

## Germans in Hungary

German folk dancing has been in Hungary for 300 years. It was brought to our country with the people who migrated and settled down by the river Danube.

Maria Theresia invited the German settlers to the west and south of Hungary, because the Hungarian population had decreased dramatically during the 150 year-long Turkish occupation. They were given valuable land and they had to pay less tax.

The dances are all cheerful and colorful. In general they have danced in pairs.

People dance them at weddings for example, where a lead dancer comes up with a game that everyone has to dance like you have to play catch but instead of running, you dance.

The most popular and important type is dancing in a circle.