EventsInRussia.com

The National Calendar of Events

PLAN YOUR TRIP:

National Association of information-tourist organizations
www.naito-russia.ru

The federal list of classified hotels and other accommodation facilities
www.lodging.ru

3-10 March, 2019

RUSSIA

is not only football

MASLENITSA

butter or pancake week

eventsinrussia.com

Pancakes or blini in russian are the main features of Maslenitsa. During all the week people cook and eat pancakes with different fillings.

TRY TO COOK TRADITIONAL RUSSIAN PANCAKES BY YOURSELF.

Blini with water

Mix in a deep bowl 3 eggs, 750 ml of water, 2 tbsp. sugar and ½ tsp. salt. Thoroughly whip the mixture with a whisk and gradually introduce 500 g of sifted flour. Next, grease the pan with oil and proceed to frying. As soon as the pancake browned from the edges, turn it over to the other side. And do not forget to flavor them with butter, putting them in an appetizing pile.

Alexander Pushkin pink blini

Rub 3 egg yolks with 1/2 tsp of salt, 1 tsp of sugar and 1 tablespoon of soft butter. Stir a little, add 500 ml of milk. Then, constantly stirring, gently introduce 600 grams of flour. Add whipped whites. Grate 1 beet, squeeze the juice and add to the dough.

Keys to cook the best Russian blini:

- cast-iron pan
- butter for greasing each pancake
- good mood and a lot of love

On the first week of March, Russia will feature a national week of traditional festivities celebrating the arrival of the spring. Maslenitsa (Pancake or Butter Week) will come with its delicious pancakes baked outside, various folk games and competitions, fun-filled fairs.

There will be no limits to formats of events: any ideas that will make people happy and energetic after a long winter will do.

The main attributes of the Butter Week are pancakes, cottage cheese cakes (and other baked goods), fun competitions, fairs and the straw doll named Maslenitsa.

Of special significance during the Butter Week is Thursday, when you should wash yourself in the Russian steam room, to cleanse yourself from all problems and troubles of the year you eave behind.

The celebrations will culminate in the traditional burning of the Butter Week Dummy, which symbolizes saying good-bye to the cold season and the overall renewal of nature. Often, according to ancient customs, young people will compete in jumping over fires.

According to folk beliefs, people who do not celebrate Maslenitsa, are doomed to have an unsuccessful year.

St.Petersburg

Mandrogi village,
Leningrad Region

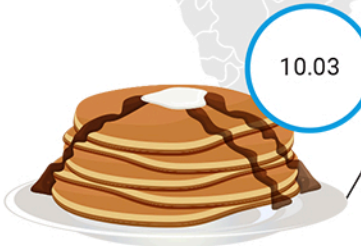
Yaroslavl,
Yaroslavl region

Voronezh,
Voronezh Region

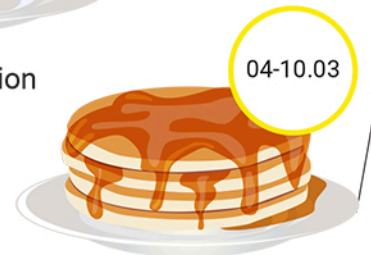
Traditional pancake beliefs:

- Exceptional people prefer pancakes with caviar
- Flighty people prefer pancakes with salmon
- Generous people prefer pancakes with cream cheese
- Bland people prefer pancakes with sour cream
- Annoying people prefer pancakes with boiled eggs
- Affectionate people prefer pancakes with butter
- Loyal people prefer pancakes with jam

**Enjoy tasting different filling
to choose one that suits you more!**

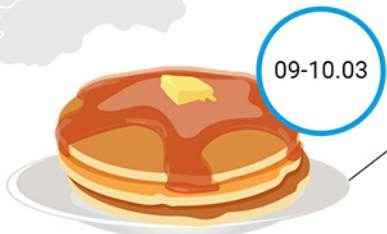


Samara,
Samara Region



Ekaterinburg,
Sverdlovsk Region

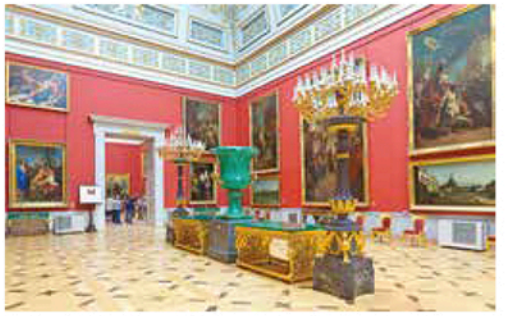
Yalutorovsk,
Tyumen region



Vladivostok,
Primorsky Krai

PANCAKE WEEK IN THE NORTHERN CAPITAL OF RUSSIA, ST. PETERSBURG

The most beautiful and unusual city of Russia proclaims its imperial presence in majestic stone on the shores of the Neva River. Over two centuries St. Petersburg had served as the official capital of the Russian state.



