



SRAS | 2024
Calendar



New Perspectives



Caucasus



Central Europe



Baltics



Central Asia

New Locations, New Calendar

It is our pleasure to re-introduce the SRAS Calendar. Our last calendar was 2020, on the cusp of what would turn out to be a very tumultuous time for all, and particularly for our region.

We are now entering 2024 with new study locations and plenty of photos to share. Our students now choose between these three areas in which Russian is spoken widely - Central Asia, the Baltics, and the Caucasus. In Warsaw, Poland, in addition to celebrating the 10th iteration of our Security and Society Summer School in 2024, we have additional programming for Ukrainian and Polish language study.

These are vastly different places, each with unique history, culture, cuisine, and more - all reflected in the images shared by our students.

With so many new things to explore, we have changed the format of our calendar to be an educational tool focused on building awareness and knowledge of our new locations. The calendar now lists all public holidays from each of our locations as well as the US. We've also included a few that are not public holidays but are of particular interest or significance to our locations. Each page of the calendar also has a QR code and link to more information about them. The result, we believe, is that we can see what makes each location so unique - and also the cultural and historical connections that they continue to share.

Expanding into new locations is not without challenges, balanced by the excitement of developing programming that teaches us not only about our host countries, but also about the world and ourselves.

Sweet Diversity!

Explore the desserts of Eurasia with Folkways – a site maintained by SRAS and powered by student contributors!

Boursak

This fried bread is a symbol of hospitality for the traditionally nomadic tribes of



Central Asia. It's often served with jams and honey.



Recipe
QR Code

Bread Soup

Latvian rye bread is a national food of Latvia and found everywhere – including in these imaginative deserts!



Recipe
QR Code

Fat Thursday Donuts

You can buy paczki any day of the week – but you absolutely must consume lots of



these rich Polish pastries for Fat Thursday!



Recipe
QR Code

Tarkhun

This sweet, carbonated beverage is made from tarragon leaves and was invented by a Georgian pharmacist.



Recipe
QR Code

Baklava

Baklava is a sweet dish enjoyed throughout Eurasia. Its origins are widely contested among several cultures that consider the dish their own.



Recipe
QR Code

Январь



Wanting a break from our Russian language and identity and conflict studies in Tbilisi, Georgia, a fellow SRAS classmate and I (I'm pictured on the left) headed to the mountains during a long weekend. It was February and the end of the winter sports season, so we rented an Airbnb at Gudauri Resort and hit the slopes for a couple of days. The weather was fantastic, the slopes were well-maintained, and they had plenty of different runs. We had a chance to practice our Russian when renting gear, during taxi rides, and when ordering food at local restaurants. The Russia-Georgia Friendship Monument is also just a short drive from Gudauri and a must-see!

Justin Frigault
Colorado State University
Identity and Conflict in the Caucasus (ICON)
Tbilisi, Georgia 2023



January 2024

State and Other Holidays Listed for:

AM = Armenia PL = Poland
 GE = Georgia US = United States
 KG = Kyrgyzstan UZ = Uzbekistan
 LV = Latvia

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
31 Russian as a Second Language Study in Georgia, Latvia, Armenia, or Kyrgyzstan SRAS.org/RSL	1 New Year's Day AM, GE, KG, LV, PL, US, UZ	2	3	4	5	6 Christmas AM Epiphany AM, PL
7 Christmas GE, KG	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 Defenders of the Motherland Day UZ	15 Martin Luther King Day US	16	17	18	19 Epiphany GE	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 National Army Day AM	29	30	31	1	2	3 Find out more about how these holidays are celebrated with this QR code. or Folkways. today/Holidays 

Tip of the Month:

You don't have to be enrolled in a university program at home to study abroad! Anyone at least 18 years old is eligible to apply for SRAS programs. Graduates, professionals, and retirees are welcomed! Find out more at SRAS.org/FAQ.



Folkways is a website driven by SRAS students and interns that looks at the deep roots of modern cultures through language, traditions, holidays, food, and more. See www.Folkways.today

Февраль



This photo was taken at the Ananuri Castle on our trip to Georgia. Our amazing guide Nika told us about the fascinating history of the castle, as well as the legend of Ana, who chose to sacrifice herself rather than give away the location of the secret tunnel which the people taking refuge in the castle used to get food and water. We then ascended up the steps, up the side of the fortress, and peeked through the walls to be greeted with this mesmerizing sight.


