



European Puzzle

Grecia-19-24 aprilie 2010



ROMANIAN FOLK DANCES AND COSTUMES

ROMANIAN TRADITIONS - PRESERVED OVER THE CENTURIES



Maybe no other thing can better define the spirit of a people than its ancient traditions and customs.

The traveler coming from the West will be surprised to discover that Romania is a place with a lot of legends, myths, and traditions preserved for ages.

Music and dance represent a lively part of the Romanian folklore and there are a great variety of musical genres and dances.

Party music is very lively and shows both Balkan and Hungarian influences.

Sentimental music, however, is the most valued, and Romanians consider their *doina* (a sad song either about one's home or about love, composed like an epic ballad) unique in the world.

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The dances are lively and are practiced throughout Romania by a large number of professional and amateur groups, thus keeping the tradition alive and they combine elegant moves and satirical verses with giddy rhythms of the dance.

Hora(may be danced by all the villagers, especially on Sunday) is one of the most famous group dances but men's folk dances such as călușari(a ritual initiation dance) are extremely complex and have been declared by UNESCO to be "Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritages of Humanity".

HORA



It is widespread in the whole country, this is a dance for men and women as well.

The steps are generally simple, small and beat on the spot.

It is accompanied by a flute or bagpipe.



CALUSARII

Very ancient Romanian dance, people used to believe it drove away bad spirits and demons.

The costumes are decorated with ribbons, bells and on the flag are tied basil and garlic.



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Travelers not used to such events will assist, amused and frightened, curious and reserved, but the moment they understand the message of the dance and realize that they are in fact helping to reconstruct some ancient times, they will remember their emotion from that unique moment.

Invarita, Braul, Hategana, Dragaica, Batuta and Banu Maracine are other dances, rendering the specificity of every Romanian area in the very way they combine the specific moves and steps.





Învârtita - common especially in Ardeal, this is danced in pairs.

It consists of two parts - a walk alternating with pirouettes by the girls, and a rapid switching of partners round.

Brâul - this dance is popular on the both sides of the Carpathians. It can be danced either by men alone, or together with a women. Forming a semicircle the dancers hold each other either on the shoulders or by the belt.





Drăgaica - this old Romanian folk dance can be seen today only in SW part of Romania.

Danced by 6 girls, it has an asymmetrical rhythm and lively steps.



Folklore singers-Teleorman region

The temperature outside is over 35C degrees, they r wearing wool mantles but nothing can take that smile off their faces.



The singers from Oas region

Very large trousers for men and lots of skirts for women. Their singing style is called "tipurit" and its very unique. High notes - Mariah Carey style - performed by women as well as men.



Folklore dancers-Teleorman region

Each region has its own dance style, mix of colours - just like a lable.