

RITUALS AT BIRTH, WEDDING AND FUNERAL

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BIRTH



FEATHERS AND RAGS

When a baby is born, family and relatives will shed feathers and old rags in the yard of your house.

BIRTH

Also, in some villages they draw arrows from the beginning of the street to the house and write text on the wall or the gate.



ARROWS ON THE GROUND

BIRTH



PLANTING A TREE

To celebrate the newborn, many families plant a tree in their yard, and the type of the tree depends on the region where you live.

BIRTH

Another traditional custom is burying rakija, which is dug out and drunk on the baby's 18th birthday or even the wedding.



BURYING RAKIJA

BIRTH



MONEY UNDER THE PILLOW

After a month from the baby's birth, relatives start coming over to meet the newborn and they bring gifts. Those are mostly money under the pillow or other useful items.

BIRTH

Depending on the region, gold jewelry and gold coins can be a very popular gift.



DUKATI / GOLD COINS

BIRTH



BABINJE

In the old times women would gather a month after the birth and spend time together baking and socialising.

BIRTH

This is also the time when newborns need to be christened, for which you would need a white dress and godparents.



CHRISTENING

WEDDING



PROPOSAL

There is no wedding without a proposal and Croatian tradition is to celebrate this occasion with friends and family.

WEDDING

Prior to the wedding, traditionally, daughters need to bring dowry into the marriage, and in the old times this would be handmade items, cattle, and similar material items.



DOWRY / MIRAZ

WEDDING



HOUSE EXTENSIONS

For sons, on the other hand, the custom would be to build a new floor or an extension to the family house for the son's new family.

WEDDING

As the wedding approaches, the guests need to be invited. It is a custom to personally visit people you want to invite, leave them an invitation and drink rakija for the happy couple.



INVITING TO THE WEDDING

WEDDING



ROSEMARY

The day before the wedding rosemary branches need to be prepared for the wedding guests, since rosemary symbolises fidelity and fertility.

This is done by girls and women who attach the Croatian tricolor ribbon to the branches.

WEDDING

Let's move on to the wedding day – carrying a flag is a must, either on foot or from a car.



THE FLAG

WEDDING

PROCESSIONS

Wedding processions are common and, although today they consist of cars, here you can see wedding carriages which can be used in traditional villages.



WEDDING



FALSE BRIDE

In certain Croatian regions, when the bridegroom arrives to his bride's house to take her to the wedding, the father offers a false or decoy bride and then they have to negotiate before the real bride walks out. This is a fun tradition and the false bride is always a man and not a very handsome one 😊

WEDDING

After the wedding celebration the bridegroom carries the bride over the threshold, and the origin of this custom lies in old superstitions.



ACROSS THE THRESHOLD

FUNERAL



PRAYER

On the night of someone's death, it is a custom for the family and friends to gather and pray for the person's soul.

FUNERAL

Mirrors are turned facing down
or are covered....



FUNERAL



... all the clocks are stopped...

FUNERAL

... and the fire is put out.



FUNERAL



OPEN WINDOWS

When everybody leaves the house for the funeral all windows are left open so the soul can leave peacefully.

FUNERAL

During the funeral march, men walk first, and women behind them.



THE FUNERAL



**Običaji od starine štiti su
jaki domovine.**

The customs of antiquity shield the strength of our homeland.



Sources used:

Narodni.net

Enciklopedija.hr

