

Russia Celebrates the Ancient Tatar Festival of Sabantui

July 08, 2019



[elinka_gdynskaya](#) / Instagram

Sabantui is a summer festival celebrated by Russia's Bashkir and Tatar ethnic minorities.

Dating back to the 7th century, Sabantui — which translates to "plough's feast" in Turkic languages — began as a festival celebrated by rural farmers ahead of the sowing season.

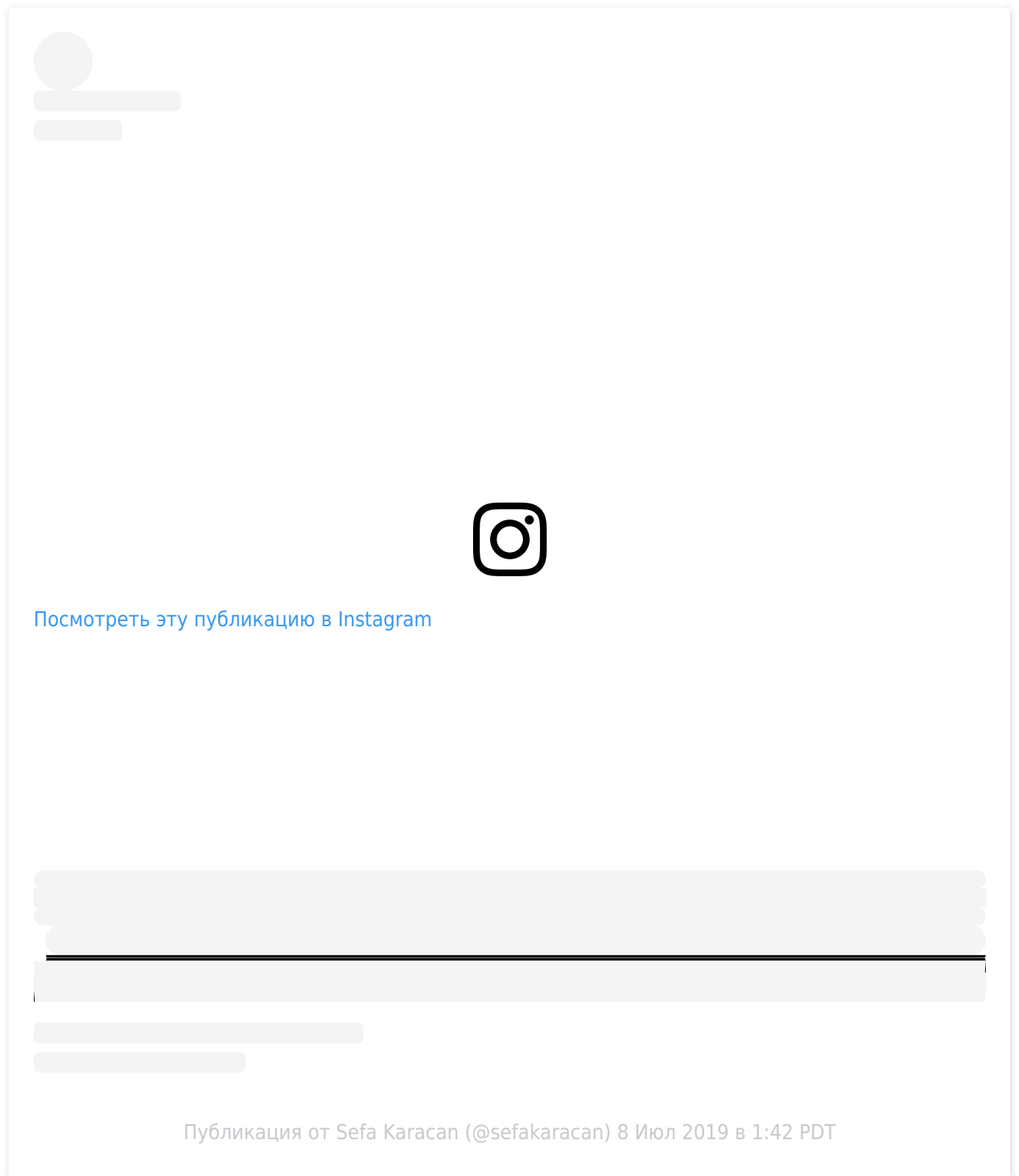
As time went on, it evolved into a national festival for Tatars. The yearly event features distinctive sporting events, games, dancing and plenty of vibrant costumes.

Today, it is seen as a symbol of Russia's republic of Tatarstan and is celebrated in cities across Russia, Europe and Asia that have major Tatar diasporas.

