

# Theme: Culture of Kazakhstan

# Culture Of Kazakhstan



- The Kazakh people are rich in traditions. From birth through old age and death, every step of their lives has historically been marked with celebration. Even their funeral ceremonies have their own special symbolism. These traditions include being respectful to old people; being patriotic to the motherland; being honest; and learning to love mankind.

Traditionally every guest is offered Kazakh cuisine at the dastarkhan (the low table) in a **yurt**. The **yurt** is one of the most sensible types of movable house. It is a comfortable and practical home, ideally suited to local conditions and ways of life - one of the greatest inventions of the **Eurasian nomads**.



● The **women's national costume** consists of a white cotton or colored **silk dress**, a velvet waistcoat with embroidery and a cap or a silk scarf. Elderly women wear a hood made of white cloth with a hole for the face (the kimeshek). **Brides** wear a tall pointed, richly decorated hat, topped with feathers (saukele).



● **Kazakh music and musical instruments:** The Kazakhs love the art of wordplay and their akyns (poets), who improvise at public competitions (aitys) accompanied by Kazakh stringed musical instruments: the **dombra** or the **kobyz**.



- **Nauryz** (Islamic New Year) is one of the biggest holidays in **Central Asia**. In Kazakhstan it is celebrated on the day of the spring equinox, **March 22**. On that day, the streets of villages and towns are transformed. Guests are hosted in **beautiful yurts** with the traditional **Nauryz kozhe** dish made of seven traditional ingredients. People respecting this nearly month-long holiday forgive each others' debts and offences.

**National games:** these are usually performed on horseback and are an opportunity to witness the Kazakhs' outstanding **riding skills**. Kazaksha **kures** (Kazakh wrestling), **baiga** (horse racing over 25, 50 or 100 km), **kokpar** (a sort of polo game played with a dead goat), **kyz-kuu** (catch the girl) and **alty bakan** (six-pole swing).





# National dishes and meals

- **Maldy soy** (Slaughtering)
- **Uitip alu** - Pitching Poorer families couldn't afford to slaughter a horse or a cow
- **Pisiru**
- **Saktau** - preservation or storage Kazakhs were real masters in preserving meat
- **Musheleu, zhilikteu** - cutting a carcass to pieces and cutting the marrow bones.

# Other games are like

- **Sadak, sadak, kuirshak (Arrow, Arrow and the Doll)**
- **Sokyrteke (Blind wild goat)**
- **Belbeusok (hit with a sash)**
- **Kuzet (Guarding)**
- **Ak Suiek (white bone)**
- **Altybakan (a swing with six poles)**
- **Kyz Kuu (Catch up with a girl)**
- **Baiqe (horse race)**
- **Tenge alu (picking tenge from the ground on a horse)**



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