



CUSTOM RESEARCH REQUEST

Global Holidays and Heritage Months

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Global Holiday and Heritage Calendar

Country-Specific Holidays for 18 Countries

A Note About the Research Report

The following list of global holidays and celebrations is not exhaustive, and the observances are specific to each country for the year 2026. In addition, each list does not include religious or international holidays. There is a separate section for religious holidays that lists which of the 18 countries listed in the report celebrates these religious days. Only holidays that are official holidays or bank holidays are listed in this section.

Please note that because some countries have large religious majorities, some public holidays are also religious holidays. Therefore, those dates are listed in the country section to reflect the cultural significance of the holiday and the religious observances section.

For a full list of US holidays and international observances, refer to Seramount's [2026 Heritage and Recognition Calendar](#).

Australia

January

1 – New Year's Day (Celebrated in Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania, Victoria, Western Australia): New Year's Day, which is on January 1, marks the start of the year in the Gregorian calendar. New Year's Day is a public holiday in Australia. For more information on how it is celebrated in Australia, go [here](#).

26 – Australia Day (Australian Capital Territory, New South Wales, Northern Territory, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania, Victoria, Western Australia): Australia Day is a holiday (January 26) honoring the establishment of the first permanent European settlement on the continent of Australia. ([Australia Day | Britannica](#))

March

2 – Labour Day (Western Australia): Labour Day is an annual holiday celebrated in Australia, resulting from efforts of the labour union movement to celebrate the economic and social achievements of workers. Around Australia the different states celebrate the day across a number of significant public holiday dates. ([Labour Day in Australia](#))

9 – Canberra Day (Australian Capital Territory): Canberra Day is when people in Australia's capital city celebrate its qualities, such as its physical beauty and cultural diversity. The public holiday falls on the second Monday in March every year to honor the official naming of Canberra by Lady Denman, wife to then governor-general Lord Denman, on March 12, 1913. In the lead-up to Canberra Day, the city enjoys two weeks of festivities. ([Here's why the second Monday in March is a public holiday - ABC News](#))

9 – Labour Day (Victoria): Labour Day is an annual holiday celebrated in Australia, resulting from efforts of the labour union movement to celebrate the economic and social achievements of workers. Around Australia the different states celebrate the day across a number of significant public holiday dates. ([Labour Day in Australia](#))

9 – Eight Hours Day (Tasmania): Also known as Labour Day, Eight Hours Day is celebrated on the second Monday in March in some parts of Australia. Eight Hours Day is an annual holiday celebrated in Australia, resulting from efforts of the labour union movement to celebrate the economic and social achievements of workers. ([Eight Hours Day - National Today](#))

9 – Adelaide Cup Day (South Australia): The Adelaide Cup is a race by the South Australian Jockey Club for Group 2 thoroughbred horses. This race is the second oldest horse race in Australia, next to the Melbourne Cup. An important race, it brings together the best race jockeys and horses from South Australia and sometimes even some of the Northern states. ([Adelaide Cup - National Today](#))

April

25 – Anzac Day (Australian Capital Territory, New South Wales, Northern Territory, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania, Victoria, Western Australia): Anzac Day commemorates the landing in 1915, during World War I, of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps ([ANZAC](#)) on the Gallipoli Peninsula. The military personnel who participated in this campaign and the lives of those who died in all military actions are remembered. ([Anzac Day | Britannica](#))

May

4 – May Day (Northern Territory): May Day, known as International Workers' Day, is an annual event celebrated in Australia to honor the achievements and struggles of workers and labor movements. It is a day to promote and encourage the rights and fair treatment of workers in the country. ([May Day in Australia](#))

4 – Labour Day (Queensland): Labour Day is an annual holiday celebrated in Australia, resulting from efforts of the labour union movement to celebrate the economic and social achievements of workers. Around Australia the different states celebrate the day across a number of significant public holiday dates. ([Labour Day in Australia](#))

June

1 – Reconciliation Day (Australian Capital Territory): Reconciliation Day is a public holiday in the Australian Capital Territory (ACT). First observed in 2018, it celebrates Aboriginal Australian culture and promotes cultural exchange and understanding. ([Reconciliation Day in Australia](#))

1 – Western Australia Day (Western Australia): Western Australia Day celebrates the day British captain Charles Fremantle claimed Western Australia for the British in 1829, setting up the Swan River Colony. While the day was originally called "Foundation Day," it has since been renamed to include all Western Australians, including Aboriginal communities. WA Day takes place on the first Monday in June. ([Western Australia Day](#))

8 – King's Birthday (Australian Capital Territory, New South Wales, Northern Territory, South Australia, Tasmania, Victoria): Australians celebrate the official birthday of their king, Charles III. The holiday falls on the second Monday in June in all states except Queensland and Western Australia. On King's Birthday, Australians mark the official birthday of Charles III of the United Kingdom. Australia is a constitutional monarchy with the King or Queen of the UK acting as the head of state. Until 2022, the holiday was known as Queen's Birthday and dedicated to Queen Elizabeth II. ([King's Birthday in Australia](#))

August

3 – Picnic Day (Northern Territory): Picnic Day started in the 1800s, when railroad workers and public works employees began the tradition of holding an annual "Union Picnic Day" or "Trade Picnic Day" by the Adelaide River, and became a formal holiday in the 1930s. ([Northern Territory Picnic Day – National Today](#))

12 – Royal Queensland Show (Queensland): This event is the annual agricultural event of Queensland, Australia. Its formal title is the Royal Queensland Show, and it is held at the Brisbane Showgrounds. It was originally called the Brisbane Exhibition, but it is more commonly known as the "Ekka," short for "exhibition." It is run by The Royal National Agricultural and Industrial Association of Queensland (RNA). The ten-day long exhibition attracts more than 600,000 visitors from different parts of Australia and abroad. ([Ekka - About Us](#))

September

28 – King's Birthday (Western Australia): Australians celebrate the official birthday of their king, Charles III. On King's Birthday, Australians mark the official birthday of Charles III of the United Kingdom. Australia is a constitutional monarchy with the King or Queen of the UK acting as the head of state. Until 2022, the holiday was known as Queen's Birthday and dedicated to Queen Elizabeth II. ([King's Birthday in Australia](#))

October

5 – King's Birthday (Queensland): Australians celebrate the official birthday of their king, Charles III. On King's Birthday, Australians mark the official birthday of Charles III of the United Kingdom. Australia is a constitutional monarchy with the King or Queen of the UK acting as the head of state. Until 2022, the holiday was known as Queen's Birthday and dedicated to Queen Elizabeth II. ([King's Birthday in Australia](#))

5 – Labour Day (Australian Capital Territory, New South Wales, South Australia): Labour Day is an annual holiday celebrated in Australia, resulting from efforts of the labour union movement to celebrate the economic and social achievements of workers. Around Australia the different states celebrate the day across a number of significant public holiday dates. ([Labour Day in Australia](#))

November

3 – Melbourne Cup (Victoria): Melbourne Cup Day is Australia's most popular horse racing event and held on the first Tuesday of November every year. The main racing event takes place at the Flemington Racecourse in Melbourne, Victoria. More than 100,000 people usually attend Flemington Racecourse. ([Melbourne Cup Day in Australia](#))

Belgium

January

1 – New Year's Day: New Year's Day, which is on January 1, marks the start of the year in the Gregorian calendar. New Year's Day is a public holiday in Belgium. For more information on how it is celebrated in Belgium, go [here](#).