Here's a look at how this ancient festival is celebrated across present-day Russia:

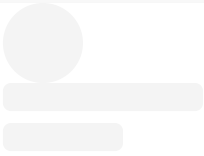
These dancers' elaborate costumes didn't stop them from soaring through the air.

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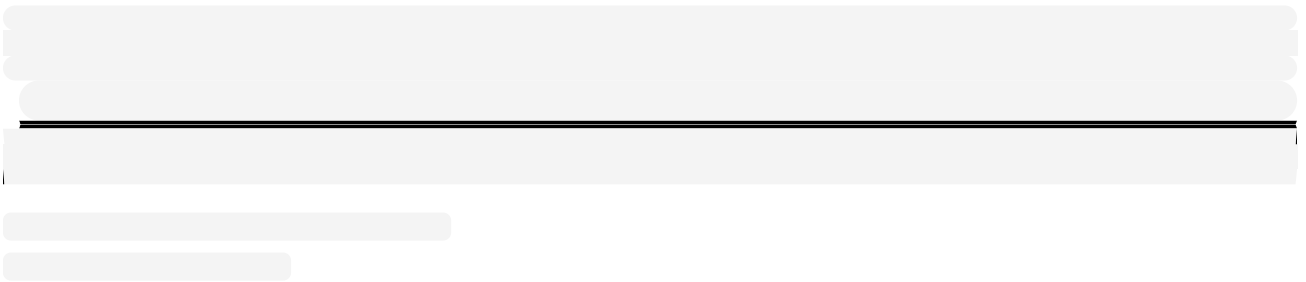


Moscow's Sabantui festival in Kolomenskoye Park featured plenty of dancing in traditional garb.

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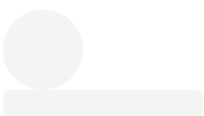
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Публикация от Ravgal1960 (@ravgal1960) 7 Июл 2019 в 8:24 PDT

Festival-goers partake in a classic Sabantui sacks-battle on the crossbar, where the aim is simple: knock your opponent off or be knocked off first.

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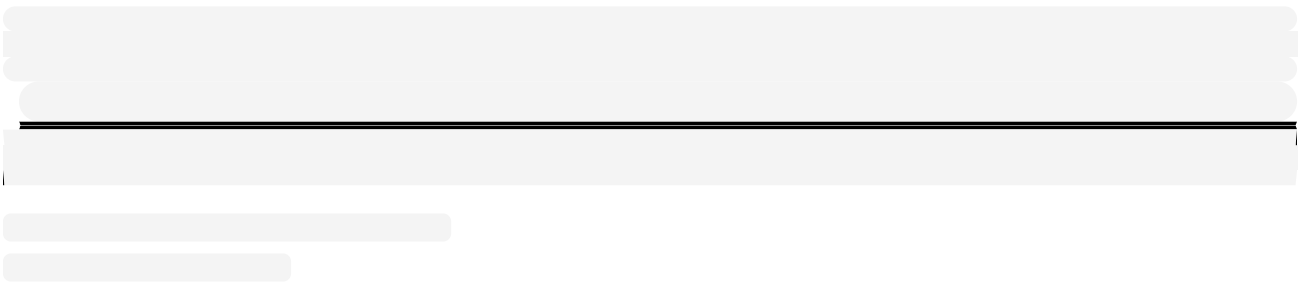
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A photo op with a taxidermied friend.

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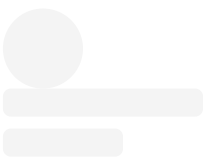
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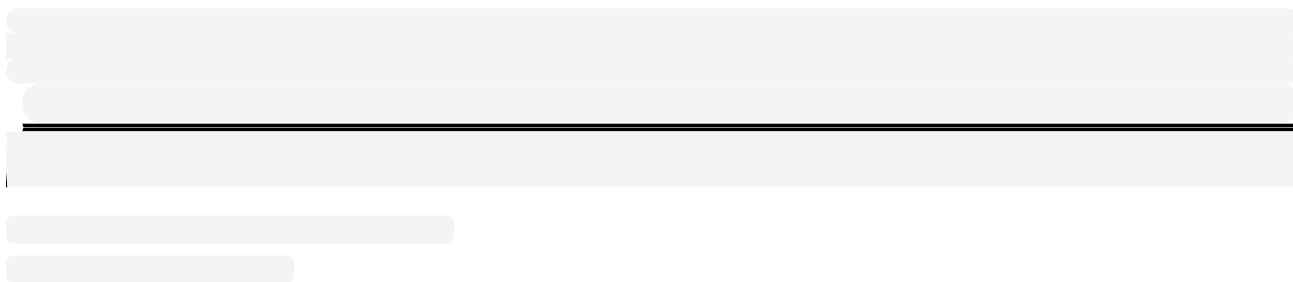
Goals.