Northwest Russia

International Airport Pulkovo Saint Petersburg

UTC +3

-3 C

Early spring in St.Petersburg:

1. **Unique opportunity to pay more time to studying various museums**
In addition to masterpieces of Russian and world art, of which there are more than 3 million in the world-famous Hermitage museum alone, museums offer a range of historic, regional studies, natural science and ethnographic collections. The city also has museums of bread, chocolate, tea, coffee, glass, porcelain and Russian TV series.

2. **Visit exquisite theaters**
The theater world of St. Petersburg includes world-renowned theater troupes with many actors, ballet dancers and opera stars of national and international renown.

3. **Walk along the night Nevsky Prospect**
More than 250,000 lamps and lights create the architectural and artistic lighting of city buildings. Nevsky Prospect at night is the only architectural highlighting complex in the world, where 3 kilometers and 15 meters of space are decorated in the same style.

4. **Try yourself in winter sports**
Fans of skating can visit 17 outdoor and 24 indoor skating rinks, 11 of which will be open at night as well.

When: March 9-10, 2019
Where: downtown and parks across the city
What: big program with musical and folk dance groups performances, lots of activities, fun competition games and other folk amusements for children and adults.

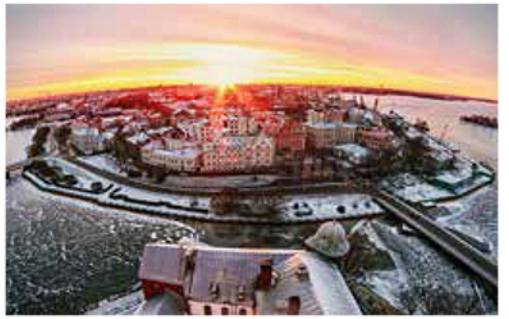
Since the very first days of existence of St. Petersburg, Butter Week Festivities there were always grandiose and included many forms of popular entertainment, including sledding and amateur theater presentations.

The Maslenitsa festival is celebrated annually on a large scale on Elagin Island. Festive celebrations are such a fairy performance that visitors coming here feel like they have travelled to the days of old Russia. In addition to traditional dances, performances, fairs, tea and pancakes, all the visitors can enjoy the fascinating performances of special guests that will not leave anyone indifferent.

Museums also have prepared their exhibition and lecture events, and folklore ensembles will be performing in concert halls and at open venues. Restaurants will not miss a chance to let their guests enjoy themselves this holiday season with great variety of different pancakes as well.

PANCAKE WEEK FESTIVITIES IN LENINGRAD REGION, THE SILVER NECKLACE OF RUSSIA

Leningrad Region is the winner of the National Geographic Traveler Awards 2018 in the nomination "Russian sightseeing holiday", over 5000 historical and cultural monuments, in the UNESCO World Heritage List.



Northwest Russia, Leningrad Region, border with Finland and Estonia — UTC +3

Train, bus of car from International Airport Pulkovo Saint Petersburg — -3 C

Come to Leningrad Region to:

1. To travel in time in the first capital city of Ancient Rus, Staraya Ladoga: see the places from where Rurik, Sineus and Truvor went to reign in the Russian lands and look at the mound, where, according to legend, Oleg the Prophet was buried.
2. To climb the walls of five impenetrable fortresses.
3. To visit the Vyborg Castle, the unique example of Western European medieval fortifications.
4. To admire Gatchina - a city whose center is included in the UNESCO World Heritage List.
5. To venerate the ancient Orthodox holy artifacts in monasteries of Tikhvinsky, Volkhovsky, and Lodeinopolsky Districts
6. To visit the luxurious estates of renowned Russian statesmen.
7. To relax on Lake Ladoga - the largest lake in Europe.

When: March 9-10, 2019
Where: the Village of Mandrogi
What: skomorokh performances and fun competitions of Russian bogatyrs, sleigh ride, tastings and master classes.