May

1 – Labour Day: Labour Day in Belgium takes place on May 1 every year. It's also commonly known as "May Day." Labour Day is an annual holiday celebrating the efforts of the labor union movements and the economic and social achievements of workers. ([Labour Day in Belgium in 2026 | Office Holidays](#))

8 – Feast of the Iris: Iris Day is observed annually on May 8 in Belgium. This holiday, which is unique to the region of Brussels, celebrates the flowering time of the iris flower. May 8 is a symbolic day in the region as it marks the feast day of the region's patron saint, as well as the victory won by the Allied Powers during World War II. ([IRIS DAY – May 8, 2026](#))

July

11 – Celebration of the Golden Spurs (Day of the Flemish Community): Celebration of the Golden Spurs is observed on July 11 every year. The day marks the victory of the Flemish over the French in the Battle of the Golden Spurs in 1302. The holiday is also referred to as the Day of the Flemish Community. ([CELEBRATION OF THE GOLDEN SPURS – July 11, 2026 – National Today](#))

21 – Belgium National Day (Belgian Independence Day): Belgian Independence Day is celebrated annually on July 21. It is one of Belgium's 10 public holidays and commemorates the investiture of the country's first monarch, King Leopold I, who took the constitutional oath in 1831. This day also celebrates the separation of Belgium from the Netherlands and the formal establishment of the Kingdom. ([Celebrating Belgium's National Day](#))

September

27 – Feast Day of the Walloon Region: The Day of the Walloon Region, is a public holiday in Belgium celebrated on September 27. It commemorates the day in 1944 when the first shots were fired in the liberation of Wallonia, the French-speaking southern region of Belgium, from Nazi German occupation during World War II. ([Day of the Walloon Region in Belgium – Date, History, and Details \(days.guide\)](#))

27 – Day of the French-speaking Community: The event commemorates the French-speaking community of the country and highlights their cultural identity, traditions, and history. ([Day of the French Community](#))

November

1 – All Saints' Day: In Belgium, All Saints' Day is a public holiday celebrated on November 1. It is also known as the Day of the Dead or the Feast of All Saints. All Saints' Day is a Catholic holiday that honors all the saints, known and unknown. In Belgium, it is traditional to visit cemeteries and leave flowers on the graves of loved ones. ([All Saints' Day in Belgium – Date, History, and Details](#))

11 – Armistice Day: Armistice Day on November 11 marks the effective end of World War I and is a day to remember the millions of lives lost to a years-long conflict opposing several European countries. ([What is Armistice Day and how is it commemorated in Belgium? \(brusselstimes.com\)](#))

December

6 – St. Nicholas Day: Always celebrated on December 6, this day marks the death of Saint Nicholas in 343 AD. In the Orthodox Church, Saint Nicholas Day falls on December 19. This day is not a public holiday but is widely celebrated. ([Feast of St. Nicholas in Belgium | Office Holidays](#))

Brazil

January

1 – New Year's Day (Ano Novo/Confraternização Universal): New Year's Day, which is on January 1, marks the start of the year in the Gregorian calendar. New Year's Day is a public holiday in Brazil. For more information on how it is celebrated in Brazil, go [here](#).

February

16-17 – Carnival: The Carnival of Brazil is an annual festival held the Friday afternoon before Ash Wednesday at noon, which marks the beginning of Lent, the forty-day period before Easter. Although the practice of carnivals originated from Europe, African influence is evident in the Brazilian carnivals that we see today. Carnival history dictates that this began when Brazil became a colony of Portugal. Due to the African slave trade, the carnivals adapted the tribal practices, This included parading around the village, which was actually done to ward off all the bad spirits in the area. ([Carnival History | Brazil Carnival](#))

April

21 – Tiradentes Day: Tiradentes Day has been celebrated in Brazil since 1890, following the establishment of the Brazilian Republic in 1889. The holiday pays tribute to Tiradentes, a leading figure in the Brazilian struggle for independence from Portugal in the late 18th century. ([Tiradentes Day in Brazil](#))

May

1 – Labor Day (Dia do Trabalho): Labor Day is an annual holiday celebrated in Brazil, resulting from efforts of the labour union movement to celebrate the economic and social achievements of workers.

September

7 – Independence Day (Sete de Setembro): The Regent Prince, Dom Pedro, son of the Portuguese king, Dom João VI, was authorized to rule if the king either died or returned to Portugal. Upon his father's return to Portugal in 1821, Dom Pedro took over, eventually declaring allegiance with Brazil. Brazilian independence was officially proclaimed on September 22, 1822. However, now Independence Day is celebrated on September 7. ([Brazil Independence Day](#))

October

12 – Our Lady of Aparecida (Nossa Senhora de Aparecida): Lady of Aparecida Day is usually observed on October 12. It is dedicated to Brazil's patron saint, the Virgin Mary Aparecida. A ten-day celebration honors Mary in the city near São Paulo that takes her name. Aparecida (appearing) is her name since there are multiple tales of apparitions of Our Lady of the Conception during difficult times, as well as her first miracle for the fisherman. ([Lady Of Aparecida - National Today](#))

November

2 – All Souls' Day (Dia de Finados): This holiday marks the day after All Saints Day and honors and prays for the souls who have passed on. Christianity also believes in commemorating the faithful souls and praying for those who haven't yet reached heaven but are still in Purgatory. ([All Souls Day \(Brazil\) - National Today](#))

15 – Republic Proclamation Day: On this day in 1889, the opposition triumphed over the constitutional monarchy through a military coup d'état that overthrew Emperor Pedro II and established a provisional

government, the Republic of the United States of Brazil. This day is remembered as the day the country's republic was born. The country would subsequently fight to abolish dictatorial rule, but November 15 is still remembered as a historic day that sparked democracy in Brazil. ([Republic Proclamation Day - National Today](#))

20 – Black Consciousness Day (Zumbi dos Palmares/Dia da Consciência Negra): Black Consciousness Day is set aside to commemorate Zumbi's death — the pioneering leader of resistance to slavery — and to reflect on the tragic injustices imposed on the Black community and African descendants since the beginning of time. This day is a social movement, dedicated to recognizing the worth and unmatched contributions of the Black people in the country, by honoring their existence and protesting against racial discrimination on a massive scale. ([Black Consciousness Day - National Today](#))

Canada

January

Tamil Heritage Month: Focuses on the history and contributions of Canada's Tamil community. ([Tamil Heritage Month](#))

17 – Raoul Wallenberg Day: This day remembers Raoul Wallenberg, a Swedish diplomat and Canada's first honorary citizen, who is credited with saving the lives of thousands of Jewish Hungarians. ([Raoul Wallenberg Day](#))

21 – Lincoln Alexander Day: Commemorates Lincoln Alexander, the first Black member of Parliament in the House of Commons, the first Black federal minister, and the first Black chair of the Worker's Compensation Board of Ontario. ([Lincoln Alexander Day](#))

29 – National Day of Remembrance of the Quebec City Mosque Attack and Action Against Islamophobia: This observation commemorates the six people who lost their lives and 19 others who were injured during the terrorist attack at the Centre Culturel Islamique de Québec in Sainte-Foy condemns Islamophobia. ([Statement by the Prime Minister on the National Day of Remembrance of the Quebec City Mosque Attack and Action Against Islamophobia](#))

February

African Heritage Month (Nova Scotia): Established in Nova Scotia in 1988, the event commemorates the history and contributions of African communities in Nova Scotia. Each year, various African organizations come together to create a theme and plan events for the month. ([African Heritage Month](#))

Black History Month: Each February, Canadians celebrate Black History Month to honor the history and contributions of Black Canadians to Canadian society. ([February is Black History Month](#))

1–7 – White Cane Week: Raises public awareness about the life and challenges of Canadians living with vision lost. ([Canadian Council of the Blind](#))

5 – Anniversary of Toronto Bathhouse Raids: On February 5, 1981, police officers raided four bathhouses in Toronto to arrest alleged sex workers. Over 300 men were arrested, with police officers using excessive force and derogatory homophobic language. The raids sparked backlash from the LGBTQ+ community and a wave of protests against police brutality toward LGBTQ+ people. ([Toronto Bathhouse Raids, 1981 | The Canadian Encyclopedia](#))

15 – National Flag Day: Commemorates the inauguration of Canada's red and white maple leaf flag in 1965. ([National Flag of Canada Day](#))

16 – Family Day: A holiday celebrated in Alberta, British Columbia, Ontario, Saskatchewan, and New Brunswick, meant to emphasize the importance of family. ([Family Day - National Today](#))

16 – Islander Day: A holiday observed in Prince Edward Island in which many public places close and give people time to celebrate family and community. ([Islander Day - National Today](#))

16 – Louis Riel Day: This day commemorates the execution of Louis Riel and honors him for his role in advocating for the Métis Nation. ([Louis Riel Day](#))

16 – Nova Scotia Heritage Day: This day celebrates the history of Nova Scotia by honoring the people, places, and events that make the province unique. ([Nova Scotia Heritage Day](#))

March

Irish Heritage Month: Established in 2022, it is meant to celebrate the contributions of Irish Canadians to Canadian society. ([Irish Heritage Month in Canada](#))

