

Midsummer's Day

“Juhannus”

Celebration of light and fertility



Celebrated in Sweden, Finland and Baltics

Celebrated on the Saturday that lands between 20th and 26th June
During this time, the sun doesn't go down for a couple of days.

Originally celebrated because of Ukko, the God of weather and thunder. Rituals were performed to ensure a good harvest and fertility.

Rituals were deeply involved with magic.

Midsummer's night especially was full of love spells.

Finnish women would run around saunas naked and try and read their future.

Later some Christian denominations changed that the Midsummer's day was a celebration of John the Baptist, which the Finnish name Juhannus comes from.

Nowadays Midsummer's traditions in Finland consist less of magic, but with Juhannussauna, koivuvihta (a birch bath whisk), bonfires and a weekend spent at your summer cottage, most likely with alcoholic drinks.