

The unique open-air museum complex is the Shushenskoye Federal Historical and Ethnographical Museum-Preserve.

On holidays the territory of the museum becomes a place of public entertainment. The most popular winter holiday is Shrovetide. This Farewell-to-Winter Festival has deep roots. Siberian people celebrate this holiday in late February or early March. All traditions are aimed at the receiving of rich harvest. There is a rule to honour young married couples and bring glory to continuation of human race.



The most active visitors of the museum can take part in different winter competitions. They have fun, say GOODBYE to winter and welcome spring. The Siberians try to observe some customs: they ride a troika, build a snowlet and play snowballs there, climb a pole for a gift and toboggan. This holiday is devoted to triumph of youth, adroitness, strength of mind.



Food has an important part to play in many of the rituals – including rites of hospitality, religious ceremonies, rituals of gift-giving. Shrovetide meal is an important form of life. Among Russian people there is a rule to eat as much as you can. According to orthodox traditions you can have only milk food and fish this festive week. The main food of Shrovetide (Maslenitsa) is a pancake (blin). The pancake symbolizes the Sun. Burning down the Maslenitsa scarecrow is another tradition.

