

## Ground squirrel dance

Ground squirrel dance is a dance imitating the movements of this animal. It is one of the traditional men's dance performed in festive events such as wedding or in Navruz – spring holyday. It is in the category of the humorous dance. The performer during the dance imitates various movements that the ground squirrel makes including standing on his toes or moving his shoulders in particular manner as the squirrel coming out from his hole or watching around.

This dance is performed under the frame drum music of 6/8 rhythmic tact. The dancer in his motions tries to the best to depict the funny motions of the ground squirrel in different positions like sitting, or making forward and backward moves or by holding his arms in his



front and shaking his shoulders.

The dancer begins by tiptoeing and arms into two sides. He then bends slightly forward and spins rising and going down manner. Afterwards he makes fist and holds his arms in front of his chest moving his head and dancing in jumping manner.

Majority of the pantomime dances depicting animals has ceased but happily the ground squirrel dance is still performed and living in some regions of Tajikistan.

