

Bridges between Cultures

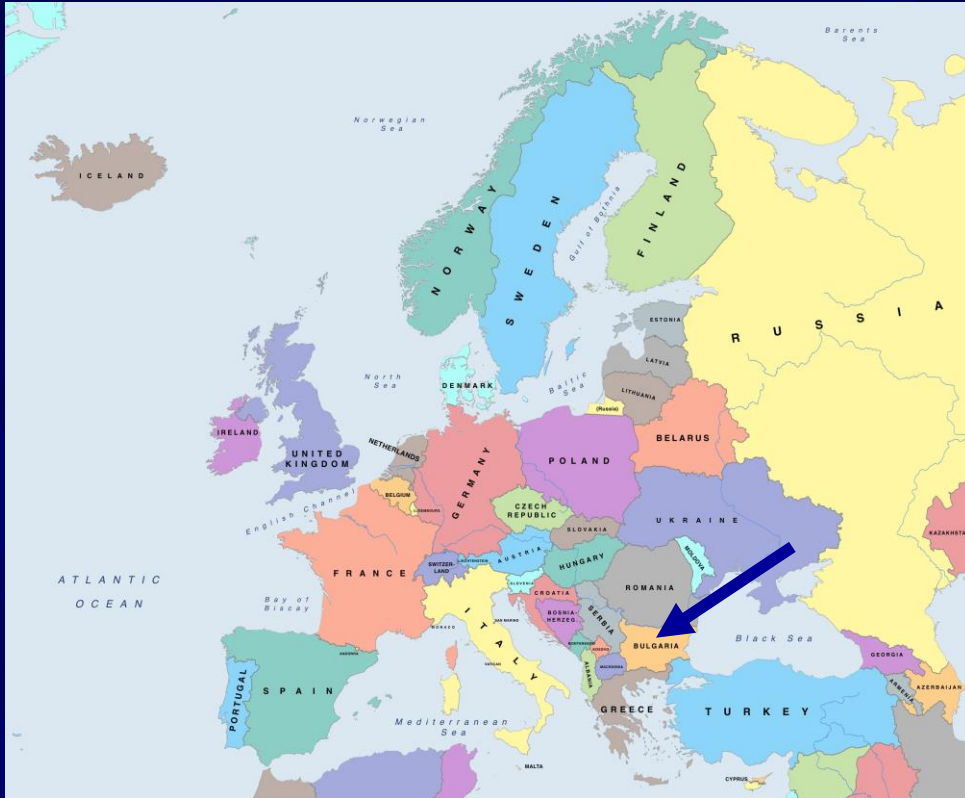
March 20th 2021



Bulgarian traditions and spring equinox
Ivo Jokin, Bulgaria



Where is Bulgaria?

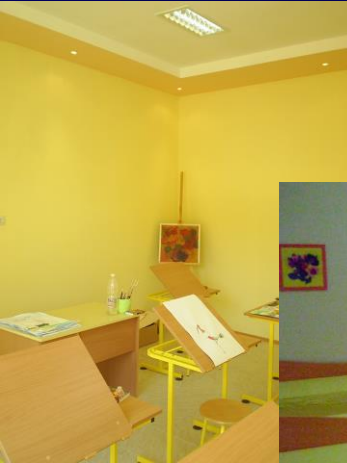


Danube river, Municipality Dolna Mitropolia Bulgaria



Municipal center for extracurricular activities

“Rainbow” painting School



“Danube” ecology club



Astro club

Authentic folklore group
“Kalushari”



12:09-13/NOV/2013

Beliefs and ideas of the ancient Bulgarians related to the vernal equinox



As early as the VI-V millennium BC, the ancient farmers in Bulgaria had an astronomical calendar based on the four main points in the "life" of the Sun - the two equinoxes (spring and autumn) and the two solstices (December and June). This calendar is recorded with drawings and signs in the Sanctuary in the Magura Cave

Ancient Bulgarian calendar 5 505 BC

(recognized in 1976 by UNESCO as the oldest in the world)



The calendar year has 4 symmetrical astronomical points: winter solstice, spring equinox, summer solstice and autumnal equinox:

