

# Hutsul traditions for holidays in Ukraine







# *Introduction*

- Who are the Hutsuls?

The Hutsuls are an ancient ethnic group of Ukrainians living in the Carpathian Mountains and have preserved many distinctive customs. They are known for their music, crafts, and unique way of life. The Hutsuls respect nature and pass on their traditions from generation to generation.

- Arrangement

The territory of the Hutsul region covers the highland areas of the Ivano-Frankivsk, Zakarpattia, and Chernivtsi regions, but historically Hutsul settlements were present not only in Ukrainian lands, but also in the adjacent territories of modern Romania and Poland, which indicates a wider distribution area of this ethnographic community.



## *The importance of traditions for Hutsuls*

Hutsuls value their traditions very much, as they consider them the basis of family and spiritual heritage. Many customs are passed down orally from parents to children, preserving ancient forms of celebrations. Traditions help maintain community unity, strengthen ties between generations, and make holidays special and unique in the Hutsul region.





# Christmas traditions

- **Preparation for Christmas Eve**

They prepare for Christmas in advance: they clean the house, cook 12 Lenten dishes, and put out a *didukh*, a symbol of family and prosperity. On Christmas Eve, the family sits down to the table after praying and tastes the first *kutia*, which is supposed to bring health and peace to the home.



- **Caroling with musical instruments**

Carol singing holds a special place in Hutsul traditions. They go caroling in groups with *trembits*, violins, and cymbals, singing ancient songs of praise. They sing carols not only near their homes, but also on the farm, blessing the livestock and the home for a good year.





- **“Pambaling”**

"Pambalyuvannya" - a tour of farms by young boys. They sing, joke, create a cheerful atmosphere, and wish each family joy and prosperity.

- **Nativity scene**

A nativity scene is a Christmas performance in which young people dress up as angels, shepherds, kings, and other characters. The nativity scene combines religious scenes, humor, and the singing of carols. Such performances go from house to house, giving people a festive mood and reminding them of the birth of Christ.







## New Year and Malanka

- New Year

*The New Year is very loud and joyful: trembits sound, violins and cymbals are played, and people dance traditional dances - kolomyyki. An important part is greetings. On this day, families gather at the festive table and give thanks for the past year.*



♪ На щастя, на здоров'я,  
На Новий рік!  
Роди, Боже, жито, пшеницю,  
Всяку пашницю! ♪



- *Malanka, Malanka fortune telling*

Malanka is a theatrical holiday during which young people dress up in various masks and images: Malanka, Vasyl, "grandfather" and "grandmother", a bear, a Cossack.

"Eavesdropping on fate"

On the night of Malanka, January 13-14, a girl would go out alone at night, approach her neighbors' windows, put her ear to the shutters, and the first word she heard would determine her fate.



