

April 4th -5th

LITHUANIA

EASTER



Decorated Easter eggs

The festival of Easter in Lithuania begins on Palm Sunday. On that day people go to church carrying a bunch made of willow (osier) and juniper which symbolizes vitality, energy, health and hope for life joy.

Leaving the church people whip (lash) each other with consecrated bunches of willow three times saying the words: “It’s a bunch of willow that is whipping you not me. Easter will be in a week”. They whip all people whom they meet in the street, members of the household so that they all could be vital, cheerful, fecund and hopeful.

On Easter morning church service begins with the sunrise. After it people hurry home – racing with each other so as to come home first. The one who comes home first will be the first that year to do all the works in the fields.

That morning people bring home consecrated water, fire and food products from the church.

The host consecrates the ones who haven’t been to church with this water, whips a bunch of willow saying the above mentioned words. The hostess makes her tile stove with the brought fire and prepares an Easter table.

Breakfast begins with the eating of consecrated egg, bread and salt. Cabbage soup and all other tasty dishes follow it.

Dyed (painted) with different colours and patterns eggs decorate the Easter table as symbols of life.

On the second Easter day people visit each other; godchildren usually come for a visit and they are given Easter eggs.

Having gathered Easter eggs, children gather in the yards and play “egg battle” hitting the point of one egg into another. The owner of the strongest egg gets the losers’ eggs and is announced the king of the hardest egg.