



THE CARNIVAL IN GREECE

**by the students of A class of the 1st Junior High school of
Veria, Filippeio**

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Carnival

By Alexandra A. A4

The three weeks period before Green Monday when Great Lent starts is Carnival. Then we stop eating meat, dairy products and olive oil and we get ready for the Crucifixion and the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

In Greece, the period of Carnival is a period of joy and happiness. People of different ages usually disguise according to ancient Dionysian celebrations. For days, they dance, sing and drink wine as the ancient Greeks did in honor of Dionysus. The most famous

Carnivals in Greece are the Carnival of Patra, Xanthi, Rethymno and Naousa, a town very close to Veria.

THE CARNIVAL IN PATRA

By C. Iordanis A3

Patrino carnival or Carnival of Patras is the largest and the oldest carnival event in Greece and one of the largest in the world in carnival history. It has 195 years of history. The carnival in Patra is not a single event, but a set of events, including dances, parades, hidden treasure hunts and children's carnival.

The events begin on January 17th and last until Shrove Monday. The last weekend of the Carnival begins with the night foot parade of the crews on Saturday and continues with the

grand parade of floats and crews on Sunday, and finally the burning of the carnival king at Agios Nikolaos Street, in the northern port of Patras. The carnival floats are set up on the Friday evening before the Sunday parade in George 1 Square, in a central spot that allows the public to photograph them.



CARNIVAL

By Thanasis K, A1

Carnival, the merrymaking and festivity that takes place in many Roman Catholic countries in the last days and hours before the Lenten season. The derivation of the word is uncertain, though it possibly can be traced to the medieval Latin *carnem levare* or *carnelevarium*, which means to take away or remove meat. This coincides with the fact that Carnival is the final festivity before the commencement of the austere 40 days of Lent, during which Roman Catholics in

earlier times fasted, abstained from eating meat, and followed other ascetic practices. The historical origin of Carnival is also obscure. It possibly has its roots in a primitive festival honouring the beginning of the new year and the rebirth of nature, though it is also possible that the beginnings of Carnival in Italy may be linked to the pagan Saturnalian festival of ancient Rome.

The first day of Carnival varies with both national and local traditions. Thus, in Munich in Bavaria the Carnival season, there called Fasching, begins on the feast of the Epiphany (January 6), while in Cologne in the Rhineland it

begins on November 11 at 11:11 AM (11th month, day, hour, and minute). In France the celebration is restricted to Shrove Tuesday (the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday) and to *mi-carême* (the Thursday of the third week of Lent). More generally, the commencement date is Quinquagesima Sunday (the Sunday before Ash Wednesday), and the termination is Shrove Tuesday. In some parts of Spain, Ash Wednesday also is included in the Carnival celebrations, an observance that stems from a time when Ash Wednesday was not an integral part of Lent.



Discover the history of Carnival,
also called Mardi Gras

The name Carnival might come
from a Latin phrase meaning “to
take away meat.”

In earlier times Rome was
most conspicuous as the centre
of Carnival activity, and the
splendour and richness of the
festivity that marked its

observance there were scarcely surpassed elsewhere. Today, in a popular Carnival parade in Einsiedeln, Switzerland, demon masks are worn and large bells clanged to drive out evil spirits and to announce the end of winter on the eve of Lent and spring. In its long history Carnival has played a significant role in the development of popular theatre, vernacular song, and folk dances.



The extravaganza of Venice
Carnival

In the United States the principal
Carnival celebration is in New
Orleans, where the Carnival
season opens on Twelfth
Night (January 6) and climaxes
with the Mardi Gras festivities
commencing 10 days before
Shrove Tuesday. The French
name Mardi Gras means Fat
Tuesday, from the custom of
using all the fats in the home
before Lent. In
Italy, Venice became a gathering
place for traditionally disguised
Carnival revelers. The most
famous modern Carnival is
perhaps that of Rio de Janeiro.
Masked balls, elaborate

costumes, parades, and various other festivities mark such celebrations.



samba dancers

The Carnival in Greece

By K. Evaggelia A2

Greece celebrates carnivals in the beginning of the year. Usually around March or April. It is called Apokries, which literary means the stopping of the meat consumption for forty days before the celebration of Easter. The greek carnival usually lasts three weeks. All around the country people celebrate it with their own traditional way. For example in Naoussa, Boules, dance everyday all around the city, wearing costumes that look like Tsoliades and face masks that make them look like women. But the

queen of carnival as many call it is Patra. Patra city is the third biggest one in Greece and it holds the best carnival in the country. Big parade floats move one after another filling the streets with colors and joy. Greeks but also foreigners visit Patra during spring usually for the celebrations. It's majestic and big festivities occur.



The carnival

By Emmanouela C. A3

Carnival is the name given to the three weeks before Clean Monday, when the Great Lent begins.

These days take place the custom of fasting, entertainment, disguise and masquerade. The most famous carnivals in Greece are those of Patras, Xanthis, Naoussas, Athens, Rethimno, Nafplio and Kozani .