Bangladeshi Heritage Month: Celebrated in the province of Ontario, the event celebrates the large Bangladeshi community in Ontario and honors their history and contributions. Celebrations are hosted in March to align with the Bangladesh Independence Day on March 26. ([Bangladeshi Heritage Month Act, 2016, S.O. 2016, c. 32](#))

Multiculturalism Month: Coincides with the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination on March 21 and is meant to celebrate the rich diversity of cultures and communities of Newfoundland and Labrador. ([Multiculturalism Month in Newfoundland and Labrador](#))

9 – Commonwealth Day: Recognizes the Commonwealth of Nations, countries that were formerly a part of the British Empire, and the changing dynamics between Britain and its former colonies. ([Commonwealth Day in Canada](#))

April

Genocide Remembrance, Condemnation, and Prevention Month: Remembers the victims of genocide, honors survivors, and asks citizens to reflect on how to prevent future genocides from occurring. ([Genocide Remembrance, Condemnation, and Prevention Month](#))

Sikh Heritage Month: Commemorates the culture and contributions of Sikh communities across Canada. During this month, the Sikh Heritage Month Foundation hosts various events and programs. ([Sikh Heritage Month](#))

28 – Day of Mourning: Recognizes workers who have been injured, become ill, or died as a direct result of their job; this day is meant to acknowledge the country's commitment to protecting workers and preventing workplace tragedies. ([CCOHS: National Day of Mourning](#))

30 – Journey to Freedom Day: Commemoration of the exodus of Vietnamese refugees and their acceptance in Canada after the fall of Saigon on April 30, 1975. ([Vietnamese Canadians | The Canadian Encyclopedia](#))

May

Asian Heritage Month: Offers the opportunity to learn more about the achievements and contributions of Canadians of Asian heritage. ([Asian Heritage Month](#))

Jewish Heritage Month: Celebrates Jewish culture, heritage, and history in Canada and acknowledges the contributions of Jewish Canadians. ([Jewish Heritage Month](#))

Dutch Heritage Month: Celebrated in the province of Ontario, Dutch Heritage Month recognizes the important contributions that Dutch Canadians have made to the economic, political, social, and cultural fabric of Ontario's society. ([Dutch Heritage Month Act, 2011, S.O. 2011, c. 4](#))

5 – Dutch Heritage Day: Honors the sacrifices of members of the Canadian armed forces in the liberation of the Netherlands during World War II and offers an opportunity to celebrate the contributions of Dutch Canadians. ([Dutch Heritage Day](#))

5 – South Asian Arrival Day: Commemorates the arrival of South Asian communities from the Indian subcontinent to the Americas beginning on May 5, 1838, and celebrates the presence and culture of South Asian people in Ontario. ([South Asian Heritage Act, 2001](#))

18 – Victoria Day: Celebrated in honor of the birth of Queen Victoria, the first sovereign of Canada. ([Victoria Day](#))

18 – National Patriot's Day: Commemorates democracy and patriotic struggles for freedom from British rule during 1837–1838 in Quebec. ([Journée nationale des patriotes, Québec](#))

21 – Ontario Flag Day: Pays tribute to the Ontario flag and the history and citizens of the province. ([Ontario Flag Day Act, 2015](#))

30 – Provincial Francophonie Day: Celebrates Newfoundland and Labrador's French Heritage and recognizes the different language and cultures of Francophones. ([Provincial Francophonie Day](#))

31–June 6 – National AccessAbility Week: Honors the contributions of Canadians with disabilities and highlights the work of various leaders and organizations working to remove barriers for people with disabilities. ([National Accessibility Week](#))

June

Italian Heritage Month: Honors and celebrates Italian heritage and recognizes the community's contributions to Canadian society. ([Italian Heritage Month](#))

Filipino Heritage Month: Recognizes, celebrates, and raises awareness about the Filipino community in Canada and their contributions throughout Canadian history. ([Filipino Heritage Month](#))

Portuguese Heritage Month: Highlights the many great past and ongoing contributions of Portuguese Canadians and their traditions and culture. ([Portuguese Heritage Month](#))

National Indigenous History Month: Recognizes the history, heritage, resilience, and diversity of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Peoples across Canada. ([National Indigenous History Month](#))

1–7 – Treaty Recognition Week: Honors the nation-to-nation relationship formed between the federal government and various Indigenous nations. ([Treaty Recognition Week](#))

21 – National Indigenous Peoples Day: Recognizes and celebrates the unique heritage, diverse cultures, and historic contributions of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples in Canada. ([National Indigenous Peoples Day](#))

22 – June Day: Previously called Discovery Day, this day commemorates the discovery of Newfoundland and Labrador in 1497 by John Cabot. However, the province has acknowledged that John Cabot didn't "discover" Newfoundland and Labrador, and his arrival played a role in centuries of conflict between European colonists and Indigenous people. June Day is a provisional name for the holiday, and the government is consulting with Indigenous groups before choosing a new name. ([Changes Related to "Discovery Day" Holiday](#))

24 – St. Jean Baptiste Day: Francophones show their pride by celebrating their language and their traditions. ([Saint-Jean-Baptiste Day](#))

27 – Canadian Multiculturalism Day: Celebrates the diverse cultures of Canada as well as the country's commitment to equality, democracy, and mutual respect. ([Canadian Multiculturalism Day](#))

July

Tibetan Heritage Month: Recognized in Ontario and meant to celebrate the birthday of His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama Tenzin Gyatso, an honorary Canadian citizen; it also symbolizes the resilience of Tibetan-Canadians. ([Tibetan Heritage Month](#))

1 – Canada Day: Commemorates the enactment of the Constitution Act in 1867, which established Canada as an independent country with its own constitution ([Canada Day](#))

1 – Beaumont Hamel Memorial Day: Honors the anniversary of the fighting at Beaumont-Hamel during World War I in Newfoundland and Labrador. ([Battle of Beaumont-Hamel - Veterans Affairs Canada](#))

13 – Orangemen's Day: Celebrated in Newfoundland and Labrador, this holiday honors the day in July 1690 when the forces of constitutionalism won out over the forces of anti-Parliamentarianism at the River Boyne in Ireland: King William of Orange, the Protestant King of England, defeated former King James, a Catholic. ([Newfoundland and Labrador Customs](#))

28 – Day of Commemoration of the Great Upheaval: Honors the Royal Proclamation that recognized the wrongs inflicted on the Acadians when they were forcibly deported from Acadie in 1755. ([Day of Commemoration of the Great Upheaval](#))

August

1 – Emancipation Day: Commemorates the end of slavery in the British Empire in 1834 and celebrates the strength and perseverance of Black communities in Canada. ([Emancipation Day](#))

3 – Civic Holiday: Known by various names across Canada's provinces, this day celebrates the unique local customs and histories of different municipalities. ([Civic Holiday | The Canadian Encyclopedia](#))

15 – National Acadian Day: Celebrated since 1881 by Acadians, the day consists of community festivals and family events focused on Acadian culture and history. ([National Acadian Day](#))

September

7 – Labour Day: Established in Canada in 1894 and observed on the first Monday of September, this holiday honors working class solidarity and the contributions workers make to society. ([Labour Day in Canada | The Canadian Encyclopedia](#))

7 – Ukrainian Heritage Day: Proclaimed in 2011, the holiday marks the day in 1891 when the first Ukrainian immigrants, Vasyl Eleniak and Ivan Pylypiw, arrived in Canada. ([Ukrainian Heritage Day Act, 2011](#))

20–26 – Gender Equality Week: The fourth week in September, this is an opportunity to raise awareness of the contributions women and gender-diverse people have made to Canadian society, celebrate achievements the country has made in advancing gender equality, and affirm the country's commitment to address gender-equality gaps. ([Gender Equality Week - Women and Gender Equality Canada](#))

25 – Franco-Ontario Day: Ontario is home to the largest Francophone community in Canada outside of Quebec, with more than 622,000 Francophones and 1.5 million Ontarians who can speak French. This day recognizes the language, culture, and history of Francophones in Ontario. ([Franco-Ontarian Day Act, 2010](#))

30 – National Day for Truth and Reconciliation/Orange Shirt Day: A day to honor the lost children and survivors of residential schools and their families and communities. Residential schools were created by Christian churches and the Canadian government to integrate Indigenous youth into Canadian society. Public commemoration of the tragic and painful history and ongoing impacts of residential schools is a vital component of the reconciliation process. ([National Day for Truth and Reconciliation](#))

