

Moscow Cancels Maslenitsa Festivities, Declares Day of Mourning After Plane Crash

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Stanislav Krasilnikov / TASS

Moscow authorities have canceled traditional festivities that mark the last week before Lent following Sunday's deadly plane crash outside the Russian capital.

Authorities declared Feb. 12 a day of mourning for all 71 victims of the An-148 Saratov Airlines plane crash. The regional passenger jet [went](#) down four minutes after takeoff from Moscow's Domodedovo Airport on Sunday afternoon. Feb. 12 also marks the start of Maslenitsa, a traditional Russian folk festival with pagan roots that celebrates the end of winter and the beginning of spring, known as Pancake Week.

Moscow City Hall [announced](#) on its website that Maslenitsa festivities would be canceled for Monday in respect for the victims of the deadly crash.

The tragedy has led to state-controlled television networks to take down entertainment

programming, the state-run TASS news agency [reported](#) Sunday, citing Channel One and NTV.

Investigators are [pursuing](#) several leads that may have caused the crash, including bad weather, human error and poor maintenance of the plane.

Related article: [Plane Crashes Outside Moscow, 71 Believed Dead](#)

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