

SPRING

In various European countries

Spring in Catalan

► Sant Jordi



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9UFSW6jBN9s&feature=youtu.be>

Spring in Poland

- ▶ Burning or drowning Marzanna.



Spring in Austria

► Bierzelt

- Bierzelt-time starts in May
- Dirndl and Lederhosen
- Beer and *Bratwürstl* and *Sauerkraut*
- *Frühschoppen*
- *Blasmusik* (Trompets and the like)
- *Gaudi* = Old austrian word for fun
- Tent festival with folk music



Maibaum

- Old folk tradition going back to the 16th century
- Usually on the 1st of May
- Tall decorated tree trunks get lifted, most often on the town greens
- Communal festivals, sometimes tree gets stolen
- Usually with procession and brass band
- Fire brigade is present
- Beer and Bratwürstl
- *Leberkasemmerl*



Spring in Romania

MĂRȚIȘOR



- ▶ Mărțișor (the trinket) is a very beautiful Romanian celebration loved by everyone! It is celebrated at the beginning of spring on March 1st.
- ▶ Mărțișor (the trinket) is a small object (such as clover, horseshoe, chimneysweep, snowdrop) or jewellery offered to girls and women by men which will be worn for some days or for the whole month. The trinket is said to bring them good luck.
- ▶ The small object is tied with a two-colour string (white and red). The common meaning of white is masculine power, and red is the feminine spirit.
- ▶ The word “Mărțișor” is the diminutive of “marț”, the old folk name for March and thus literally means “little March”.
- ▶ On the other hand, the first day of spring was celebrated 8000 years ago and this holiday comes from Maramures County and Bucovina County, then it spread throughout the country.

Florii



- ▶ Floriile, also called “The Flowers’ Day”, is a celebration which is very important for Romania.
- ▶ People bring blooming branches of willow to the church on the Flowers’ Day morning. These branches are sanctified and shared with all the persons.
- ▶ Each Romanian returns from the church with branches which he preserves with holiness near an icon as a guardian against the bad spirits throughout the year.
- ▶ The Flowers’ Day takes place on the Sunday before the Orthodox Easter Sunday and it commemorates Jesus Christ’s entry into Jerusalem through a crowd waving palm branches.
- ▶ According to tradition, the green branches signify the struggle against death. Branches can also be placed on the graves.
- ▶ Every person who takes spring flowers to the church becomes the announcer of the entrance of the Saviour!