

MUNDUSLINGUA.COM DESTINATIONS

WEEK IV – AUGUST 2012





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DESTINATION OF THE DAY: RUSSIA
AUGUST 22, 2012



DESTINATION OF THE DAY: AUGUST 22 MARKS A SPECIAL DATE IN RUSSIA. NATIONAL FLAG DAY, ONE OF THE COUNTRY'S MAIN STATE HOLIDAYS, COMMEMORATES THE EVENTS IN 1991 WHEN A TRICOLOR, RUSSIA'S CURRENT FLAG (WHITE-BLUE-RED), WAS RAISED OVER THE RUSSIAN SUPREME SOVIET BUILDING.

THE READER MUST REMEMBER THAT AT THE TIME THERE WAS GREAT STRESS IN THE REGION DUE TO THE REFORM PROGRAM THAT MIKHAIL GORBACHEV, THE LAST HEAD OF STATE OF THE SOVIET UNION, WAS IMPLEMENTING. LEADERS OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF THE SOVIET UNION, WHO DEEPLY OPPOSED THE REFORM, ATTEMPTED TO TAKE CONTROL OF THE COUNTRY BY STAGING A COUP (19-21 AUGUST 1991). AFTER THE COUP COLLAPSED IN TWO DAYS AND GORBACHEV RETURNED TO GOVERNMENT, THE CURRENT RUSSIAN FLAG WAS RAISED AS A SYMBOL OF THE RUSSIAN STATE. THE RUSSIAN WHITE-BLUE-RED FLAG REPLACED THE SOVIET FLAG WITH A HAMMER AND SICKLE AND IN 1994 BORIS YELTSIN,



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THE FIRST PRESIDENT OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION (OFFICIAL NAME OF NOWADAYS RUSSIA), ISSUED A DECREE TO DECLARE AUGUST 22 AS AN OFFICIAL HOLIDAY.

VISIT TODAY RUSSIA'S GROUP ON THE CULTURAL NETWORK TO EXPLORE MAGIC CITIES AND PLACES, LEARN BASIC RUSSIAN, DISCOVER KIEVAN RUS AND MUCH MORE:

[HTTP://WWW.MUNDUSLINGUA.COM/CHAT/INDEX.PHP/PROFILE_GROUPS_PUBLIC?PROFILE_RUSSIA](http://www.munduslingua.com/chat/index.php/profile_groups_public?profile_russia)

REFERENCES

PHOTO TITLE: BALLERINAS DANCE ON RUSSIA S NATIONAL FLAG DAY IN ST. PETERSBURG.

PHOTO SOURCE: [HTTP://WWW.RONVERZUH.CA/2011/02/25/RUSSIAN-TEA/](http://www.ronverzuh.ca/2011/02/25/ruussian-tea/)



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DESTINATION OF THE DAY: SWAZILAND
AUGUST 23, 2012



DESTINATION OF THE DAY: SWAZILAND, A COUNTRY IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, HOLDS ANNUALLY IN LATE AUGUST OR EARLY SEPTEMBER AN EIGHT-DAY CEREMONY BY THE NAME OF UMHLANGA OR REED DANCE DUE TO THE TYPE OF TALL, GRASS-LIKE PLANTS THAT ARE USED DURING THE CEREMONY. DURING THIS TIME OF THE YEAR SWAZI UNMARRIED GIRLS FROM ALL OVER THE COUNTRY COLLECT BUNDLES OF REED, DANCE AND SING TOGETHER AND PAY TRIBUTE TO THE “NDLOVUKATI” OR THE QUEEN MOTHER.

MUNDUSLINGUA INVITES YOU TODAY ON A TRIP TO SWAZILAND TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THIS TRADITIONAL SWAZI CEREMONY AND WHY IT IS CELEBRATED.

THE UMHLANGA OR REED DANCE DEVELOPED OUT OF AN OLD TRADITION WHERE YOUNG GIRLS GATHERED IN A LARGE GROUP. WHENEVER A GIRL



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BECAME PREGNANT OUTSIDE OF MARRIAGE, THE FAMILY HAD TO PAY A FINE OF ONE COW TO THE LOCAL CHIEF. WHEN THE GIRLS REACHED AN AGE THAT WAS CONSIDERED PROPER FOR MARRIAGE, THEY WOULD ENGAGE IN LABOR SERVICE FOR THE QUEEN MOTHER, FEAST AND DANCE.

IN TODAY'S SWAZILAND THE REED DANCE PRESERVES MANY OF THESE PAST TRADITIONS. YOUNG, UNMARRIED GIRLS STILL GET TOGETHER, MEETING NOWADAYS AT THE QUEEN MOTHER'S LUDZIDZINI ROYAL VILLAGE. DURING THIS EIGHT-DAY EVENT THE GIRLS ENGAGE IN WORK TO HELP THE QUEEN MOTHER REPAIR THE WINDBREAKS AROUND THE TRADITIONAL HUTS, JOIN THE PRINCESSES OF THE MONARCHY TAKE THEIR REED BUNDLES TO A PLACE WHERE THEY THROW THEM, SING AND DANCE IN UNISON. ON THE EIGHT DAY THE KING TYPICALLY COMMANDS THAT A CERTAIN NUMBER OF CATTLE BE SLAUGHTERED FOR THE GIRLS. THE GIRLS THEN COLLECT THEIR PORTION OF MEAT AND FINALLY RETURN HOME.

[HTTP://WWW.MUNDUSLINGUA.COM/CHAT/INDEX.PHP/PROFILE_GROUPS_PUBLIC?PROFILE_SWAZILAND](http://www.munduslingua.com/chat/index.php/profile_groups_public?profile_swaziland)

REFERENCES

PHOTO TITLE: UMHLAGA/REED DANCE

PHOTO SOURCE:

[HTTP://KENYANNOMAD.WORDPRESS.COM/2010/09/02/THE-UMHLANGA-REED-DANCE-PART-1/DSCF3273-2/](http://kenyannomad.wordpress.com/2010/09/02/the-umhlanga-reed-dance-part-1/dscf3273-2/)



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DESTINATION OF THE DAY: UKRAINE
AUGUST 24, 2012



DESTINATION OF THE DAY: UKRAINE OBSERVES TODAY ITS NATIONAL DAY, A DAY TO COMMEMORATE THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE COUNTRY FROM THE SOVIET UNION IN 1991. HAPPY CELEBRATIONS TO OUR FRIENDS IN UKRAINE!

VISIT UKRAINE'S GROUP ON THE CULTURAL NETWORK TO LEARN ABOUT THIS DIVERSE AND EXCITING EUROPEAN COUNTRY. WE INVITE YOU TO HELP US PROMOTE YOUR COUNTRY TOO. PUBLISH INFORMATION INSIDE YOUR COUNTRY'S GROUP ON MUNDUSLINGUA WHILE ANSWERING A SIMPLE QUESTION: WHAT IS TYPICAL OF YOUR COUNTRY?



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[HTTP://WWW.MUNDUSLINGUA.COM/CHAT/INDEX.PHP/PROFILE_GROUPS_PUBLIC?PROFILE_UKRAINE](http://www.munduslingua.com/chat/index.php/profile_groups_public?profile_ukraine)

REFERENCES

PHOTO TITLE: KIEV

PHOTO SOURCE:

[HTTP://WWW.UKRAINEBUSINESS.COM.UA/NEWS/6038.HTML](http://www.ukrainebusiness.com.ua/news/6038.html)



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[HTTP://WWW.MUNDUSLINGUA.COM/DESTINATIONS/WEEK_IV_AUGUST.PDF](http://www.munduslingua.com/destinations/week_iv_august.pdf)

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