Jasmine Ding
Vanderbilt University
Spring Break: Georgia 2023



February 2024

State and Other Holidays Listed for:

AM = Armenia PL = Poland
 GE = Georgia US = United States
 KG = Kyrgyzstan UZ = Uzbekistan
 LV = Latvia

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
28 Early Summer Programs Deadlines March 1 Apply today! SRAS.org/Programs	29 Security and Society Summer School Apply by March 1 for Summer 2024 SRAS.org/SSI	30 Ukrainian Language Workshop Apply by April 1 for Summer 2024 SRAS.org/Ukrainian	31 Polish Language & Culture Apply by April 1 for Summer 2024 SRAS.org/Polish	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8 Fat Thursday PL	9	10
11 Bun Barekendan AM	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19 President's Day US	20	21	22	23 Homeland Defender's Day KG	24
25	26	27	28	29	1	2 Find out more about how these holidays are celebrated with this QR code. or Folkways. today/Holidays 

Tip of the Month:

Have questions about study abroad? Which location will best suit your goals and interests? Sign up for an info session at SRAS.org/INFO and talk to an SRAS professional!



GeoHistory is a website driven by SRAS students and interns that examines current events and history through the practical lenses of geography, economics, and demographics. Find out more about SRAS' destinations and their wider regions at www.GeoHistory.today.

Maṙṭ



Still struggling with jet lag, I awoke at 6:43 AM local time. Despite the stillness of the room, I felt restless and ached for adventure. I got dressed quietly, pulled on a beanie, and slipped outside. I turned right and was greeted by the rising sun. Overwhelmed with a sense of peacefulness, in an otherwise bustling museum-city, I admired the silhouettes of the minaret and madrassas as I embarked on my morning stroll with an invigorated spirit. I saw shopkeepers setting up stalls with hand-painted wood plaques and traditional clothing. As I wove between the city's architecture, the sun slowly crept higher and higher, awakening Khiva and illuminating its historical and cultural wonders.



Jasmine Li
Dartmouth College
Spring Break: Navruz in Uzbekistan 2023

March 2024

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 LV = Latvia

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
25 Summer Programs Deadlines Start March 1 Apply today! SRAS.org/Programs	26 Need Funding? See SRAS.org/Funding for every scholarship we know about	27 Central Asian Studies Apply by May 1 for Fall 2024 SRAS.org/CA	28 Slavic Maslenitsa is celebrated this year March 11-17. Find out more at Folkways. today/Maslentisa	29 Identity and Conflict in the Caucasus Apply by May 1 for Fall 2024 SRAS.org/ICON	1	2
3 Mother's Day GE	4	5	6	7	8 International Women's Day AM, GE, KG, LV, PL, UZ	9
10	11 Start of Ramadan KG, UZ	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21 Nooruz/Navruz KG, UZ	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29 Good Friday LV, PL	30
31 Easter AM, LV, PL, US	1 Security and Society in the Information Age Apply by May 1 for Fall 2024 SRAS.org/SSI	2		3	4 Want to learn more about our locations? See our growing selection of study guides at Geohistory.today/study	5 Find out more about how these holidays are celebrated with this QR code. or Folkways. today/Holidays 



I took this picture in Mtskheta-Mtianeti, Georgia the day after heavy rains had prevented our minibus from going across a mountain crossing and forced us to spend the night high in the mountains. When I took this picture, I was struck by the beautiful scenery unfolding before my eyes and thankful the weather had improved so that we could continue our journey down the mountain road to Tbilisi. Everyone should experience Georgia's beauty for themselves at least once in their life!

Jill Neuendorf
Georgetown University
Continuing Education Abroad: Georgia and Ukraine 2019




Апрель

April 2024

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Find out more about how these holidays are celebrated with this QR code. or Folkways. today/Holidays  31	1 Easter Monday AM, LV	2	3	4	5	6
7 People's April Revolution Day KG	8	9 National Unity Day GE	10 Orozo Ait/Ramazon Hayiti KG, UZ	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24 Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day AM	25	26	27
28	29	30	SRAS Online Research Internship 1 Build your resume Earn toward study abroad Apply by May 15 for Summer 2024 SRAS.org/Internships	Russian as a Second Language 2 Study in Georgia, Latvia, Armenia, or Kyrgyzstan SRAS.org/RSL	Central Asian Studies 3 Apply by May 1 for Fall 2024 SRAS.org/CA	Identity and Conflict in the Caucasus 4 Apply by May 1 for Fall 2024 SRAS.org/ICON

Tip of the Month:

Get more out of your study abroad experience with SRAS online courses. Hit the ground running with pre-program study or keep progressing even after your time abroad ends. Search for courses in Russian or Ukrainian at SRAS.org/Programs



Museum Studies Abroad is a website driven by SRAS students and interns that explores museums, public spaces, literature, theater, and art as elements of national and local identity. www.MuseumStudiesAbroad.org



On one of our weekend excursions our tour guide took us to Barskoon Canyon, Kyrgyzstan, aka the "Swiss Alps" of Central Asia. It was the favorite summer vacation spot of the first Russian cosmonaut, Yuri Gagarin, whose bust was erected here in his honor.