The Butter Week in Leningrad Region gives you an opportunity to visit the ancient Russian festival, as if travel in time to celebrate the Butter Week festivities at the time of Ancient Rus.

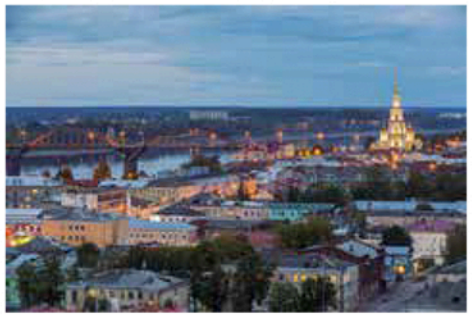
Colorful celebrations of the Butter Week will take place in the Village of Mandrogi. This village recreated in the Ancient Rus historic style is located in the middle of coniferous forests is the ideal setting for the celebration of the Butter Week. Here you will attend a real fair with skomorokh performances and fun competitions of Russian bogatyrs, you will sled downhill, or ride a troika with bells, or climb the Butter Week pole to claim a prize

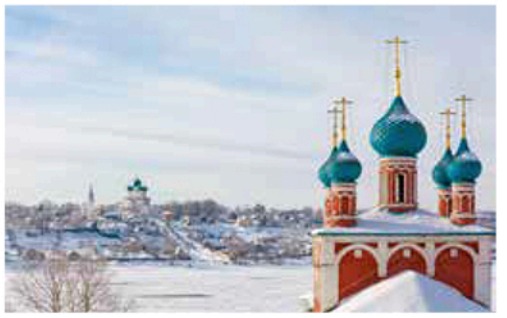
The main ritual of this holiday that symbolizes the end of winter and the coming of the spring is the burning of the Butter Week Dummy.

We also recommend visiting Pancake festivities in Gatchina and Vyborg.

PANCAKE WEEK IN YAROSLAVL, GOLDEN RING OF RUSSIA

The first Christian city on the Volga, founded in 1010, center of Yaroslavl Region. The land of Yaroslavl is the medieval Russian Gardarike, the land of ancient Russian cities, each of them with unique character and an unforgettable look.





Yaroslavl region, the center of Russia — UTC +3

Tunoshna Airport, Yaroslavl or a train from Moscow (265 km) — -5 C

Top things to do in Yaroslavl Region:

1. Take a walk along the Volzhskaya Embankment in Yaroslavl, the most beautiful embankment on the Volga.
2. Get on the bell tower of the Transfiguration Monastery in Yaroslavl and see the whole ancient city listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
3. Visit Rostov Veliky, Pereslavl-Zalessky and Uglich – cities of the most popular route of the country, Russia's Golden Ring, which celebrated its fiftieth anniversary last year.
4. Choose a few of the dozens of small thematic museums of the Yaroslavl region and understand that museums are the most unusual and very funny.
5. Go to the temple of Elijah the Prophet in Yaroslavl and the Resurrection Cathedral in Tutaev and see the most beautiful frescoes in Russia.
6. Cheer yourself and your children in the most children's city of Russia - Myshkin.
7. Visit the capital of barge-haulers - Rybinsk - and go from there to the shore of the largest artificial reservoir in Europe - the Rybinsk reservoir.

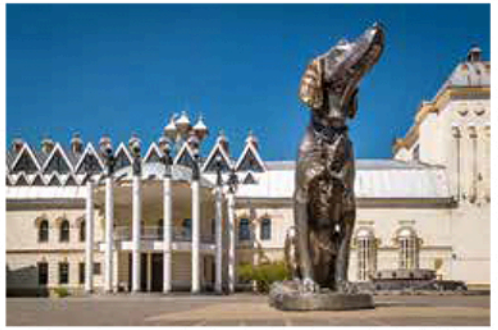
When: March 3-10, 2019
Where: Yaroslavl city
What: open air parties during whole week, pancake frisbee and curling, football in felt boots, largest samovar in Russia and dozen of pancakes.

Yaroslavl is the capital of Pancake Week in Russia. During the festivities the city gets transformed and becomes the scene of Butter Week open air parties, where anyone can find something to do and enjoy themselves, not forgetting the pancakes of all kinds served with such delicacies as onion jam, farmer cheese and quail liver..