October

Canadian Islamic History Month: Honors the rich heritage and contributions of Islamic communities in the past and present. ([Islamic History Month](#))

German Heritage Month: With more than 3 million people, the German community is one of Canada's biggest cultural communities. This event honors German contributions to Canadian society and recognizes how they have shaped the social and economic fabric of the country. In this month, Canadians also celebrate Oktoberfest, a nine-day celebration beginning on the Friday before Thanksgiving. ([German Heritage Month and Oktoberfest](#))

Healthy Workplace Month: Meant to increase awareness of the need for a comprehensive approach to workplace health in Canada that is influenced by the four elements of a healthy workplace: (1) healthy lifestyles, (2) workplace culture and mental health, (3) physical environment, and (4) corporate social responsibility. The event is also intended to provide healthy workplace tools, resources, and best practices to help organizations create healthy workplaces with benefits for employees and themselves and increase the number of healthy workplaces in Canada. ([October is Canada's Healthy Workplace Month](#))

Hispanic Heritage Month: Celebrated in Ontario, home to more than 400,000 first-, second- and third-generation Canadians of Hispanic origin, this month honors the contributions of Hispanic-Canadians to the social, economic, political, and multicultural fabric of the country. ([Hispanic Heritage Month Act, 2015](#))

Latin American Heritage Month: Celebrated across all of Canada and meant to educate the public about the contributions of Latin Americans in Canada as well as encourage citizens to learn more about the culture and traditions of Latin Americans.

Mi'kmaq History Month: Honored in Nova Scotia and aims to give Nova Scotians the opportunity to improve their knowledge and awareness of Mi'kmaq culture, history, and heritage. ([Mi'kmaq History Month](#))

Women's History Month: Established in 1992 and recognizes all women for their valuable contributions to history and society in Canada. ([Women and Gender Equality Canada](#))

1 – Treaty Day: A day that marks the beginning of Mi'kmaq History Month in Nova Scotia. The purpose of Treaty Day is to promote public awareness about the Mi'kmaq culture and heritage for all Nova Scotians. ([Treaty Day | Union of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq](#))

4 – National Day of Action for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls: A day to stand in solidarity with Indigenous families and communities to honor the lives of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls whose lives have been cut short by violence. ([Missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQI+ people](#))

12 – Thanksgiving: A chance for people to give thanks for a good harvest and other fortunes in the past year. ([Canadian Thanksgiving](#))

18 – Persons Day: Marks the day in 1929 when the decision to include women in the legal definition of “persons” was handed down by Canada’s highest court of appeal. This gave some women the right to be appointed to the Senate of Canada and paved the way for women’s increased participation in public and political life. ([Persons Day - Women and Gender Equality Canada](#))

November

Indigenous Disability Awareness Month: Indigenous peoples of Canada experience a disability rate significantly higher than that of the general population. This event brings awareness of these barriers and the issues that Indigenous peoples living with disabilities and their families face every day. ([Indigenous Disability Awareness Month \(IDAM\) | bcands.bc.ca](#))

5–11 – Veterans' Week: Every year during the lead up to Remembrance Day on November 11, this week honors those who have served Canada in times of war, military conflict, and peace. ([Remembrance Day & Veterans' Week - Veterans Affairs Canada](#))

8 – Indigenous Veterans Day: Honors the contributions made by First Nations, Inuit, and Métis veterans in service to Canada. ([Indigenous Veterans - Veterans Affairs Canada](#))

11 – Remembrance Day: Commemorates the members of the armed forces who sacrificed their lives during the World Wars and other military efforts in history and currently. ([Remembrance Day](#))

23–30 – Canada History Week: Provides all Canadians with opportunities to learn more about the people and events that have shaped the country. ([Canada History Week](#))

December

6 – The National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women: Honors the individuals who have been victims of gender-based violence. It is also meant to encourage the public to take action to prevent and respond to gender-based violence through education, listening to survivors, and speaking out against harmful behavior. ([The National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women - Women and Gender Equality Canada](#))

Chile

January

1 – New Year's Day (Año Nuevo): New Year's Day, which is on January 1, marks the start of the year in the Gregorian calendar. For more information on how it is celebrated in Chile, go [here](#).

May

1 – Labour Day (Día del Trabajo): This international holiday is observed on May 1. It is most commonly seen as a commemoration of the achievements of the labour movement. The holiday may also be known as International Worker's Day or May Day and is marked with a public holiday in over 80 countries. ([Labour Day in Chile](#))

21 – Navy Day (Día de las Glorias Navales): Chile honors those who gave their lives in the Battle of Iquique in the War of the Pacific against Peru and Bolivia in 1879. ([Chile Holidays and Festivals](#))

June

21 – National Day of Indigenous Peoples (Día Nacional de los Pueblos Indígenas): The National Day of Indigenous Peoples is a holiday, held on June 21–24, which commemorates the indigenous peoples of Chile. This day is an opportunity for Chilean society to reflect on the multiethnic character and origin of Chile, so as not to forget the great cultural wealth preserved by the different indigenous peoples that make up the territory and that provide a local cultural identity and diversity in a context of Latin American and global cultural globalization. ([National Indigenous Day in Chile](#))

24 – We Tripantu: We Tripantu or Wüñoy Tripantu is the Mapuche New Year celebration that takes place on the southern winter solstice (the shortest day of the year in the southern hemisphere) between June 21 and 24. We Tripantu is a day of celebration for the Mapuche and corresponds to the beginning of the increasingly longer days until the summer solstice and the eventual rebirth of nature after entering winter. The Mapuche New Year is equivalent to the celebration of the New Year on December 31 in countries that use the Gregorian calendar, close to the northern winter solstice (the shortest day of the year in the northern hemisphere). ([We Tripantu, the Mapuche New Year in Chile](#))

August

20 – Birth Day of Liberator Bernardo O'Higgins (Nacimiento del Prócer de la Independencia): The Birth of the Independence Hero, also known as the Birth of the Liberator General Bernardo O'Higgins, is a Chilean holiday that commemorates the birth of the country's hero, Bernardo O'Higgins, on August 20, 1778. The official celebrations are centered in the Bernardo O'Higgins Monumental Park and in the Plaza Isabel Riquelme in Chillán Viejo, where a military and civilian parade is held, with the presence of national and local authorities. This holiday was created in 1966, valid only in the commune of Chillán and limited to the school environment; since 2014, it is a holiday for all legal purposes in the communes of Chillán and Chillán Viejo, which make up the city of Chillán. ([Liberator Bernardo O'Higgins' Birth Day in Chile](#))

September

11 – Day of Remembrance of Salvador Allende: Allende was one of the founders of the Socialist Party of Chile and in 1938 became a minister of health. He was a senator from 1945 until 1969 and was President of the Chilean Senate from 1966 until 1969. Allende was the president of Chile from 1970 until his 1973 suicide, and head of the Popular Unity government; he was the first Marxist ever to be elected to the national presidency of a liberal democracy in Latin America. ([Day of Remembrance of Salvador Allende in Chile](#))

18 – National Day/Independence Day (Fiestas Patrias): The country celebrates Independence Day or Fiestas Patrias commemorating the beginning of their road to freedom from Spain, although Chile officially proclaimed its independence on February 12, 1818. The entire week is celebrated with lots of Chilean food, drinking, dancing and lots of flag waving. ([Chile Holidays and Festivals](#))

19 – Army Day (Día de las Glorias del Ejército): On this day, soldiers and important politicians gather in the main plaza and military and naval parades celebrating Chile's military victories take place. This day is also the first day of Spring in the Southern hemisphere. It is part of the weeklong celebration of Independence Day. ([Chile Holidays and Festivals](#))

October

9 – Columbus Day/Race Day (Encuentro de Dos Mundos/Día de la Raza): This holiday represents the conquest and mistreatment of the local indigenous people by the Spanish conquerors. In recent years South Americans have used this occasion to celebrate their Spanish heritage instead of the oppression and subjugation that followed the arrival of the Spanish. ([Chile Holidays and Festivals](#))

