

Internet links

http://magnoliarouge.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/DianaChalenko_1.jpg

<https://s-media-cache-ak0.pinning.com/236x/fe/8c/f0/fe8cf0de3757aa2624fa61d535545eb8.jpg>

<http://www.worldweddingtraditions.net/latvian-wedding-traditions/>

<http://chelseanicoleblog.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/10/wedding-bouquet-toss-by-chelsea-nicole-photography.jpg>

<http://mbwep.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/Lace-Wedding-Cake-4.jpg>



A beautiful wedding cake.



REZEKNE POLISH STATE GYMNASIUM

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REZEKNE POLISH STATE GYMNASIUM

Project "The Treasure Chest and ICT or ICT in reading and writing"

Latvian wedding traditions



LATVIAN WEDDING TRADITIONS

Latvians, like other Eastern Europeans, have a lively and colorful culture, full of tradition and folklore and, although their wedding costumes and ceremonies are now often heavily influenced by the ways of Western Europeans, Latvian weddings often retain their own quirky customs – indeed, many weddings are planned to include both the formal white dress and tux ceremony as well as some folk-custom festivities.



Ancient engagement

In ancient times, great attention would have been paid to the time of year of the engagement, which would often dictate how long the engagement would last, as it was customary for couples to marry on the full moon of a fall month, as a good luck omen for a long and happy marriage (and because there was less to do on the farms at this time, as land work was the main industry for ancient Latvians). Nowadays, the engagement can last as long as the couple wants and of course they can marry whenever they wish as less attention is now paid to the ancient agricultural calendar of the area.

Old traditions nowadays

- Kidnapping the bride: the tradition of bride kidnapping is one of the popular games at a Latvian wedding, so the bride can expect to be whisked away by a friendly group of groomsmen at



A wedding bouquet throwing.

some point and her groom will have to complete a simple, but fun task, so that he can get her back and make her his wife!

- In some areas, once he's got his bride safely back, the groom will have to carry her across a bridge – seven times! This action represents their transition from a “mine” and “yours” pairing to an “ours” union.
- Establishing who will be the budget holder: The couples are given a pork pie into which a coin has been baked (or inserted afterwards). The couple split the pie and whoever has the piece with the coin in will be the family budget holder!
- Ribbons are plentiful at Latvian weddings. Some will be particularly draped in the couple's way so that they will have to step through them, symbolizing those important steps towards their future together.
- The wedding tradition of throwing the bouquet has ancient links in Latvia, so at almost every Latvian wedding the single females will line up in anticipation of the bouquet tossing, to see if they'll be the next one to be wed!