Come to the festival to make our own carnival mask, take part in the Russian winter carnival, watch strong-men compete and play, and show off your own prowess and strength if you so desire. The guests can visit the pancake shooting range, and athletes looking for new impressions will learn what the pancake frisbee and curling are, and will even get to play football in felt boots.

The exhibition of life-size Butter Week dolls will tell the story of their creation, and herbal tea from the largest samovar in Russia will keep you warm even in bitter cold. Visitors can also purchase favorite Yaroslavl souvenirs – majolica, enamel miniatures, felt boots, Yaroslavl chocolate and many other things – to take home with them. It is at this time that Yaroslavl becomes also a creative space for young artists who present their unique art objects and installations, which make the Yaroslavl Butter Week unforgettable.

Voronezh is a city that blends modernity and history. It is known as the capital of the Black Soil Region, the most fertile soils on the planet.



Central Russia, Voronezh region

Voronezh International Airport

UTC +3

-1 C

Top 5 unique things you can only see in Voronezh

1. The historic copy of the first Russian sail battleship "Goto Predestinatsia," which was floated out at Voronezh Shipyards in 1700. Voronezh is a cradle of the Russian fleet, the place where the first Admiralty in Russia was founded. The recreated ship now serves as a museum.

2. A monument to White Beam Black Ear, a faithful and kind dog, featured in a touching cult book for children by Voronezh writer Gavriil Troepolsky, near the Puppet Theater. When someone needs good luck, they come to White Beam Black Ear and rub his nose.

3. Performances at the Chamber Theater, one of the top 10 most interesting provincial theaters of Russia according to Forbes Magazine.

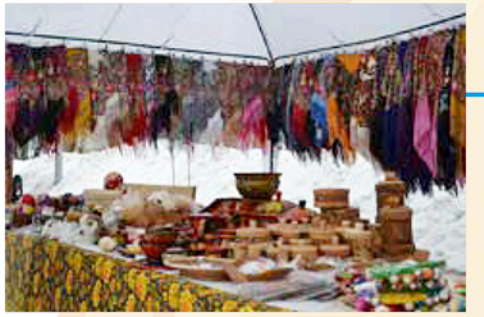
4. The Annunciation Cathedral – the third largest Orthodox Church in Russia, built in 1998-2009 in the Russian Byzantine style. The highest point of the Cathedral is 97 meters.

5. Old linden-tree alleys of the Central City Park, which is more than 170 years old. Voronezh native, Nobel Prize winner Ivan Bunin dedicated his "Natalie" story in "Dark Alleys" collection to his native city.

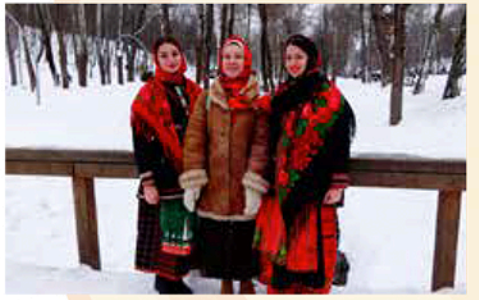
When: 4-10 March, 2019
Where: Voronezh city, Central Park
What: Folk festival with interactive games, parties and traditional pancake tasting.

For several years already Voronezh Central Park, planted in 1844 by order of Emperor Alexander II, has been hosting Butter Week festivities. Residents and guests of the city meet here to awaken the nature to new life with their laughter, pancake parties and games.

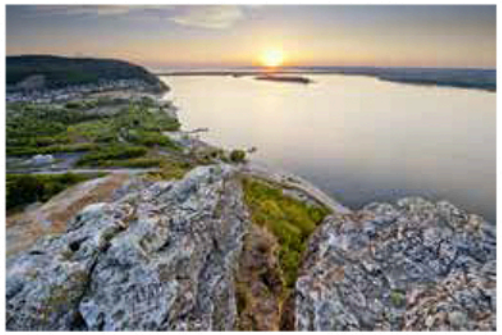
Voronezh will welcome the Butter Week on March 4-10 this year, and on Saturday, March 9, the main celebration will take place where we will once again say good-bye to the winter season and welcome in the spring, the warmth and the sunshine! Concert programs, master classes in baking pancakes, tasting pancakes are waiting for the guests.



Meanwhile master classes in ice skating will help to whet your appetite. The main event of the holiday is the burning of the Dummy of Winter.