12 – The Day of the Discovery of Two Worlds Day: The Celebration of the Discovery of the Americas that is celebrated annually in Latin America on October 12, depending on the perception that each country has of the historical facts. Chile adopted the celebration and called it "The Day of the Discovery of Two Worlds" in March 2000 under the authorization of President Eduardo Frey Ruiz-Tagler. In Latin America, the day is also a symbol of division; for example, Peru does not have a public holiday and this day is called the Day of Dialogue between Indigenous Peoples and Cultures. Similarly, in Bolivia, it is the "Day of Decolonization in the multinational nation of Bolivia." ([Opening Day of America in Bolivia and Chile](#))

18 – National Revolution Day (Fiestas Patrias): It has been several years since the October Revolution of 2019, perhaps the most important political moment in the history of Chile in this 21st century. Indeed, after days of protests and evasions, Friday, October 18 turned into a violent day that surprised the authorities and society in general. The most visible manifestation was expressed in the violent and destructive spirit of the burning of many Metro stations (whose perpetrators and circumstances are still unknown), which started a broader process of mobilizations since the return to democracy and a general change in national politics, one of the largest in the two centuries of republican life. ([National Revolution Day in Chile](#))

China

January

1-2 – New Year's Day: New Year's Day, which is on January 1, marks the start of the year in the Gregorian calendar. New Year's Day is a public holiday in China. This day is different from the Lunar New Year, which takes place later in the year and is also a public holiday.

February

15-23 – Spring Festival: This festival marks the start of the Lunar New Year in China. The date of the holiday is based on a lunisolar calendar (a calendar that uses lunar and solar positions to determine dates) and varies from year to year. It's called the Spring Festival because it marks the beginning of spring and the end of winter. There are many celebrations during the Spring Festival, including the worship of gods and the Buddha, paying respects to the ancestors, general house cleaning, welcoming the god of wealth and sending away hungry ghosts. ([Brief Introduction to Spring Festival](#))

17 – Lunar New Year: Lunar New Year is a major 15-day festival marking the first new moon of the lunisolar calendar, typically falling between January 21 and February 20. It is celebrated primarily in Asia to honor ancestors, reunite with family, and welcome spring. ([Lunar New Year](#))

24 – Lantern Festival: The first significant feast after the Chinese New Year; participants enjoy watching paper lanterns illuminate the sky on the night of the event. ([Chinese Lantern Festival](#))

April

5 – Qing Ming Festival: The Qing Ming Festival, literally meaning Pure Brightness Festival, takes place on the fifteenth day after the spring equinox. As a holiday devoted to remembering and honoring the deceased, people sweep and decorate gravesites, burn incense and paper money, and make food offerings. ([Qing Ming Festival - Smithsonian's National Museum of Asian Art](#))

May

1-5 – Labor Day: Chinese Labor Day is a May 1 holiday that celebrates the contributions of workers of all types. Labor Day was originally a one-day holiday in China, but it has gone through many changes. In 1999, the Chinese State Council decided to increase the duration of Labor Day and make it part of a "[Golden Week](#)" triad, meaning that it would be a seven-day holiday, along with Chinese New Year and National Day. However, in 2008, Labor Day was stripped of its "Golden Week" title and officially became a three-day holiday. ([The Who, What and Why of Chinese Labor Day | China's Worker's Day](#))

June

19-21 – Dragon Boat Festival: In the Republic of China, the festival was also celebrated as "Poets' Day" in honor of Qu Yuan, who is known as China's first poet. The festival is a celebration where many eat rice dumplings (zongzi), drink realgar wine (xionghuangjiu), and race dragon boats. Other activities include hanging icons of Zhong Kui (a mythic guardian figure), hanging mugwort and calamus, taking long walks, writing spells, and wearing perfumed medicine bags. ([Dragon Boat Festival in China](#))

September

29 – Mid-Autumn Festival: This festival is a celebration of the rice harvest and many fruits. Ceremonies are held both to give thanks for the harvest and to encourage the harvest-giving light to return again in the coming year. ([What Is Mid-Autumn Moon Festival?](#))

October

1–7 – Chinese National Day: China celebrates the Chinese National Day on October 1st every year. The celebration commemorates the [founding of the People's Republic of China](#), which was established on October 1st, 1949. ([What is the Chinese National Day Holiday? | China's National Day](#))

23 – Chung Yeung Festival: The Chung Yeung Festival, also known as the Double Ninth or Autumn Remembrance or the Festival of High Places, is celebrated annually on the ninth day of the ninth month of the Chinese lunar calendar. In China, people celebrate Chung Yeung by climbing hills and visiting the graves of their ancestors to offer burnt offerings. ([Chung Yeung Festival - National Today](#))

France

January

1 – New Year's Day: New Year's Day, which is on January 1, marks the start of the year in the Gregorian calendar. New Year's Day is a public holiday in France. For more information on how it is celebrated in France, go [here](#).

May

1 – Labour Day: Labor Day in France place on May 1 every year. It's also commonly known as "May Day." Labor Day is an annual holiday celebrating the efforts of the labor union movements and the economic and social achievements of workers. ([Labor Day / May Day in France \(timeanddate.com\)](#))

8 – Victory Day: This day commemorates the end of World War II in France. ([Victory Day France | La Fete de la Victoire](#))

July

14 – Bastille Day: A French federal holiday that commemorates the Storming of the Bastille, a fortress-prison in Paris that held political prisoners who had displeased the French nobility. The Storming of the Bastille, which took place on July 14, 1789, was regarded as a turning point of the French Revolution. Celebrations are held throughout France. ([What Is Bastille Day & Why Is It Celebrated? | French Independence Day | Trusted Since 1922 \(rd.com\)](#))

November

1 – All Saints' Day: In France, All Saints' Day is a public holiday celebrated on November 1. It is also known as the Day of the Dead or the Feast of All Saints. All Saints' Day is a Catholic holiday that honors all the saints, known and unknown. ([All Saints' Day in France \(timeanddate.com\)](#))

11 – Armistice Day: Armistice Day marks the effective end of World War I and is a day to remember the millions of lives lost to a years-long conflict opposing several European countries to each other and is a public holiday in France. ([November 11 | Library of Congress](#))

Germany

January

1 – New Year's Day ([Dinner for One Tradition](#)): To review a list of local traditions, see [here](#).

27 – Auschwitz Liberation Day: Auschwitz Liberation Day, observed on January 27, is a day that sums up the history of the Holocaust — to commemorate the Jews that were killed and abused. A genocide of these victims by Nazi Germany occurred between 1941 and 1945. So much history, so many stories, and propaganda came about from these critical years. It's been more than half a century and we are urged not to forget. This day reminds every one of us that nothing good came about from the Holocaust, a true event in history, that condemned and killed six million Jews. ([Auschwitz Liberation Day](#))

March

8 – International Women's Day: This international "Frauenpower" observance has its roots in the US, but it is little known in its birthplace, probably because of its socialist/communist associations. Since 2019, March 8 has been an official bank/legal holiday in the city-state of Berlin. Known as "Frauentag" (Women's Day) there, the date fell on a Sunday in 2020, but Berlin residents could still count on their 10 public holidays. For 2020 only, May 8th was added as a holiday in Berlin, to commemorate the end of World War II and the liberation from National Socialism. March 8, as International Women's Day, has long been an unofficial holiday all across Germany (especially in eastern Germany) when women march to mark the day and celebrate women's contributions to society. ([Holidays and Celebrations Calendar](#))

April

30 – Walpurgis Night: Celebrated with bonfires mainly in Germany, Sweden, Finland, Estonia, and Latvia, Walpurgisnacht gets its name from Saint Walburga (or Walpurga), a woman born in what is now England in 710. Die heilige Walpurga traveled to Germany and became a nun at the convent of Heidenheim in Württemberg. Following her death in 778 or 779, she was made a saint, with May 1 as her saint day. In Germany the Brocken, the highest peak in the Harz Mountains, is considered the focal point of Walpurgisnacht. ([Holidays and Celebrations Calendar](#))

May

1 – May Day (Labor Day): Known in most parts of the world as Labor Day (Tag der Arbeit), this day is also related to the Maypole (der Maibaum) and the welcoming of spring, especially in Austria and Bavaria. May 1 is a legal holiday in Europe and all the German-speaking countries. ([May Day and Maypoles in Germany](#))

