



Culture – connectedness in diversity

Part two: Spring traditions



In Omnibus
Omnia Est



1st theme: Culture

2016-2017

Swedish Easter traditions

Typical things and dates during Easter holidays in Sweden

After the early spring traditions the focus shifts to Easter traditions and celebrations.

The Easter is a Christian tradition that, like many Christian traditions, a lot of Swedes celebrate without necessarily being Christian or religious.

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The Easter week

During this week most Swedes start the Easter celebrations on "Spy Wednesday, or Good Wednesday, night/Maundy Thursday, or Covenant Thursday ("Dymmelonsdagen" / "Skärtorsdagen" in Swedish).

During Maundy/Covenant Thursday some children in Sweden walk around dressed up as påskkäringar/påskgubbar ("Easter witches") and knocks on people's doors to wish the residents inside a happy Easter and give a small gift such as a drawings or Easter cards.



Påskkäringar



In return the children usually gets a treat (usually candy or a coin/small bill) that they put in a basket or pot. This tradition started sometime during the early 1800's and it is similar to Halloween's trick or treating.

Another Easter symbol is of course the Easter bunny. This tradition came to Sweden from Germany during the late 1800's. According to the German tradition the Easter bunny brought the eggs.

One of the most symbolic food at Easter is of course eggs in all its forms. The tradition of painting eggs is around 300 years old. To paint eggs you can decorate the påskris with you first need to empty the egg from its shell. Take a sewing needle and make a small hole on the top of the egg. Make another, slightly bigger, hole at the bottom of the egg and scramble the yolk inside with the needle.

Put the smaller hole on the top of the egg to your lips and blow air through it with the bigger hole above a bowl. This will make the egg run through the bottom of the egg and leave the shell intact (besides the holes).

Paint the egg shell with, for example, regular watercolor in fun colors and patterns! After that you take a small stick or a match, break it off and tie a string around the middle of it. Then either put the match through the smaller hole (if it can fit through it) and tug lightly on the string to make the match set crosswise, or put the other side of the string through the bigger hole first and out of the smaller hole on top of the egg. Finally it's time to hang your decorated eggs!



Påskris ("Easter twigs") is a bouquet of twigs, usually taken from birch trees, that gets placed in a vase and decorated with colorful feathers, colored eggshells, paper flowers, cotton chickens and such. It is sort of like the Christmas tree at Christmas.