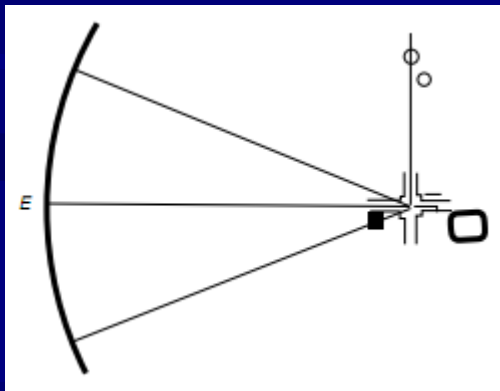
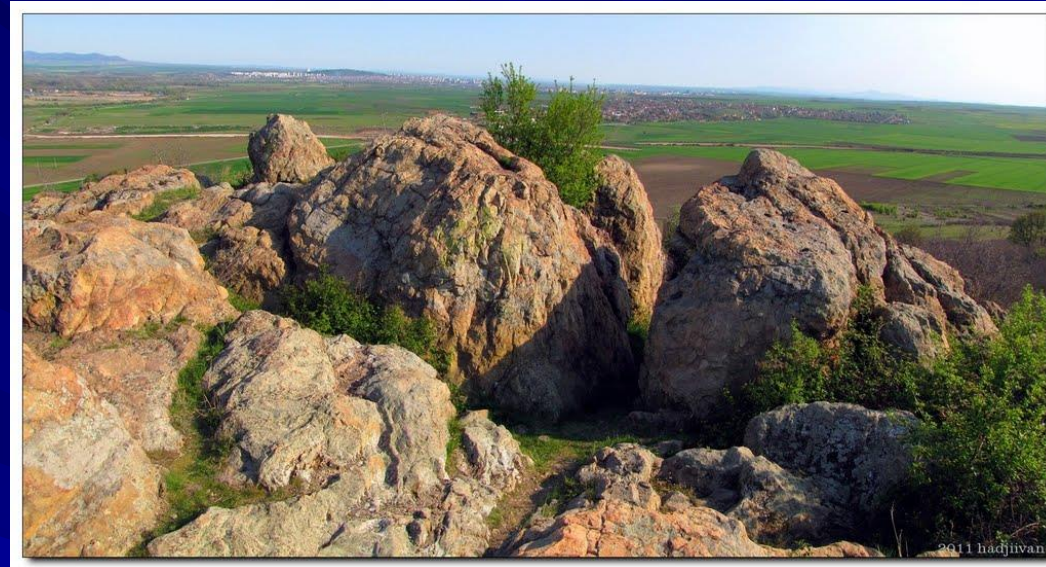


The ancient Bulgarians used their calendar system, which consisted of two main elements - an annual calendar and a group of 12 consecutive years, which were united in a 12-year cycle. The twelve-year calendar cycle is based on the 12-year orbital period of Jupiter. By type, the Bulgarian calendar is sunny.

For our ancestors, the year begins on the shortest winter day - December 21, and has 365 days. Every fourth year there is an additional day called "Day of the Sun", which we know as a leap year. Twelve months form four quarters. Each last month of the quarter has 31 days, and the other two months - 30 days. The new season starts on Sunday and ends on Saturday. Thus, the quarter is divided into exactly 13 weeks, and the year - into 52.

Thracian rock sanctuary Zaychi Vrah, ancient city of Kabile - ancient solar observatory, 2000 – 1500 BC

Here two cults are combined - to the great mother goddess Cybele and to the Sun.



The main astronomical directions are traced. The East-West direction is determined by a special front sight, through which they observed the rising Sun at the equinoxes.


Ulpia Oescus, 1st century AD, Roman Empire. It is located 4 km. from the village of Baikal, near the Danube river

The streets in the cities of the Roman Empire were oriented in geographical directions. Decumanos (east-west) and Cardo (north-south)

Find Sunrise, Sunset, Solar Noon and Solar Position for Any Place on Earth

Show: World Cities U.S. Cities GML Observatories GML Data Sites SurfRad & Solrad

Move the large red pin to the desired location and enter the date and time at which to calculate the sun position.



Location:

Latitude: Longitude: Time Zone:

Date:

Day: Month: Year:

Solar noon calculator <https://www.esrl.noaa.gov/gmd/grad/solcalc/>

Measuring the direction of the streets during the spring (autumn) equinox

Online Protractor

Find sunrise, sunset, solar noon and solar position for any place on Earth

World Cities U.S. Cities GML Observatories GML Data Sites SurfRad & Solrad

Place a large red pin to the desired location and enter the date and time at which to calculate the sun position.

Background image: Улпия-Ескус.jpg

Protractor color: Rotate:

Protractor radius:

Move protractor:

Date:

Longitude: Time Zone:

The deviation of Decumanus Street (from the east-west direction) during the spring equinox is 22 degrees.

The secret code of Bulgarian embroidery and astronomy



The rays represent the 8 main holidays associated with the Sun - the spring and autumn equinoxes and the summer and winter solstices (with red color) and the four positions between them (with white color) .





Tree of life - a cosmogonic principle



Spirals and vortices



**Women's folk costume
from the village of Baikol**

Group for authentic folklore "Kalushari" Baikal village

The folk custom "Kalush" was played during the Mermaid Week. The group is composed of an odd number of young people led by a leader - Vataf. The Kalush people drove away "evil forces and spirits" from sick people.



Baba Marta – 1 st March

This is the first spring holiday associated with the new Sun, the new reviving life. We exchange "Martenitsas" - twisted white and red thread threads that are tied on the hand or hung on the garment.



Spring holidays and customs

Lazarus

The spring holidays are centered around the vernal equinox. The customs and rituals performed in the spring should provide favorable weather for crops and a good harvest.



The young women, called "lazars", pick flowers for the wreaths that they will weave for Palm Sunday (the next day). The girls are dressed in traditional folk costumes. They go around the houses of the village, sing ritual Lazarus songs and bless for health, happiness and prosperity. The owner of the house gives them eggs, money, fruits and small gifts.

Sources:

- <https://www.tourism-yambol.com;>
- www.vidin-online.com;
- <https://makeupweb.wordpress.com/52-2/>
- <https://www.forum.bg-nacionalisti.org/index.php?topic=15548.75>

Thank you for your attention !