8 – Commemoration of the end of World War II (Victory in Europe Day): Annual commemoration of the end of World War II and "liberation from National Socialism" (Nazis) in 1945. Not a legal holiday, but dignitaries, including the German chancellor and the federal president, take part in ceremonies (wreath-laying, speeches, etc.) on May 8. ([Victory in Europe Day](#))

11-15 – The Ice Saints: The dates for the Ice Saints tradition in Germany are determined by the religious calendar and the feast days of the saints. Known as die Eisheiligen in German, the Ice Saints are not a true holiday or even a feast day, but more of a traditional farmer's or gardener's weather and planting guide (Bauernregel). There are also various sayings related to the tradition. The Ice Saints are regional, with some of them ranked differently, or even left out entirely in different countries or regions. The Ice Saints tradition is known and observed in Germany, Austria, Switzerland, northern Italy, Czechia, Slovenia, Poland, and a few other places in Europe. ([The Ice Saints](#))

August

15 – Liechtenstein (National Day): The day begins with an official act of state on the lawn next to Vaduz Castle. Hereditary Prince Alois of Liechtenstein and the President of the Parliament, Albert Frick, give speeches on the occasion of the national holiday. At 2 p.m., celebrations and festivities begin in the Vaduz city center, the fireworks being the national day's highlight. The city center is closed to traffic, allowing numerous booths, street vendors and carousels to set up along the streets. Liechtenstein people and visitors from all over celebrate until late that night. ([Celebrating Liechtenstein's National Day on August 15](#))

September

Oktoberfest: Das Oktoberfest dates from 1810. In 2010 the event celebrated its 200th birthday, but that year marked only the 177th Oktoberfest, what with wars, epidemics, etc. The COVID-19 pandemic forced the cancelation of the event in 2020 and 2021. The original Fest was the celebration of a Bavarian royal wedding. Princess Teresa (Therese) of Bavaria (1792-1854) had married crown prince Ludwig I (later king of Bavaria) on the evening of October 12, 1810. The next day, the city began celebrating the wedding with various activities, including concerts, parties, balls, and even a horse race on the 17th. It all went so well that the Bavarian royal family decided to hold another race a year later, beginning the Oktoberfest tradition. ([Oktoberfest in Munich](#))

13 – Day of the Homeland: Day of the Homeland, celebrated annually in the Federal Republic of Germany, takes place on September 10 this year. Although Day of the Homeland is not an official public holiday in Germany, there are observances held throughout the country. Several activities organized by the government mark the event which respects and honors the German expellees, while celebrating human rights and freedom throughout the country. Paul Wagner, a prominent politician, was responsible for the successful passing of a resolution calling for a Day of the Homeland in the city of Göttingen. ([Day of the Homeland](#))

October

3 – German Unity Day: German Unity Day, on October 3rd, is the German national holiday. Both the observance date and the holiday are recent. The third day of October has only been a national holiday since 1990. ([German Unity Day](#))

26 – National Day: Before 1965, the Austrian national holiday was known as Tag der Fahne (Flag Day, 1955-1964). ([Austrian National Day](#))

31 – Reformation Day: On 31 October 1517, German theologian Martin Luther posted his 95 theses on the Wittenberg Castle Church door. In doing this, he denounced the medieval ways of the church. His actions brought upon an international discourse that paved the way for the Protestant Reformation. Germans celebrate Reformation Day each year, remembering and acknowledging Europe's religious reformation. ([Reformation Day](#))

November

8 – National Day of Mourning: In November on the Sunday two weeks prior to the first Advent Sunday, the day commemorates Nazi victims and the dead in both world wars. ([National Day of Mourning in Germany](#))

9 – Berlin Wall Day: On this day in 1989 the Berlin Wall, built in 1961, finally began to disappear — concrete section by concrete section. ([Fall of the Berlin Wall](#))

9 – Night of Broken Glass: On this night in 1938, the Nazis carried out a vicious pogrom against German Jews and Jewish institutions. ([Kristallnacht Commemoration](#))

11 – Carnival: The carnival season officially begins at 11 minutes past the 11th hour on the 11th day of the 11th month and marks the start of the pre-Lenten (Mardi Gras) season. ([Karneval](#))

Hong Kong

January

1 – New Year's Day: New Year's Day, which is on January 1, marks the start of the year in the Gregorian calendar. It is a government holiday in Hong Kong. ([GovHK](#))

February

17–19 – Lunar New Year: Chinese New Year is one of the most important festivals in Hong Kong and is seen as a time to be with family and turn over a new leaf. Over the years, the city has developed its own set of traditional festivities that take place during the first 15 days of Chinese New Year. ([Celebrating Chinese New Year in Hong Kong from Day 1 to 15](#))

March

23 – Hung Shing Festival: Hung Shing, the fishermen's god and deity protecting boats in the South Sea, is celebrated for one week. Hung Shing (洪聖 hung sing in Cantonese) was the governor of Panyu County during the Tang Dynasty and was a master in astronomy and mathematics. His duty to the people, while living and after passing on from human life, is why he's celebrated today. However, certain neighborhoods (notably, Sai Kung) celebrate the festival on the 13th of the eighth lunar month. Celebrations last for one week. ([The Cultural Guide to Hung Shing Festival](#))

April

5 – Ching Ming Festival (Qingming Festival): The Ching Ming Festival, also known as Qingming (清明节), is a Chinese custom celebrated worldwide by people of many Asian cultures. Sometimes called Tomb Sweeping Day or the Pure Brightness Festival (pure brightness is the English translation of Qingming), it's an annual event to remember and honor ancestors and celebrate the warming weather. ([What is Qingming?](#))

May

1 – Labour Day: In solidarity with most countries and regions in the world, Hong Kong observes Labour Day on May 1 with a public holiday. ([Why May 1 is Labour Day, and How Organised Labour Rose Up, in the West and Imperial China](#))

10 – Tin Hau Festival: The Tin Hau Festival in Hong Kong is one of the most colorful celebrations taking place during the year at Tin Hau temples throughout the territory. Tin Hau is the Goddess of the Sea, given that in the past Hong Kong's livelihood was tied to the ocean, Tin Hau is sort of the "patron saint" of the city. Among the fishing villages, these celebrations bring out a festive mood and are a riot of color and lively remembrance of this most honored deity. ([Tin Hau Festival and Tin Hau Temples](#))

24–28 – Cheung Chau Bun Carnival: One of the city's most spectacular festivals marks the end of spring, when thousands of visitors ferry over to the tiny, serene island for the Cheung Chau Bun Festival. Including the piu sik parade, with children dressed up as deities paraded on stilts, lion dances, Taoist festivals, and the exciting Bun Scrambling Competition, the festivities are on China's national list of Intangible Cultural Heritage. ([Traditional Chinese Festivals to Celebrate in Hong Kong](#))

24 – Birthday of Buddha: One of the most spiritual and unique festivals in Hong Kong is the Birthday of the Buddha (Siddhartha Gautama, the founder of Buddhism, also known as Sakyamuni), which is also called the Buddha Bathing Festival. According to legend, nine dragons sprayed water to bathe the baby Buddha at birth. Thus, on his birthday, devotees gather at Buddhist temples to bathe statues of him, in a ritual that is believed to

aid in the purification of one's soul. Every year, Buddhist temples and organizations in Hong Kong hold a series of ceremonies, including the Buddha Bathing Ceremony held at the Po Lin Monastery on Lantau Island, home of the Big Buddha. Before and after the Birthday of Buddha, celebrants also eat bitter, green cookies, a custom that represents passing through hardship to enjoy better things. ([Celebrating Buddha's Birthday](#))

30 – Birthday of Tam Kung: Tam Kung is revered amongst fishermen and coastal communities, and worshipped uniquely in Hong Kong. Born in Huizhou prefecture in Guangdong province during the Yuan dynasty (1206–1368), Tam Kung was said to have been capable of forecasting the weather and healing the ill when he was a child. He is usually portrayed as an 80-year-old man with the face of a 12-year-old child, as he is believed to have achieved wisdom at a young age and learnt the secret of remaining forever young. ([Traditional Chinese Festivals to Celebrate in Hong Kong](#))

June

19 – Dragon Boat Festival (Tuen Ng Festival): Summer in Hong Kong kicks off with the Dragon Boat Festival. Celebrated all over China, the festival commemorates Qu Yuan, a Chinese national hero who drowned himself in protest against corrupt rulers. The Hong Kong version has the added benefit of being set against the beautiful Victoria Harbour skyline, as colorful dragon boats slice through the harbor in a race between international paddlers. ([Colorful Boat Festival in Hong Kong: Origin, Traditions, and Festivities](#))

