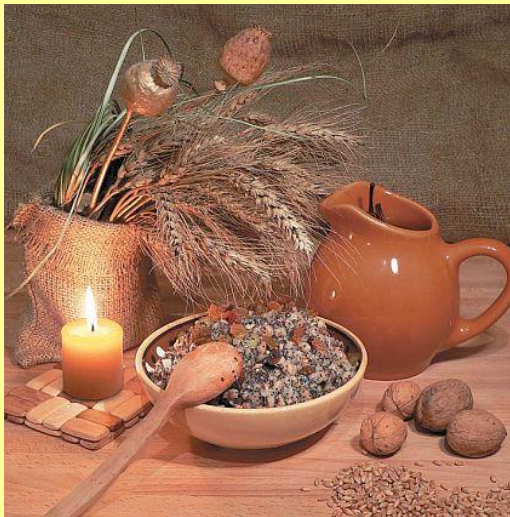


Sbiten



Ritual dishes

Kutya



Pancake

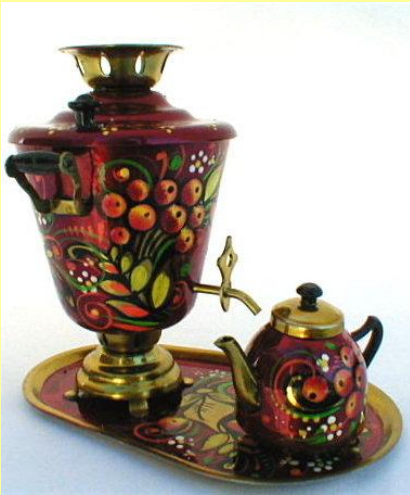


Easter



Kitchenware

Samovar



Wooden spoons



Clay pots



Hot dishes

Dumplings



Borsch



Okroshka



Rossolnik



Fish soup



Shchi



Traditions

The tradition of celebrating the New Year with a Christmas tree appeared in Russia under Peter I. In 1699, he issued a decree that introduced a new chronology - from Christmas and New Year commanded to celebrate the European way - 1 January. Imperial decree to all the inhabitants of Moscow were ordered to celebrate the New Year: New Year's Eve to light the fires, let the fireworks, congratulate each other, decorate houses with pine trees.

In some families there is a tradition bake Christmas cakes with a surprise - to put one coin, the other baked salty, and the third sweet. Over the New Year table, under the battle bells must choose a cake, and a lot of them on a platter. Anyone who gets a coin, next year be rich, the owner of the salt cake waiting for tests, and the sweet - funny, sweet life.

In some families decided to paint furniture: the glass or mirror cabinet gouaches depict the symbol of the coming year, Father Frost and Snow Maiden with some winter picture.

It is believed that the New Year must meet the new clothes, then the disease will not stick. All members of the family buying panties, beacons, socks, pantyhose - everything that is "closer to the body." This is a good excuse to buy something special, something that did not allow yourself to another time.

Famous People

1. Putin
2. Marat Safin
3. Anna Kournikova
4. Yevgeny Kafelnikov
5. Gorbachev
6. Anton Sikharulidze
7. Elena Berezhnaya
8. Yeltsin
9. Sergei Ivanov
10. Igor Ivanov

11. Garry Kasparov
12. Vladimir Kramnik
13. Igor Larionov
14. Pavel Bure
15. Berezovsky
16. Valery Gergiev
17. Kasyanov
18. Mstislav Rostropovich
19. Vladimir Sorokin
20. Solzhenitsyn