

## HUTSULS AND HUTSULSHCHINA

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Hutsuls represent Ukrainian ethnographic group living in the Carpathians. They live in Ivano-Frankivsk region, Chernivtsi region and Transcarpathian region of Ukraine. Despite of all their differences from the rest of Ukrainians, hutsuls became a nation talisman.

The origin of the name “hutsul” has different interpretations and is still not fully determined. Some authors associate the name “hutsul” with the word “migrate” and believe that hutsuls had led a nomad's life. And other scientists believe that it is formed from the name of a Turkic tribe from which the hutsuls may originate.

Depending on environmental conditions and the small number of suitable arable land sheep played a great role in the economic structure and industrial life of hutsuls. Treatment of wool, leather, weaving, pottery, wood were the most common and important crafts and industrial objects.

Hutsuls' food was simple and very uniform, but not bad. The major products were corn, potatoes, cabbage, beet, beans, peas, milk and meat. Cheese, brynza and vurda are the main types of Hutsul cheese. They differ in color, taste, structure and the technology of preparation.

Drymba is one of the most popular and one of the oldest musical instruments in the world. In Ukraine drymba's production was concentrated in the hands of Roma. Trembita was used to mark the beginning and the end of the day. This instrument was used to accompany Hutsul's ceremonies and celebrations. In the Carpathian region horn is used as a signaling tool, although this function is significantly narrowing.

Hutsuls differed among the other Highlanders Ruthenians in a beautiful physical body-posture and free movements. Hutsuls' clothing also was distinguished by elegance, many decorations and a variety of colors. Hutsuls lived in the mountains and rode horses, that's why their clothes was adapted for riding.

A great holiday for the local population of the Carpathians is seeing off Hutsul shepherds to the remote mountain grasslands called meadows for sheep grazing. There are three main things that characterize life of Hutsul shepherds, they are: cheese, a trembita and a fire.

Hutsul wedding looks like wedding in a fairytale. Even now hutsuls maintain their traditions. They still dress traditional clothes and decorate their horses. Wedding is full of songs, dances, games, fun, jokes. The couple is riding horses to the church.

Preparing for Christmas in Hutsul region begins in advance. Among the dishes of Holy Supper kutia takes the first place. It contains boiled wheat, honey, poppy seeds and nuts. Wheat grains are the symbol of eternity, and honey is a symbol of eternal happiness of the righteous in heaven. On Christmas Day hutsuls visit their relatives and friends, go from village to village with verteps.