July

1 – Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Establishment Day: The holiday is oriented around the transfer of Hong Kong's sovereignty from Great Britain to the People's Republic of China. While some people view Special Administrative Region Establishment Day as a time to recognize Hong Kong's independence, many of Hong Kong's citizens use the holiday as an opportunity to voice their political opinions. Other Hong Kong citizens may celebrate Chinese patriotism or the economic growth of Hong Kong. Special Administrative Region Establishment Day is celebrated on July 1 each year. ([HKSAR Establishment Day](#))

August

27 – Hungry Ghost Festival: According to traditional Chinese belief, the seventh month in the lunar calendar is when restless spirits roam the earth and the living celebrate Yu Lan or the Hungry Ghost Festival. While the festival's origins are not unlike those of Halloween in Europe, it is also intrinsically linked to the Chinese practice of ancestor worship. A celebration of the culture, the Hong Kong Chiu Chow Community's Yu Lan Ghost Festival is on China's national list of Intangible Cultural Heritage. Many people tend roadside fires and burn faux money and other offerings for ghosts and ancestors to use in the afterlife. Food is also left out to sate the appetite of the hungry ghosts. There will also be Chinese opera performances around town, usually held on temporary bamboo stages, to praise the charitable and pious deeds of the deities. The festival lasts for one month, ending September 14. ([Traditional Chinese Festivals to Celebrate in Hong Kong](#))

September

25 – Mid-Autumn Festival (Moon Festival or Mooncake Festival): As the round shape symbolizes unity in Chinese culture, the full moon marks the perfect time for families to get together, which is how Mid-Autumn Festival has been celebrated since the early Tang dynasty (618–907). To many, this is considered to be one of the most important festivals of the year. ([Traditional Chinese Festivals to Celebrate in Hong Kong](#))

October

1 – National Day: Hong Kong has a very long and proud history that goes back 35,000 years. From 1841 to 1997, Hong Kong belonged to the British Empire but an agreement was finally agreed to and signed, and Britain handed Hong Kong back to China. Hong Kong holds flag-raising ceremonies to remember the National Day

significance. Thousands also line the streets for parades in the city and districts with armed forces, school orchestras and bands, and displays. Some areas also see sea parades and aerobatics shows. ([National Day](#))

18 – Chung Yeung Festival (Double Ninth Festival): Chung Yeung Festival is a public holiday celebrated on the ninth day of the ninth month in Hong Kong, mainland China, Taiwan, and Macau steeped in rich tradition that goes back 2,000 years. In Hong Kong specifically, people honor this traditional Chinese festival with a multitude of activities such as hiking up mountains, commemorating passed relatives, and rebalancing yin-yang energy to celebrate its history while reflecting on the origin story of a legendary swordsman behind this festival. ([The Cultural Guide to Chung Yeung Festival: Ascending Heights to Rebalance Yang Energy](#))

Ireland

January

1 – New Year's Day: Ireland is home to some of the most unusual traditions and superstitions in the world, especially when it comes to ringing in the New Year. See more about the country's traditions [here](#).

February

1 – Imbolc Fire Festival: Imbolc is a Wiccan and pagan holiday that is sometimes referred to as Candlemas or Oimelc. The celebration of Imbolc originates from the Celts. Imbolc symbolizes the halfway point between the winter solstice (Yule) and the spring equinox (Ostara). The word "imbolc" means "in the belly of the Mother," because the seeds of spring are beginning to stir in the belly of Mother Earth. The term "oimelc" means ewe's milk. Around this time of year, many herd animals give birth to their first offspring of the year, or are heavily pregnant and are producing milk. This creation of life's milk is a part of the symbolic hope for spring. ([How to Celebrate Imbolc: Traditions, Rituals, and Ideas](#))

May

1 – Beltane (Bealtaine) Fire Festival: The Celtic Festival of Beltane (Beltain, Beltainne, Beltaine, Bealtaine, Beltany) which marks the beginning of summer in the ancient Celtic calendar is a Cross Quarter Day, halfway between the Spring Equinox and the Summer Solstice. While the Beltane Festival is now associated with May 1, the actual astronomical date is a number of days later. The festival was marked with the lighting of bonfires and the movement of animals to summer pastures. In Irish mythology, the beginning of the summer season started with the Fire Festival at Beltane. Great bonfires marked a time of purification and transition, heralding in the season in the hope of a good harvest later in the year, and were accompanied with rituals to protect the people from any harm by otherworldly spirits. ([Beltane – The Fire Festival](#))

1 – Labour Day (May Day): May Day in Ireland is celebrated on the Monday on or nearest to May 1 and is also known as Labour Day. Traditionally in the Celtic religions, May Day is the spring festival and commemorates fertility and the blossoming of flowers and fruit. In the Irish language, this spring festival is known as Lá Bealtaine. May Day, also called Workers' Day or International Workers' Day, commemorates the historic struggles and gains made by workers and the labor movement. ([May Day](#))

June

21 – Litha (Summer Solstice): Alban Heruin in Druid means 'Light of the Shore' and takes place on midsummer's eve and celebrates the light of the sun which gives life. This is the longest day of the year. Litha is a pagan holiday, one of eight Wiccan sabbats held during the year. The traditions of the summer solstice appear to be borrowed from many cultures across the Celtic world and most ancient cultures celebrated the summer solstice in some way. The Irish Celts dedicated this day to their Celtic goddess Etain. ([Ancient Celtic Holidays to Celebrate in Ireland](#))

August

1 – Lughnasadh (Lammas) Fire Festival: Lammas, also known as Lughnasadh, or Lughnassadh, is a pagan holiday and one of the eight Wiccan sabbats during the year. Each sabbat marks a seasonal turning point. The sabbat occurs on August 1, which is about halfway between the summer solstice (Litha) and the fall equinox (Mabon). This holiday celebrates the grain harvest. Grain is a very important crop for most civilizations. If the grain was left in the fields for too long, or if the bread made from the grain was not baked in time, families might starve. ([The Origins and Practices of Lammas/Lughnasadh](#))

September

22 – Autumn Equinox: Mabon or Alban Elved (Light of the Water) celebrates the day and night before the darkness overtakes the light in other words winter is coming. It is also the last harvest before winter sets in, where pagans celebrate and thank Earth in her role as Mother and Giver for the good harvest. Alban Elved is the Druidic name for the Autumn Equinox, where the night and day are equal and it is a rare magical day due to that balance of light and dark. Mabon is one of the eight Wiccan sabbats celebrated during the year. In mythology, Mabon is the time when the God of Light was defeated by the God of Darkness, resulting in longer nights. In Celtic folklore, Mabon is the son of Modron, the Great Goddess of the Earth, who was kidnapped for three days after his birth making the light go into hiding. ([Ancient Celtic Holidays to Celebrate in Ireland](#))

October

31 – Samhain Fire Festival: In Celtic Ireland about 2,000 years ago, Samhain was the division of the year between the lighter half (summer) and the darker half (winter). At Samhain the division between this world and the otherworld was at its thinnest, allowing spirits to pass through. The family's ancestors were honored and invited home whilst harmful spirits were warded off. People wore costumes and masks to disguise themselves as harmful spirits and thus avoid harm. Bonfires and food played a large part in the festivities. The bones of slaughtered livestock were cast into a communal fire, household fires were extinguished and started again from the bonfire. Food was prepared for the living and the dead, and food for the ancestors who were in no position to eat it was ritually shared with the less well off. ([Samhain – The Celtic Roots of Halloween](#))

Japan

January

1-2 – New Year's Day (Shōgatsu) and Day off for New Year's Day: New Year is the most important [holiday](#) in Japan. Most businesses shut down from January 1 to January 3, and families typically gather to spend the days together. Years are traditionally viewed as completely separate, with each new year providing a fresh start. Consequently, all duties are supposed to be completed by the end of the year, while [bonenkai parties](#) ("year forgetting parties") are held with the purpose of leaving the old year's worries and troubles behind. ([Japanese New Year](#))

