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The representation theory of real symmetric spaces was developed by Harish Chandra, Delorme, Schlichtkrul, van den Ban and many others. A natural next step is to consider the  $\mathfrak{p}$ -adic symmetric  $k$ -varieties. These homogeneous spaces have the form  $X := \mathcal{H}_k/\mathcal{G}_k$ , where  $\mathcal{G}$  is a reductive algebraic group defined over  $k$ , its subgroup  $\mathcal{H}$  is the fixed point group of an involution  $\sigma$  of  $\mathcal{G}$  defined over  $k$  and  $k$  is a finite extension of  $\mathbb{Q}_p$  for some  $p$ . In this talk we discuss recent progress on the representation theory related to these spaces. (Received September 19, 2007)