Peter Chang
Hunter College
Russian as a Second Language
Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan 2017



Май

May 2024

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 LV = Latvia

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
28 Want to learn more about our locations? See our growing selection of study guides at Geohistory.today/study	29 Deadlines are in May for Fall Semester Programs Apply today! SRAS.org/Programs	30 Find out more about how these holidays are celebrated with this QR code. or Folkways. today/Holidays 	1 Labor Day AM, KG, LV, PL	2	3 Constitution Day PL Good Friday GE	4 Easter Saturday GE Independence Restoration Day LV
5 Easter Sunday GE Constitution Day KG	6 Easter Monday GE	7	8 Yerkrapah Day AM	9 Victory Day GE, KG Victory and Peace Day AM Day of Remembrance and Honors UZ	10	11
12 Saint Andrew's Day GE	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 Whit Sunday PL	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 Independence Day GE	27 Memorial Day US	28 1st Republic Day AM	29	30 Corpus Christi PL	31	SRAS Online Research Internship ¹ Build your resume Earn toward study abroad Apply by May 15 for Summer 2024 SRAS.org/Internships

Tip of the Month:

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Students! Publish your best papers with SRAS! Work with our editors to improve and polish your work and see it published on the SRAS Family of Sites. Any student or recent graduate can apply. Any topic related to Central and Eastern Europe, Russia, Central Asia, and the Caucasus is considered. Contact Josh Wilson at jwilson@sras.org.

Июнь



This picture was taken at Hala Mirowska in Warsaw, Poland. I went there while exploring the city with my friends from Germany who were visiting for the weekend. They were reflecting on how quiet it was even though Warsaw is such a big city, but it wasn't nearly as bustling and crowded as they were used to in Berlin. We didn't quite know what to expect when we were approaching this space, as it seemed unusually quiet for what used to be Warsaw's largest market. It was late in the day, so most of the shops and stands seemed to be closing up for the day, but I thought it was so cute to see paintings of the chickens who laid the eggs that were for sale.

Kelly Baur
Arizona State University
Ukrainian Language Workshop
Warsaw, Poland 2023



June 2024

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
26 Russian as a Foreign Language Study in Georgia, Latvia, Armenia, or Kyrgyzstan SRAS.org/RSL	27 Online Language Study Russian or Ukrainian Search for Online Courses at SRAS.org/Programs	28 Professors! Thinking of leading a group abroad? SRAS can help! SRAS.org/FLP	29	30	31	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17 Kurman Ait/Qurbon Hayit KG, UZ	18	19 Juneteenth US	20	21	22 Wianki PL
23 Līgo Day LV	24 Jāņi Day LV	25	26	27	28	29
30	1	2	3	4	5	6 Find out more about how these holidays are celebrated with this QR code. or Folkways. today/Holidays 



My train arrived in Gdansk on a beautiful day, and I knew immediately that I would fall in love with the city. I was eager to take weekend trips while in Poland so I could get the most out of my trip, and I chose Gdansk as one of my destinations because of its historical importance, gorgeous Old Town, and proximity to the Baltic Sea. I was so grateful that I had the chance to stroll the colorful streets of the oldest part of Gdansk and take in all the details that make Gdansk so lovely. In Old Town Gdansk, you can hear many different languages, browse huge market stalls filled with fruits and flowers, and eat from restaurants serving food from all over the world. It really is a magical place.

Madison Sepiol
Stetson University
Ukrainian Language Workshop
Warsaw, Poland 2023



ІЮЛІЬ



July 2024

State and Other Holidays Listed for:

AM = Armenia PL = Poland
 GE = Georgia US = United States
 KG = Kyrgyzstan UZ = Uzbekistan
 LV = Latvia

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>30</p> <p>Security and Society in the Information Age Apply by October 15 for Spring 2025 SRAS.org/SSI</p>	1	2	3	4	5	6
<p>7</p> <p>Vardavar AM</p>	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	1	<p>2</p> <p>Identity and Conflict in the Caucasus Apply by October 15 for Spring 2025 SRAS.org/ICON</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Find out more about how these holidays are celebrated with this QR code. or Folkways. today/Holidays</p> 

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Students Abroad is a website driven by SRAS students and interns that helps students share their experiences abroad and helps new students navigate their host cities, prepare for departure, handle their finances, and more! www.SRASStudents.org



Our first introduction to Kyrgyz nomadic traditions, this horse trek took us into the foothills of Tien Shan under an impossibly expansive, blue sky. The mountains near Lake Issyk Kul towered above us as our horses moved in a single-file line. We discouraged the horses from stopping to eat the grass by confidently shouting Chu!, prompting them to move along - as our guides had taught us. Riding, surrounded by these breathtaking panoramic views, was a once-in-a-lifetime experience and is one of my favorite memories from the Central Asian Studies program.