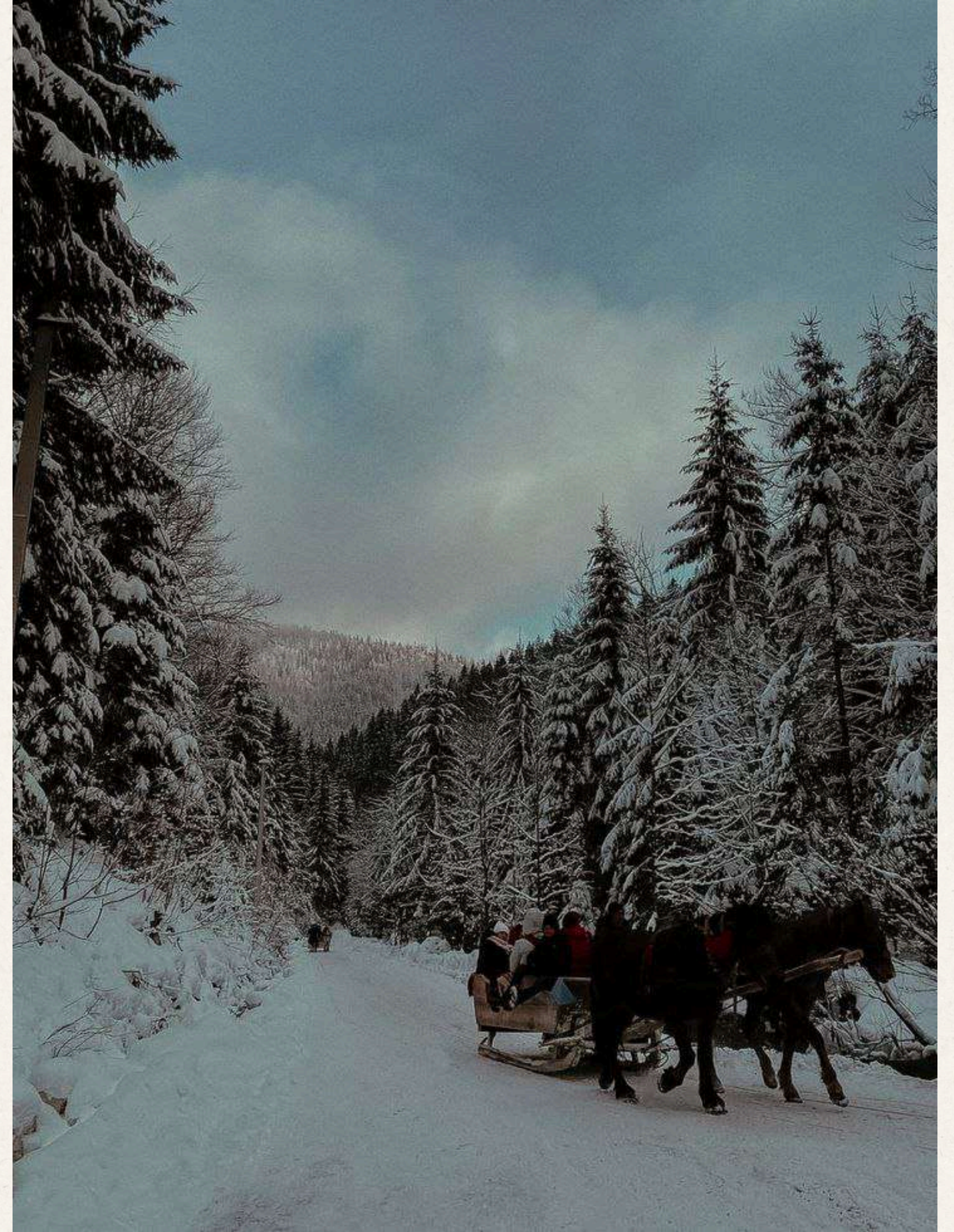
- "Bread" - abundance
- "Money" - a rich marriage
- "Child" - a child will be born
- "Death", "illness" - troubles
- "Wedding" - marriage
- "Laughter" - joy in life





## *Epiphany*

Epiphany is a holiday associated with purification and blessing. Traditionally, holy water is blessed. After this, the owners take the holy water home and sprinkle it on their homes, farms, livestock, and even bees.







## Easter

- **Easter eggs and their unique ornaments**

Easter eggs have unique patterns that are passed down from generation to generation. Each symbol on the egg has its own meaning: health, happiness, family well-being, and they are painted with wax and natural dyes.



- ***Blessing of Easter eggs in baskets***

On Easter Sunday, people bring Easter cakes, eggs, cheese, and other foods to church for consecration. The consecration symbolizes purification, blessing, and joy from the resurrection of Christ. This rite is always accompanied by prayers and festive songs.





- ***Ritual games and gaivkas***

After the church service, the Hutsuls organize folk entertainment: games, round dances, and gaivkas. Children and adults sing songs, dance, and lead circles around trees or symbolic elements of the holiday. Such events create a cheerful atmosphere and unite the community.



# Wedding

Mandatory elements of the wedding include a trembita (a traditional Ukrainian horn), wedding wreaths, ritual songs, and various rituals. The wedding lasts several days. The bride wears an embroidered shirt, skirt, and colorful wreath, while the groom wears a kaptar (a traditional Ukrainian jacket), a sheepskin coat, and a traditional belt. The outfits are decorated with bright ornaments and ribbons. The celebration is accompanied by Hutsul music, and guests dance folk dances, creating a joyful and lively atmosphere.