The city in south-east of European Russia, on the bank of the great river Volga, founded in the 16th century, is the center of Samara Region, which for the third year in a row will take the first place in the rating of event tourism.



Volga Region, Samara Region

Kurumoch International Airport, Samara

UTC +4

-7 C

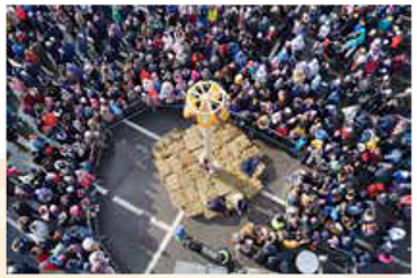
Come to Samara:

1. To enjoy the unique ambiance of its Old Town, where the largest open square in Europe stands next to historic wooden buildings and modern era architecture, all of these buildings once created by remarkable architects.
2. To take a walk down the beautiful promenade along the Volga River with truly magnificent views.
3. To visit the bunker built specially for Stalin.
4. To take a selfie with a real gigantic rocket.
5. To appreciate the grandeur of Zhiguli Mountains and the luscious beauty of nature in Samarskaya Luka National Park.
6. To taste the legendary Zhigulevskoe beer in the cult venue of Na Dne (Rock Bottom) and visit the Alfred von Vacano plant where it is brewed.

When: March 10, 2019
Where: Samara city, Kuybysheva square
What: interactive shows, competitions and games, such as pillow fights on wooden logs and tug-of-war competitions, and climb the Butter Week Pole to claim prizes.

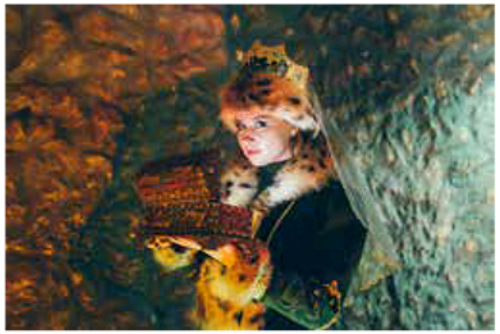
One of the brightest and most anticipated festivals has always been celebrated widely and with much joy. Samara is no exception: every year more than 80,000 people come to celebrate to Kuybysheva square.

The Butter Week festivities are accompanied by a concert program. The guests are traditionally not only spectators here, they can take part in interactive shows, competitions and games, dance and sing, take photos, take part in traditional Butter Week games, such as pillow fights on wooden logs and tug-of-war competitions, and climb the Butter Week Pole to claim their prizes.



You can also visit the City of Craftsmen, where it is possible not only buy hand-made souvenirs, but also attend workshops and learn about making spring souvenirs with your own hands.

This region in Middle Urals on the border of Europe and Asia attracts many travelers with its beautiful nature, the Gem Belt, a legendary place where gems are extracted and processed, which was described in fairy tales by Bazhov, its many spas and alpine skiing centers.



Middle Urals, Sverdlovsk Region

Koltsovo International Airport, Ekaterinburg

UTC +5

-5 C

The main tourist routes in Sverdlovsk Region:

1. The heritage of Pavel Bazhov, a famous writer, is one of the most remarkable brands of Sverdlovsk Region. Year 2019 has been officially designated as the Year of Bazhov here in celebration of his 140th anniversary.The characters of fairy tales can be encountered in Bazhov Place Nature Park, located in the birthplace of the writer, Sysert, where fairy tale characters serve as guides along picturesque hiking trails. Bazhov tales' characters can also be found on the unique tourism site of Urals Mountains, the border between Europe and Asia. Tourists from across the globe make their wishes here: after all, they can be heard on two continents.

2. The main tourist routes here are dedicated to the theme of gems and emeralds, great craftsmen and fairy tale characters.
The prospecting of gold in Russia started in the middle of the 18th century in the Urals, and visitors will enjoy the rare opportunity to go down into the gold mine in Berezovsky and feel like real gold prospectors for a while. Visitors can learn more about minerals and gems in the Geological Museum of the Ural State Mining University; in the settlement of Murzinka and in the local Museum of Minerals they can attend gem-prospecting field trips.

When: 4-10 March, 2019
Where: Park Skazov in Aramil, city Sysert and city of Polevskoy
What: tasting ceremony of ancient Urals cuisine recipes, dog sled rides, fortune-telling and Bazhov's fairy tale characters.