Also, after the carnivals , Christians do not eat meat because Easter is coming.



THE BEST CARNIVAL

By Aikaterini T. A3

Two years ago it was the best carnival of my life. Why? I will tell you right now. It was Sunday and it was the day of carnival, I and all my family decided to go to eat out. One hour before we left for the restaurant we had been watching TV. At some point the newscaster mentioned that the weather will be rainy and we cancelled the reservation at the restaurant. All my family were so disappointed because it was the carnival and we wanted to have fun. Suddenly, I

decided to throw a party for carnival at my house and to invite all our friends. My family agreed with my suggestion and started to invite our friends. All our friends came to party dressed up. We were all dancing, singing and throwing streamers. We played board games, pantomime and video games on the computer. We also ate dinner all together. The party finished at 1:00 at midnight. This day was the best carnival because we ended up having fun!!! It was the BEST DAY!!!!!!



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The Carnival in Greece

By Stefanos P. A2

Greece's Carnival, known as "Apokries," is a vibrant and culturally significant celebration observed across the country. However, one of the most renowned Carnival festivals in Greece is held in the coastal city of Patras. Patras Carnival stands out as an extravagant spectacle, attracting locals and tourists alike with its exuberant festivities.

The



roots of Greece's Carnival trace back to ancient times, where it was associated with Dionysian celebrations, marking the transition from winter to spring. Today, Carnival in Greece is a blend of traditional customs, religious rituals, and modern revelry. It typically begins in late February and lasts until the

beginning of Lent, featuring parades, costume contests, music, dancing, and feasting.



Patras Carnival, in particular, is celebrated with unmatched enthusiasm. It is Greece's largest Carnival event, drawing

hundreds of thousands of participants each year. The city streets come alive with colorful floats, elaborate costumes, and lively music, creating an atmosphere of joy and merriment. The highlight of the Patras Carnival is the Grand Parade, featuring intricately designed floats, marching bands, and dance troupes from across Greece.

Beyond its festive ambiance, Patras Carnival holds cultural

and historical significance for the city and its residents. It serves as a platform for artistic expression, community engagement, and the preservation of local traditions. Moreover, it fosters social cohesion and unity, bringing people of diverse backgrounds together to celebrate shared heritage and values.



In conclusion, Greece's Carnival and Patras Carnival, in particular, are emblematic of the country's rich cultural heritage and spirit of celebration. They embody the essence of Greek identity, offering an opportunity for people to come together, revel in the joys of life, and create lasting memories.

The Carnival in Greece

A4



The carnival season, known as “Apokries,” starts exactly ten weeks before the Orthodox Easter, and it is the three-week time period before Ash Monday (Clean Monday), in which the forty-day long fast begins. It is the festive period of masquerading, eating, drinking and dancing, which reaches its peak with extravagant parades of giant floats. In Greece, the Carnival isn’t celebrated the same way in every

town or area. However, all the various carnival customs have been passed down, and have thankfully survived until today.

- How do people celebrate the carnival in Patras?

The carnival hosted in the port city of Patras, is one of the biggest, and most well-known in Greece, and probably in all of Europe. As the carnival begins, the whole city turns into a giant party- balls, parades, street theatres, and many other similar events begin. The “king” of all carnivals is a quite enchanting experience which reaches its peak on

the last weekend, with a parade on Saturday where the participants hold torches; the carnival draws to a close with the float-parade on Sunday.

- How do people celebrate the carnival in Xanthi?

The carnival held in Xanthi is as popular as the one in Patras, however it is more folkloric. This carnival was founded in 1966, making it a more recent tradition, and it has inherited much of the city's character. This celebration includes parades with floats, thousands of people wearing festive costumes and dancing, and loads of different cultural concerts,

exhibitions and events taken place throughout the three-week long period. The festival ends with the burning of a cultural figure named the Carnival King or “Karnavalos.”

- How do people celebrate the carnival in Kozani?

In Kozani, this festival tends to be more traditional, getting its roots in the antiquity and the celebration of God Dionysos. There is also a cultural event that is called “Fanoi”. The participants set woodfires in each neighborhood, and dance around them, while they drink, eat and sing



a variety of songs related to Greek mythology and everyday life.

No matter where you choose to enjoy this enchanting experience, it will always be an unforgettable and stimulating exposure to Greek culture and tradition, as well as a valuable and cherished memory.

THE CARNIVAL IN KRYA VRYSI

BY MANOLIS K. A1

The carnival is a worldwide celebration that we also celebrate in Krya Vrysi. Krya vrysi is famous for their amazing carnival and is visited by many people every year. In a carnival parade take part all the schools and pupils from all grades. They wear fanny costumes, dancing and having a lot of fun. At the end of the celebration they burn the carnival king and you can see many fireworks. After the parade you can visit , restaurants or bars and clubs, where lot of parties are organized.



