



On Easter Sunday children search eggs and sweets which are hidden by their parents in parks

## TRADITIONS IN GERMANY

# EASTER TIME IN GERMANY

BY BORIS

During Easter time you can find many different traditions across the country. The following bulletin gives an overview of the most popular ones in Germany.

Nowadays Easter traditions derive not only from Christianity but also from Pre-Christian times and are often a mixture of both.

Whereas Christian traditions refer to Jesus resurrection Pre-Christian traditions refer usually to the beginning of spring and ways to welcome it.





Painted eggs for breakfast



Easter fire in Hamburg



Easter candle in a church

(continued) Easter eggs are probably the most famous symbols for Easter. Thereby chicken eggs are usually decorated in different patterns and colors. Eggs are symbols for fertility and rebirth and therefore associated with the resurrection of Jesus and springtime.

Easter fires take traditionally place on Easter Saturday after sunset. This tradition is especially wide spread in Northern Germany's rural areas but also in some cities like Hamburg.

The tradition goes back to the time before Christian religion spread around Northern Europe. Heathen used to made fires to celebrate the beginning of spring. The fire was a sign of scaring the winter away and welcoming the spring. After the fire heathen used the ash to fertilize the soil.

A Paschal candle is a large white candle used in Western Christianity and it is every year at Easter. It is then used during Easter season and throughout the year on special occasions. The candle is often lighted at the Easter fire by the priest of the town.