

# THE CHEST GAZETTE

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## FESTIVAL OF TATAR CULTURE in PODLASIE

The 8th Tatar Culture Festival is about dancing, singing, eating, horses and active recreation in the beautiful scenery of the Podlasie Museum of Folk Culture in Wasilków near Białystok.

In program;

- A spectacular demonstration of the training, craftsmanship and skills of the Polish Army Cavalry Squadron. He is the continuator of the 1000-year tradition of Polish Riding, he adopted the colors of the general cavalry cultivating the traditions of all the pre-war cavalry regiments.

Its basic task is to participate in state, military and patriotic-religious ceremonies in the composition of military honorary assistance in accordance with the military ceremony and escorting the most important foreign guests during official visits. This is a living history of the Polish cavalry.

- Cavalry Squadron named after 10th Lithuanian Uhlans, presented an extremely dynamic spectacle, prepared by a group of enthusiasts, thanks to whom for a moment we felt like real lancers;

- East-style archery and saber fighting workshops;

- Artistic performances of the Band Buńczuk:

1. Tatar Youth and Children Group operating at the Muslim Religious Community in Białystok.

2. Tatar Dance and Vocal Ensemble Buńczuk operating at the Tatar Cultural Society Foundation.

Both groups actively develop their vocal, dance and theater talents over 50 Polish Tatars. They cultivate the beautiful Tatar tradition, culture and art, reaching for more and more interesting forms.

- We admired the folk dances straight from Turkey performed by the "Tureckie Klimaty" ensemble from Krakow performed by min. Joanna Broda

- You could talk about the Tatar genealogy, our families and ancestors.

- Visiting the yurt, thanks to which you could find out how the Tatars used to live in the Asian steppes;

- Traditionally, the International Horse Archery Competition of the Polish Tatars was held. Horse archery is an extremely dynamic and spectacular sport discipline in which Polish archers from Podlasie are among the world's best and win titles and gold medals at competitions around the world.

- You could participate in a unique nature lesson and learn about the habits, behavior and interesting facts related to the biology of birds of prey and owls,

- Culinary enthusiasts could see with their own eyes how traditional Tatar dishes are prepared:

- Common calligraphy lesson. What does the Arabic alphabet look like? How to write your name in Arabic?

For two days, you could hear the whistle of arrows, the roar of bullets, the neigh and pounding of horses hooves,, oriental Tatar and Turkish music, you could admire beautiful costumes and smell and taste oriental dishes.

The event brings the inhabitants of the Podlasie region closer to the artistic activity, customs, culture, costumes and great cuisine of Polish Tatars in a very attractive way.

Tatars are one of the smallest ethnic groups in Poland, but their history in the former Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth dates back over 600 years. Jan Długosz gives the year 1397 as the date of voluntary Tatar settlement in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania and the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth.

From that time until World War II, the Tatars participated in all major military demonstrations. They took part in the battles of Grunwald, Kirchholm, Vienna and Maciejowice. In the September campaign of 1939, there was a Tatar squadron in the 13th Vilnius Uhlans.

The Tatars brought Islam to Poland with them. In the 16th and 17th centuries they finally lost their language and many customs, their names were translated into Polish. How many Tatars are in Poland now? In the 2011 census, such origin was declared by approx. 2 thousand. people. The Muslim Religious Union in the Republic of Poland operates in this minority community, which estimates the number of Polish Muslims, mostly of Tatar origin, for approx 5 thousand people. Podlaskie Voivodeship is considered to be the region with the highest concentration of Tatars in the country.

<https://belsat.eu/pl/news/26-06-2021-pod-bialymstokiem-do-jutra-trwa-festiwal-kultury-tatarskiej/>

Links to videos from the event:

<https://youtu.be/XmcCB-OnTw/> / [https://youtu.be/p\\_sPOroVYLU/](https://youtu.be/p_sPOroVYLU/) / <https://youtu.be/1EL-JlpnLSY>



Tatar Dance and Vocal Ensemble  
Buńczuk



Tatar Children and Youth Team



Tatar yurt



Tatar cuisine



1. The Polish Army Cavalry Squadron.
2. Cavalry Squadron named after 10th Lithuanian Uhlans



1. Do I have Tatar roots?
2. Arabic calligraphy