Camryn Vaughn
Central Asian Studies
University of Montana
Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan 2019




АБҮҮСТ



August 2024

State and Other Holidays Listed for:

AM = Armenia PL = Poland
 GE = Georgia US = United States
 KG = Kyrgyzstan UZ = Uzbekistan
 LV = Latvia

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Find out more about how these holidays are celebrated with this QR code, or Folkways. today/Holidays  28	29 Russian as a Second Language Study in Georgia, Latvia, Armenia, or Kyrgyzstan SRAS.org/RSL	30 Remote Archive Services for Researchers SRAS.org/Research	31 Central Asian Studies Apply by October 15 for Spring 2025 SRAS.org/CA	1 Warsaw Uprising National Remembrance Day PL	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15 Assumption of Mary PL	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28 Mariamoba GE	29	30	31 Independence Day KG

Tip of the Month:

Study abroad in Eurasia is surprisingly affordable! Students in most SRAS locations report being able to get by on \$100 per week for food and spending money. See SRAS.org/Budget for more information.



PopKult is a website driven by SRAS students and interns that presents the languages and cultures of Eurasia through popular bands, films, and more. www.PopKult.org



Every morning, I walked through this outdoor bazaar on my way to the university. It was a beautiful market selling carpets, rugs, crucifixes, and any other trinkets a person could want. In between the vendors, there were always old men sitting around playing chess, prospective-buyers bartering for semi-reasonable prices, and professionals on their way to their jobs. This is so unlike the walk to my university in the USA, and it truly let me experience the beauties and the subtleties of a culture that is very different from my own. The world is big and diverse, and, even though it is easy to think of my little "bubble" as all that exists, it isn't. There are so many cultures, like that of Armenia, which are deep and ancient and complex, and I have found that the more I think I know about those cultures and the world, the more I have yet to learn.

Madeline Fyock
University of South Carolina
Russian as a Second Language
Yerevan, Armenia 2023




Сентябрь

September 2024

State and Other Holidays Listed for:

AM = Armenia PL = Poland
 GE = Georgia US = United States
 KG = Kyrgyzstan UZ = Uzbekistan
 LV = Latvia

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Independence Day UZ	2 Labor Day US	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15 Exaltation of the Holy Cross AM	16	17	18	19	20	21 Independence Day AM
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	1 Russian as a Second Language Study in Georgia, Latvia, Armenia, or Kyrgyzstan SRAS.org/RSL	2 Deadlines are in October for Spring Semester Programs Apply early! SRAS.org/Programs	3 Professors! Thinking of leading a group abroad? SRAS can help! SRAS.org/FLP	4 SRAS Online Research Internship Build your resume Earn toward study abroad Apply by Dec 15 for Winter Break SRAS.org/Internships	5 Find out more about how these holidays are celebrated with this QR code. or Folkways. today/Holidays 

Tip of the Month:

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Subscribe to the SRAS newsletter for updates on our programs, scholarships, internships, and new articles and resources on our Family of Sites. www.SRAS.org/newsletter

Октябрь



Sardarapat Memorial Complex commemorates the Battle of Sardarapat in 1918 which was Eastern Armenia's, and consequentially the Armenian nation's, last stand against the Ottoman Empire during WWI and the Armenian Genocide. The ICON program's trips to Armenia and Azerbaijan were more than I could have ever expected. The new information never stops when you're being exposed to places that are rarely spoken about in the American media and education system. Even though our lectures in Georgia opened us to much more than we'd ever known about Armenia and Azerbaijan, actually visiting those two countries illuminated aspects of the local culture that lectures alone couldn't, giving us a deeper and more nuance understanding of them and the region as a whole. For more information, use this QR code:



Matilda Linne
Vassar College
Identity and Conflict in the Caucasus (ICON)
Tbilisi, Georgia 2023



October 2024

State and Other Holidays Listed for:

AM = Armenia PL = Poland
 GE = Georgia US = United States
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 LV = Latvia

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
29 Deadlines for Spring Semester Programs Start this month! Apply today! SRAS.org/Programs	30 Spring Break with SRAS Georgia or Uzbekistan! Deadline: Dec 15, 2024 SRAS.org/Short	1 Day of Teachers and Mentors UZ	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14 Svetitskhovloba GE Columbus/Indigenous Peoples Day US	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	1 Riga Winter Break Apply by November 15 for Winter 2025 SRAS.org/Winter	2 Find out more about how these holidays are celebrated with this QR code. or Folkways. today/Holidays 

Tip of the Month:
 Curious to learn more about SRAS? We recently wrote our history into a cookbook to celebrate our 25th anniversary! Find out more at SRAS.org/Cookbook.



