

# Novruz comes, spring comes...

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One of the most ancient entertainments and ceremonies of mankind is precisely Novruz. This holiday, which our people have maintained, handed down to future generations and consecrated, reflects all things from the creation of the world and secrets of life to its hope for the future, happiness and wealth. Novruz is a great cultural event that contains a significant part of the rich material and spiritual values of the Azerbaijani people. Novruz is complex by structure and deep and comprehensive by content. It is a national holiday for our modern period. When we look at this holiday through the prism of political development, we see that it has ancient cultural roots and spiritual sources. As was the case in the past, Novruz is still celebrated as a holiday of spring in Azerbaijan, other Turkic-speaking states and several neighboring countries. Novruz means a new day and new life and is a new year for Azerbaijanis, because it is precisely during Novruz that life becomes active again, land wakes up from winter hibernation, plants rise, trees blossom, sunshine increases, the night and the day become level and thus, a new life starts.

Novruz stands out for its specific features. Since this holiday is linked to the historical roots of our people, it is rich in customs and traditions. The Novruz table is also different. For example, there should be our national dishes, especially pilaf, on the table on Tuesdays and on the Novruz evening. Shakarbura, baklava, sweet bread and other sweets, raisins, pistachios, almonds and dyed eggs adorn our tables. Like on Tuesdays, bonfires are also made on the Novruz evening and candles are lit for each member of family at homes. On this holiday, it is important to visit orphans, needy and disabled people and give them holiday sweets. On the Novruz holiday, Tuesdays have their place as well. According to ancient beliefs, the universe was created from four elements – water, fire, land and wind. Every year, four Tuesdays are marked before Novruz and the equinox.

Novruz was included on the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage list on 30 September 2009, and 21 March was declared International Novruz Day at a meeting of the 64th session of the UN General Assembly on 23 February 2010...

The first edition of IRS-Heritage this year opens with an essay on the Novruz, a holiday full of happy moments. We wish our readers happy days full of the Novruz spirit and Novruz flavor and congratulate them on their holiday!