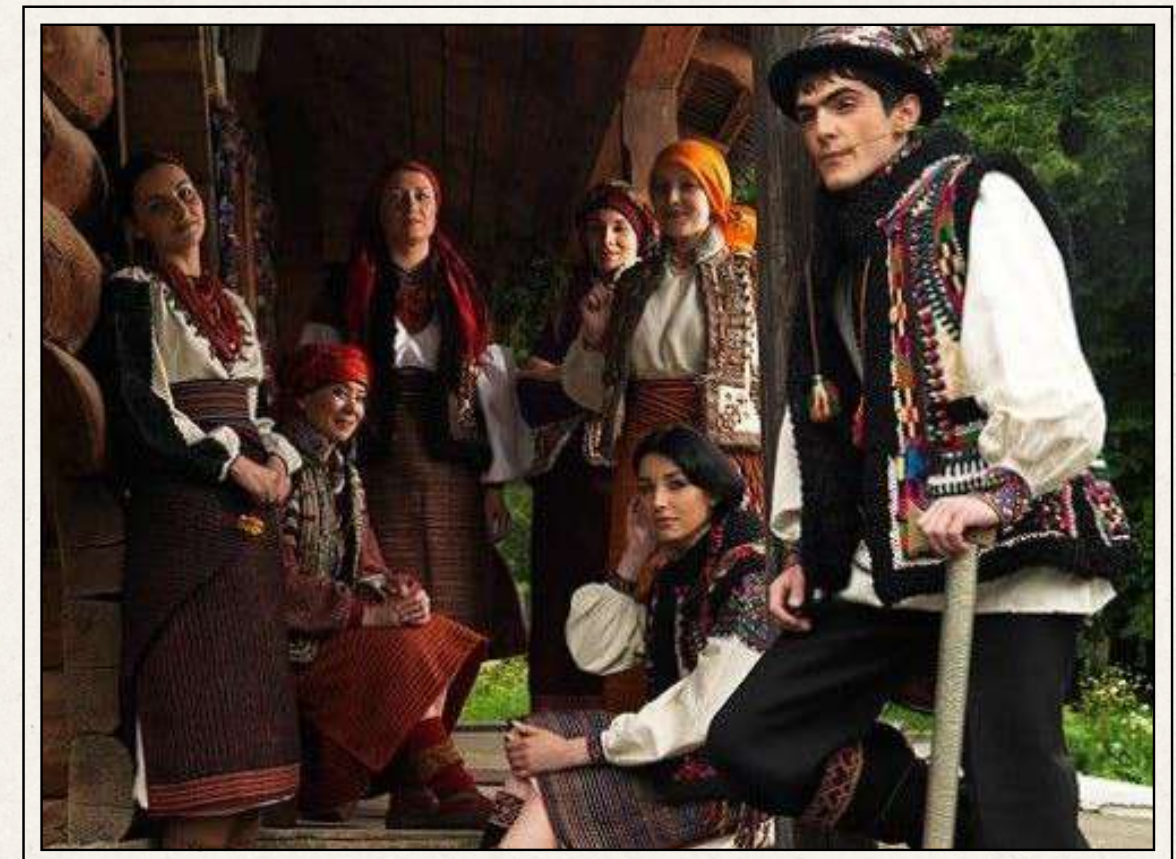
# Traditional clothing and music

- **Clothes**

Women wear embroidered shirts, skirts, hats, belts, and colorful scarves, while men wear fur coats, hats, pants, and belts. The clothing is decorated with ornaments, beads, and ribbons, symbolizing beauty, wealth, and family pride.

- **Music**

The holidays are accompanied by Hutsul music - trembita, violin, tsimbali, sopilka, and less often - drymba. They perform kolomyyki, folk songs, and ritual melodies. Music adds fun, emphasizes the special nature of the holidays, and unites the community.





***Thank you!***

## ***Conclusion***

The traditions of the Hutsul region are an important part of the culture of the Carpathians, passed down from generation to generation. The celebrations of Christmas, Easter, New Year and weddings are accompanied by rituals, music, dances and bright clothes. They unite families and preserve the identity of the people.