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Ноябрь



This picture was taken at a music and dance lunch show during one of our weekend excursions. The performers took some of the women from the audience to a separate space in the venue to teach us some basic Georgian dance steps and dress us in traditional attire. We then performed the choreography we learned back on stage in front of the other guests. Photographs of course ensued as we went outside for the mountains and Georgian flag in the background.

Johanna Golden (center)
Hobart and William Smith Colleges
Modern Georgia: Politics, Economy,
Culture
Kutaisi, Georgia 2023



November 2024

State and Other Holidays Listed for:

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 GE = Georgia US = United States
 KG = Kyrgyzstan UZ = Uzbekistan
 LV = Latvia

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Find out more about how these holidays are celebrated with this QR code. or Folkways. today/Holidays 	27 28 Spring Break with SRAS Georgia or Uzbekistan! Deadline: Dec 15, 2024 SRAS.org/Short	29 Riga Winter Break Apply by November 15 for Winter 2025 SRAS.org/Winter	30 Deadlines are in March for Summer Programs Apply early! SRAS.org/Programs	31 Security and Society Summer School Apply by March 1 for Summer 2025 SRAS.org/SSI	1 All Saints' Day PL	2
3	4	5	6	7 Days of History and Commemoration of Ancestors KG	8	9
10	11 Independence Day PL Veterans Day US	12	13	14	15	16
17	18 Independence Day LV	19	20	21	22	23 Giorgoba GE
24	25	26	27	28 Thanksgiving Day US	29	30

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Educators! The Survey of Russian Language Enrollments is now out! This important survey provides us all with hard data about trends in enrollments in our field. Please, take the time to submit your data! Find out more at SRAS.org/Survey or contact jwilson@sras.org if you have not received a notice from us or have other questions.



With the opening of our newest study site in Riga, Latvia, I took some time in late summer to revisit all three Baltic countries. Food is always very central to my travel experiences and this time it was really more about food memories as I found not only my favorites svekolnik but many other food sights and smells that transported me back to another time.

Renee Stillings
Director, SRAS



Декабрь

December 2024

State and Other Holidays Listed for:

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 GE = Georgia US = United States
 KG = Kyrgyzstan UZ = Uzbekistan
 LV = Latvia

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7 Earthquake Memorial Day AM
8 Constitution Day UZ	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24 Christmas Eve PL, LV, US	25 Christmas Day PL, LV, US	26 Second Day of Christmas PL, LV	27	28
29	30	31 New Year Eve AM, GE, KG, LV, PL, US, UZ	1 Spring Break with SRAS Georgia or Uzbekistan! Deadline: Dec 15, 2024 SRAS.org/Short	2 SRAS Online Research Internship Build your resume Earn toward study abroad Apply by Dec 15 for Winter Break SRAS.org/Internships	3 Deadlines are in March for Summer Programs Apply early! SRAS.org/Programs	4 Find out more about how these holidays are celebrated with this QR code. or Folkways. today/Holidays 

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Students! Publish your best papers with SRAS! Work with our editors to improve and polish your work and see it published on the SRAS Family of Sites. Any student or recent graduate can apply. Any topic related to Central and Eastern Europe, Russia, Central Asia, and the Caucasus is considered. Contact Josh Wilson at jwilson@sras.org.



Navruz is one of the world's oldest surviving festivals. Sometimes known as "Persian New Year" it is steeped in Zoroastrian tradition, a monotheistic religion that preceded Christianity and once spread widely across Central Asia, the Middle East, the Caucasus, and beyond. This festival, with its rituals of food, dance, costume, music, and sport, remains a beloved annual event in many diverse cultures. Curious to learn more? Read more at Folkways.today/Navruz and then sign up for a nine-day Spring break tour of Uzbekistan (sras.org/Navruz) and see how Navruz is celebrated there!

[Read more about Navruz:](#)

[Join SRAS for Spring Break: Navruz in Uzbekistan:](#)



2024 Featured Holiday: Navruz