Bazhov's Butter Week theme is one of the most important themes on the Middle Urals.
On March 2019 in the Park Skazov in Aramil, the first such theme park in the Urals, the main winter magician, Ural Moroz (Urals Frost) will ceremoniously turn his duties over to Vesna Krasna (Spring the Beautiful).

One of the holiday programs of the Park Skazov is Bazhov's Butter Week, which will be attended by fairy tale characters, will include fortune-telling by the Mistress of the Copper Mountain, and tea drinking at the tasting ceremony of ancient Urals cuisine recipes.

Bazhov's birthplace, Sysert, also holds bright Butter Week festivities that can come together with the tour of Bazhov places. Here you can visit the writer's House and Museum and the unique Sysert Porcelain enterprise. The Butter Week will be held here on March 10, with 250 kg of pancakes baked in accordance with traditional Urals recipes, and dog sled rides.
On March 4-10, 2019 yet another Bazhov-themed city of Polevskoy will include celebrations of the traditional Butter Week and give an opportunity to see the legendary places of the area. Village of Poldnevoe, Polevskoy City District, is described in two of Bazhov's tales, "The Silver Hoof," and "Jumping Fire." Tourist routes based on fairy tales, including the Minerals Route and the Gastronomy Route, pass through here as well.

This cozy and friendly city of sculptures and monuments, apple alleys and millions of flowers stands on the bank of the Tobol River at the very same place where the first Siberian settlement was laid more than 350 years ago during the conquest of Siberia by Yermak, a legendary explorer.

Tyumen region, Siberia — UTC +5

Roshchino International Airport, Tyumen (92 km to Yalutorovsk) — -7 C

3 main things to do in Yalutorovsk:

1. **Get acquainted with the history of the Decembrists**
A significant part of the city's history has been dedicated to Decembrists – Russian noblemen who revolted against autocracy and serfdom in 1825, and were exiled here as punishment. The memories of their contribution to the local culture are kept in four landmark buildings that have survived to this day.

2. **Have a look at Trade Rows Complex**
Complex goes back to 1821, it has been nominated as a cultural heritage site.

3. **Immerse yourself in the world of peasant life**
Yalutorovsk Prison is a restored fortification that goes back to the time of the city's foundation. It is located where the original fortress had once stood, with its watchtowers, moats and draw bridges across from them. Enjoy an interactive immersion into the peasant life here: try your hand at baking pancakes in a settler's hut, learn various folk crafts, such as quilt- and rug-making, pottery, etc., and attend historic reconstructions of events, such as, for instance, a Cossack wedding. Here you can try the most delicious dumplings, ashberry jam, kasha cooked in the pot of the Three-Headed Snake Dragon, and herbal tea served in a gigantic Yalutorovsk Samovar.

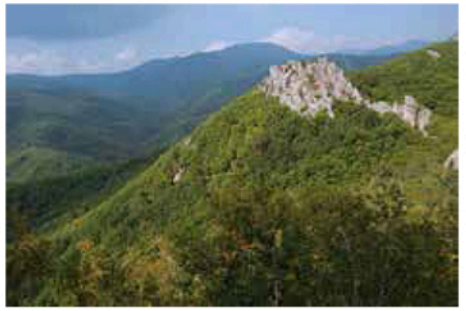
When: March 10, 2019
Where: Yalutorovsk city, Sretensky square
What: Pancake battle with two 3-meter pans and a 200 liter samovar.

Yalutorovsk has been proud of its Pancake Capital of Russia title; the celebration of Butter Week has a history of almost 350 years.

Pancake Battle is a grandiose show at Siberian Butter Week in Yalutorovsk. For 12 years in a row the largest pancake in Russia – 3 meters in diameter – is baked in Yalutorovsk. Those who try it will be guaranteed a very happy new year.

The entire variety of Butter Week treats is offered in "super-size" at Made in Yalutorovsk Gigantic Food Tasting Festival, where guests will try a 200 kg cake, a bologna 6 m 23 cm long, a huge semolina cake and a fish pie, a 10 kg meat dumpling and a 100 kg Herring under Fur Coat salad.

The picturesque nature of the south of Russia's Far East is filled with unforgettable places and events, and the main city of the Krai, Vladivostok, looks new and transformed with its modern bridges, built for the APEC Summit of 2012, ready for the future.



