The Moscow Times
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# In Photos: Ethnic Kryashens Celebrate Pitrau Folk Festival in Tatarstan

July 15, 2024

This year's Pitrau festival came and went in the republic of Tatarstan. Celebrated by the Kryashens, an Orthodox Christian ethnic sub-group of the Volga Tatars, the holiday has a deep folk and religious meaning. While Pitrau is largely to observe the Day of Saints Peter and Paul, the festival also has pre-Christian roots. The day doubles as a celebration of Kryashen agriculture, marking the coming of autumn and the beginning of the harvest period. For young people, who face weeks of labor in the fields, the day is a final chance to blow off steam before the work begins. Older generations take the opportunity to catch up and renew ties. Here's a snapshot of the Pitrau festivities:



**Yegor Aleyev / TASS**

Original url:
https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2024/07/15/in-photos-ethnic-kryashens-celebrate-pitrau-folk-festival-in-tatarstan-a85715