

# UKRAINIAN TRADITIONAL CALENDAR

A Traditional Ukrainian Calendar is a useful tool for organizing and scheduling activity programs for Ukrainian refugee children and their caregivers. It is important to note that the calendar does not encompass all traditional holidays or significant dates. However, the calendar can be utilized more broadly to include local events, as well as significant dates for various languages and minority groups.



The Day of Ukrainian Writing and Language is an annual holiday celebrated in Ukraine on November 9th to promote the development of the state language. It serves as a reminder of the significance of the Ukrainian language in the country's culture and history.

**Ukrainian Writing and Language Day**  
**День української писемності та мови**  
 [dein ukra'jinskɔ piɕem'nɔstɪ tɑ 'moʊvi]

**Activities:**

A reading of Ukrainian literature in public, with translations available

November, 9th



The Independence Day of Ukraine is the most significant national holiday in modern Ukraine and is observed on August 24th to mark the anniversary of the country's Declaration of Independence in 1991. This day holds immense importance for Ukrainians, as it reflects their national identity and statehood. On this day, many Ukrainians wear traditional embroidered shirts called „vyshyvanki” and display various forms of symbolism in the colors of the national flag, which are yellow and blue.

**Independence Day of Ukraine and the Day of National Flag**  
**День Незалежності України і День Прапора**  
 [dein nezælez'nɔstɪ u'kreini i deinpræpɔrɑ]

**Activities:**

creating DIY items that symbolize the national flag's colors

August, 24th  
 August, 23th



The Ivan Kupala celebration is an age-old feast in Slavic culture that has its roots in early pagan beliefs centered around harvest. Over time, the celebration became intertwined with the Christian calendar and adapted into Orthodox Christian tradition by associating it with St. John's Day, which commemorates the birth of John the Baptist. The word „Kupala” also has roots in the Slavic word for „bathing,” and this aspect of the festival is still honored with water-related activities and rituals.

**Ivana Kupala Day**  
**Івана Купала**  
 [i'vanə kɔ'pɑ:lə]

July, 7th



**Activities:**

Weaving vinky (flower wreaths) and crafting Konyky (straw horses).

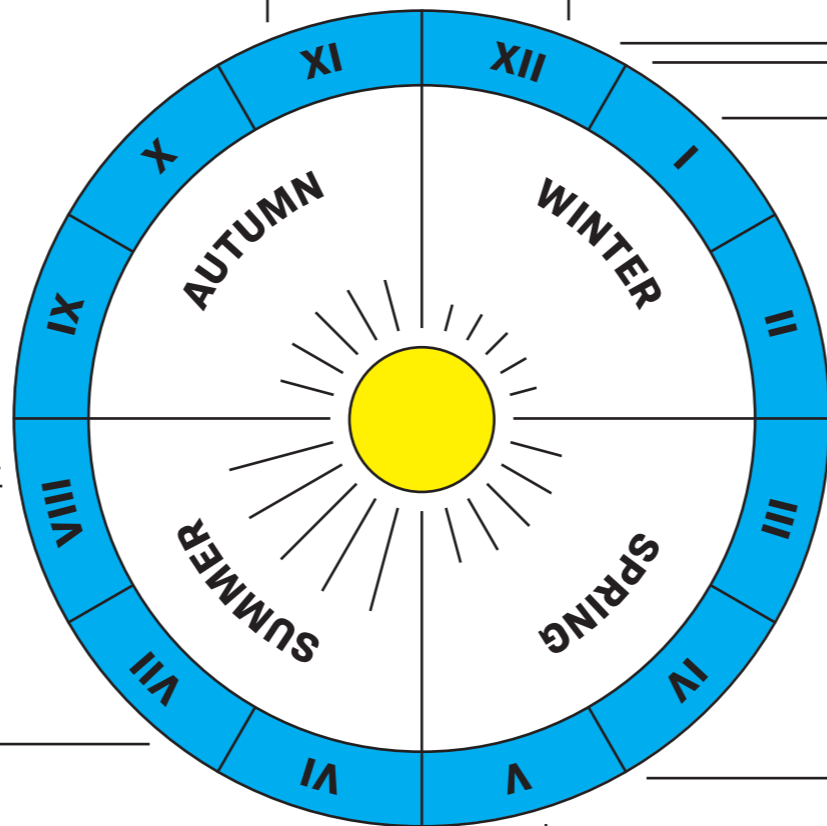
Vyshyvanka Day is a global holiday that aims to uphold the Ukrainian folk customs of making and donning ethnic embroidered clothes known as vyshyvankas. Vyshyvanka is among the most recognizable symbols of Ukrainian culture.

**Vyshyvanka Day**  
**День вишиванки**  
 [dein viʃi'va:ŋki]

movable date, celebrated every third Thursday of May

**Activities:**

designing/drawing vyshyvanka patterns, crafting lalka motanka dolls in traditional folk attire.



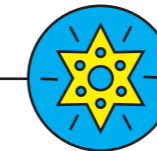
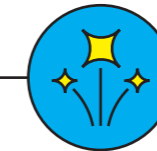
**St Nicholas Day**  
**День Святого Миколая**  
 [den svai'tougɔ miko'laɪə]

December, 19th

In Ukraine, kids anticipate the arrival of St. Nicholas who will come at night and leave a gift under their pillows, as long as they've been good throughout the year. In Ukraine it's time for raising money for charity, creating and distributing presents for kids.

**Activities:**

decorating gingerbread and sharing them.



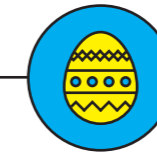
**New Year's Eve, and Christmas**  
**Новий рік і Різдво**  
 ['noʊvi 'rik i 'rizdʋɔʊ]

January, 1st  
 December, 25th /  
 January, 7th

In Ukraine, New Year's Eve and Christmas are widely celebrated holidays. New Year's Day is celebrated on January 1st, while Christmas is celebrated on January 7th. However, starting in 2022, Ukraine began a gradual shift towards celebrating Christmas on December 25th. Despite this change, many Ukrainians still choose to observe Christmas traditionally on January 7th, or honor both dates.

**Activities:**

decorating Christmas stars



**Easter**  
**Великдень**  
 [və'lik deɪn]

movable feast



Easter is regarded as the most significant celebration in the Christian liturgical calendar. In Ukraine, it is customary to bake traditional bread known as „pasky” for Easter, and to decorate and bless eggs known as „pysanky,” which are then eaten. Since the date of Easter in Ukraine is calculated according to the Julian calendar, it may differ from Catholic Easter.

**Activities:**

decorating “Pysanky”, which are traditional decorated eggs



**Mother's Day**  
**День матері**  
 [dein mə'tɛri]

movable date, celebrated every second Sunday of May

Mothers' Day is a widely celebrated occasion in Ukraine, where people express their wishes and gratitude towards their mothers. On this day, it is common for children to present their mothers with handmade gifts and laurels as a token of appreciation.

**Activities:**

laurel with vytynanka (traditional papercutting craft).