Far East, Primorsky Krai

Vladivostok International Airport

UTC +10

-5 C

Top 5 things you can do only in Primorsky Krai

1. Natural riches of the Krai are there in abundance in Land of Leopards and Call of Tigers National Parks, the Sea Reserve Museum on Popov Island, the only yew grove on an island on Petrov Island, ecological routes in Udegey Legend National Park and Sikhote-Alin Reserve where you can try healing mineral water from a spring in the Sikhote-Alin Mountain Range.

2. Here you can discover the stunning views of the sea, mountain lakes and rolling hills, waterfalls and caves, and take a helicopter ride over the mystical mountain of Pidan.

3. Try active or even extreme recreation: conquer snowy peaks of alpine skiing parks, take a Jeep tour across rough terrain, take a ride across the taiga on horseback, following in the tracks of first trailblazers.

4. Get immersed into history in the Paleovillage, a tourist and education site, 300 m away from the ancient Catherine's Settlement, where you will see houses of prehistoric people of different eras.

5. Visit the Russkiy Island and walk along the embankment of the Far-Eastern Federal University. The total area of the campus of the intellectual mini-capital of the region is 140 hectares, of which 55 hectares are occupied by landscaped parks.

When: March 9-10, 2019
Where: the central square of Vladivostok, historical park "The Emerald Valley"
What: Pillow fights, log-sawing contest and other folk games, 8.5 m high pillar with gifts, round dances and hot pancakes

The two-day festival program will include concerts and competitions, with tasting of pancakes.

The artifacts of the celebration will include the Dummy of Winter and a tall pole for daring and brave who will try to get their gifts perched on the pole 8.5 m high. Pillow fights, log-sawing contest, Roosters game, jumping in sacks, weight lifting, walking on stilts and many other holiday festivities will finish with the traditional burning of the Dummy of Winter.

The Emerald Valley, a family park of Russian history, will offer round dance parties and competitions of strongmen. The Crafts Fair will include lessons in making ancient Russian charms, and gingerbread painting, and offer pancakes with herb tea. On March 10, the Emerald Valley Park will host the traditional burning of the straw Dummy of Winter and cold fireworks.

International Travel Fair "Intourmarket"

When: March 9-11, 2019
Where: EC "Crocus Expo", Moscow

Intourmarket Travel Fair is the main tourism event that is officially supported by the Russian Federal Agency for tourism and other federal and professional organizations contributing to the travel industry development in Russia. ITM is a B2B oriented event for professional audience to study Russian regions. Main sections: adventure holidays, SPA, wellness and health tourism, museums and national parks, cruises, eco tourism destinations, city and sightseeing tours.

The Scarlet Sails festival

When: June 22, 2019
Where: St.Petersburg

The program of the celebration is very diverse. It includes a huge-scale theatrical show, which takes place on the Palace Square and the Spit of Vasilevsky Island. After the concert a spectacular event on the waters of the Neva takes place - that will be a living fairy tale, a reality beyond all conceivable limits. At once, the dark sky is painted with bright colours from fireworks of incredible beauty, accompanied by the solemn sounds of a symphony orchestra. The climax of the festival is the appearance of a beautiful sailing ship on the surface of the water with scarlet sails symbolizing freedom, love and hopes for a bright future.

International festival of world music and crafts "World of Siberia"

When: July12-14, 2019
Where: Shushenskoye, Krasnoyarsk Krai

Since 2003 Shushenskoye has become the place of musical, ethnic, cultural venue for thousands and thousands of guests whose number and geography annually increases. Moreover there are a lot of beautiful landscapes, fresh air, tasty food, non-alcohol policy, a great variety of world music, dances, ingenuous faces, unimaginable suits, natural materials and fanciful jewelery. When the official program on the main stage is over, people prefer singing and dancing, watching movies in the outdoor cinema and just communicate with each other. Plus, there are a number of workshops and lectures, for those who like learn something new, traditional rituals, crafts, multinational traditional games.

International Pokrov Trade Fair

When: October 12-13, 2019
Where: Tambov, the riverside area near Intercession Cathedral

The history of Pokrov trade fair dates back to the beginning of the 18th century. This event defines the time and venue of the trade fair – the closest to Pokrov holiday weekend and the most picturesque Tambov site – the riverside area near Intercession Cathedral. The important part of the fair is the holiday of Tambov potatoes. The potatoes are cooked and served to all comers. Folklore bands perform on stage. Peddlers, skomorokhs and barkers walk along the stalls advertising the goods and giving out souvenirs to the visitors.