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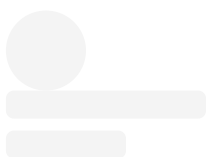
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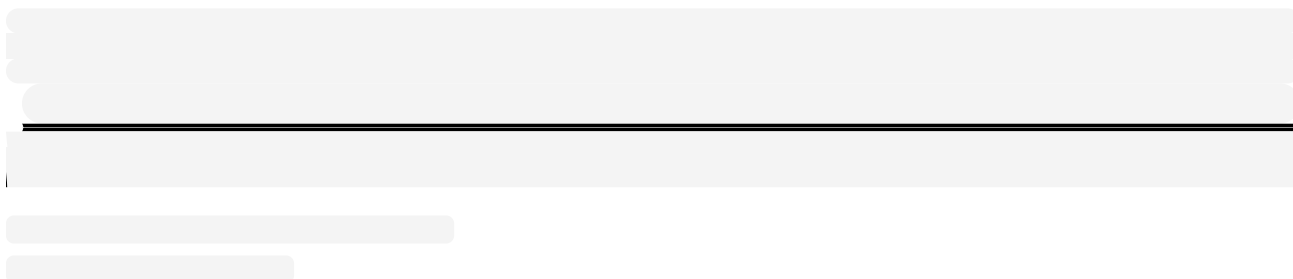
Dancers moving in sync in Russia's Chelyabinsk region.

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Публикация от || СВЕТЛАНА ХАМИТОВА || (@smm_bash) 7 Июл 2019 в 7:43 PDT

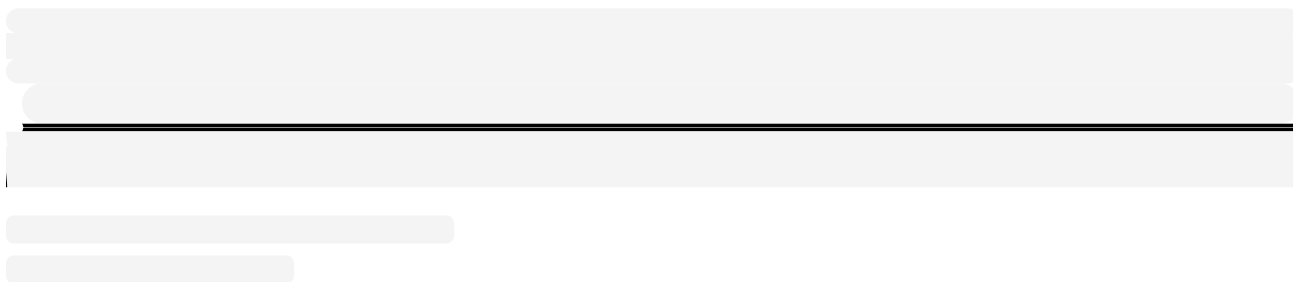
Music performed on traditional instruments sets the vibe.

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Публикация от Elinka ☼ (@elinka_gdynskaya) 7 Июл 2019 в 6:39 PDT

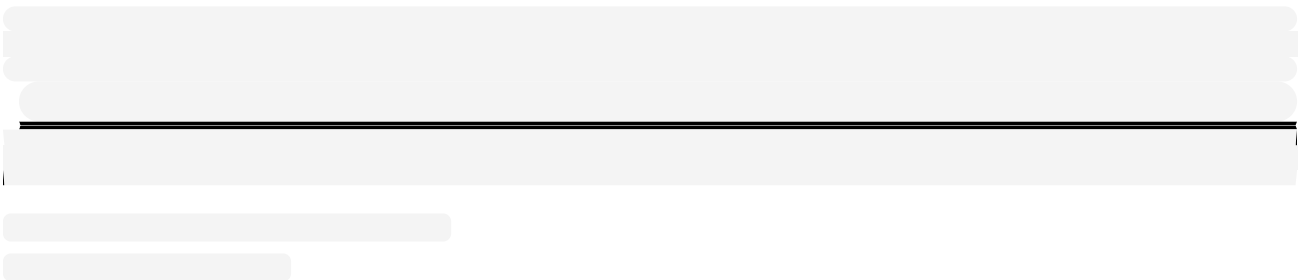
In more recent years, Sabantui has often been combined with folk and pop music festivals in addition to accordion festivals.

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Публикация от Администрация г. Орска (@novosti_orsk) 6 Июл 2019 в 11:16 PDT

Original url:

<https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2019/07/08/russia-celebrates-the-ancient-tatar-festival-of-sabantui-a66317>