12 – Coming of Age Day (Seijin no Hi): The holiday celebrates individuals who have officially reached adulthood at 20-years-old. (Recent changes to the law lowered the legal adulthood age to 18 in April 2022.) This ceremony serves as a rite of passage into adulthood and is generally held in the morning at local city offices all throughout Japan. Government officials give speeches, and small gifts are often presented to the newly recognized adults. ([Japan's Coming of Age Day](#))

February

3 – Setsubun: Setsubun is a traditional Japanese holiday that takes place on the last day of winter and the day before the beginning of spring. It is characterized by mamemaki (throwing roasted soybeans) to drive away evil spirits. ([Setsubun](#))

11 – National Foundation Day: A national holiday that is meant for the Japanese people to remember their nation's founding and promote national pride. It is believed that on this day in 660 BC the first Emperor of Japan, Jimmu, was crowned thus being the beginning of Japan. ([National Foundation Day – The Japan-America Society of Washington](#))

23 – Emperor's Birthday: The Emperor's Birthday is determined by the birthday of the reigning Emperor of Japan. The birthday of the present emperor, Naruhito, falls on February 23, and the holiday has been observed since 2019 when Emperor Naruhito acceded to the throne. ([GaijinPot Study](#))

April

29 – Shōwa Day (Shōwa no hi): This day marks the start of Golden Week, a series of national holidays in Japan. The intention of Showa Day is for citizens of Japan to think about the events of the Showa era (1926-1989), which was governed by the late emperor, Hirohito. ([Showa Day \(昭和の日\): Remembering History, and Why It's Important](#))

May

3 – Constitution Memorial Day (Kenpō Kinenbi): Part of Japan's much-anticipated Golden Week, this day is an annual holiday held on May 3, which commemorates the declaration of Japan's post-war constitution. It is the second public holiday of Golden Week. These holidays together serve as active reminders of Japan's history, not only for the hardship endured through Imperial Japan, but also for their remarkable progression to a democratic nation. ([Constitution Memorial Day \(憲法記念日\): A Day Dedicated to Peace](#))

4 – Greenery Day (Midori no Hi): Meant to celebrate all things gloriously green, this Japanese national holiday is dedicated to the joys of nature. ([Greenery Day \(みどりの日\): It's Green Holiday to Celebrate Nature](#))

5 – Children's Day (Kodomo no Hi): Children's Day (Kodomo no Hi) is a national holiday in Japan celebrated annually on May 5th to honor children's personalities, happiness, and healthy growth. ([Kodomo no Hi](#))

July

20 – Marine Day/Sea Day (Umi no Hi): A public holiday in Japan dedicated to showing appreciation and giving thanks to the ocean and its blessings. ([Marine Day \(海の日\): How and Why Japan Pay Homage to the Oceans](#))

August

11 – Mountain Day: This holiday is meant to be a reminder about the importance of mountains as natural sanctuaries of peace. Mountain Day encourages everyone, especially those who are boxed into the flatlands of dense, urban centers, to use the day exploring nature and taking in wondrous views while breathing deeply of fresh, mountain air. ([Mountain Day](#))

September

21 – Respect for the Aged Day: Annual Japanese festival celebrated on the third Monday of September of each year. It is a national holiday in Japan which people celebrate by spending time with their elderly relatives and friends. ([Respect For The Aged Day - National Today](#))

October

12 – Sports Day: This holiday encourages Japanese residents to stay active and healthy (mind and body) via various sports activities. Once known as Health-Sports Day, this national holiday is celebrated by schools and businesses via an annual field day. ([What is Sports Day in Japan? | Bokksu](#))

November

3 – Culture Day (Bunka no Hi): This national event is celebrated to pay respects to the traditional Japanese culture and to promote the notion of peace and freedom that is declared in the constitution of Japan. ([Japanese Culture Day - National Today](#))

23 – Labour Thanksgiving Day (Kinro Kansha no Hi): Japanese Thanksgiving always falls on November 23 or, if this is a Sunday, the following Monday. It is a public national holiday that honors the hard work of laborers. ([Thanksgiving in Japan: Labour Thanksgiving Day | JRailPass](#))

Luxembourg

January

1 – New Year's Day: In Luxembourg, New Year's Eve is celebrated on the night of December 31 to January 1, which is considered a public holiday and an official day off. Traditionally, it is celebrated in the family circle with a festive dinner. However, many people go out on the streets of the city and visit local restaurants and cafes. There are no special national traditions related to the celebration of the New Year in the Grand Duchy. ([Luxembourg National Holidays: Bank Holidays and Traditions](#))

February

2 – Candles Day: The tradition of celebrating Liichtmëssdag in Luxembourg goes back to the saint Blaise of Sebaste. Although the holiday is not officially celebrated, it is beloved by the children of the Grand Duchy. Every year on February 2, they walk from door to door in the early evening with burning candles or lanterns (called Lichteengelchen), sing a traditional song (Le'wer Hergottsbliessen) and ask for a reward. Every child who knocks on the door receives a small gift — candy, lollipops, or even a bit of change. The tradition is similar to "trick-or-treating" on Halloween. Another important part of the celebration is the preparation of pancakes. ([Luxembourg National Holidays: Bank Holidays and Traditions](#))

2 – Fuesend: Luxembourgers celebrate carnival during the whole period between Candlemas (February 2) and Ash Wednesday in March. Masked balls, processions and cavalcades take place throughout the country. At the end of the carnival, the Stréimännchen, literally 'straw man,' is burned. The Fuesonndeg and the Fuesméindeg are the most festive days. ([Traditional Luxembourg Customs and Festivals](#))

15 – Carnival in Luxembourg: One of the significant events of the Grand Duchy, which precedes Lent. The tradition of having a carnival is very old; it is a time to get nourished and full before a time of restrictions. A lot of activities, games and contests with prizes are offered for children during the carnival. The costumes are mostly handmade by the residents. There are special carnival treats — doughnuts Nonnefäscht and Verwurrelt. It lasts for one week and ends on February 19. ([Luxembourg National Holidays: Bank Holidays and Traditions](#))

22 – Buergbrennen (Bonfire Day): This fête is celebrated on the first Sunday after Carnival. Huge bonfires are lit all over the country to bid farewell to winter. A huge cross made of wood is burned in the fire as a symbol of the banishment of winter. Every village has its own Buergbrennen, and locals gather to watch the bonfires. ([Luxembourg National Holidays: Bank Holidays and Traditions](#))

March

15 – Bretzelsonndeg (Pretzel Day): Bretzel Day is celebrated around the middle of Lent, which is not a religious time of restriction in Luxembourg. Traditionally, on this day a man offers his beloved a pretzel. If the feeling is mutual, he gets an egg from her for Easter; if not, he gets an empty basket. ([Luxembourg National Holidays: Bank Holidays and Traditions](#))

May

1 – Labor Day: The first day of May is a Luxembourg national day. There are usually some local demonstrations in the main streets and squares involving representatives of various political parties or trade unions. ([Luxembourg National Holidays: Bank Holidays and Traditions](#))

1 – Meekranz: Every May 1, wreaths of foliage are hung in the villages on the facade of a house symbolizing a meeting place. In the past, this pagan tradition was intended to ward off evil spirits. Today, this custom inaugurates the beautiful season. Meekranz, a flavored wine, is traditionally consumed. ([Traditional Luxembourg Customs and Festivals](#))

9 – Europe Day: Europe Day was first celebrated in Luxembourg on May 9, 2019. Now it is an official public holiday and a bank day. Robert Schuman, a Luxembourg citizen and French politician, proposed the creation of the European Coal and Steel Community on May 9, 1950, which was important for the further economic integration in Western Europe and the appearance of the EU. In the past year for Europe Day, the Luxembourg City Tourist Office has prepared two thematic tours: the "Schuman" route and Luxembourg, capitale européenne: un engagement continu. The first focuses on the role of Robert Schuman, while the second is dedicated to the role of Luxembourg as one of the three official sites of the EU. Since this national day is relatively new in Luxembourg, it is still too early to talk about any developed traditions. ([Luxembourg National Holidays: Bank Holidays and Traditions](#))

30 – Whit Tuesday: Whit Tuesday carries a tradition that has been around since medieval times. Anyone living around the eastern Luxembourg town of Echternach will enjoy a traditional dancing procession held on Whit Tuesday. Groups of dancers and musicians gather together and move through the streets while playing traditional songs as they dance to the basilica. ([Traditional and Popular Festivals in Luxembourg](#))

June

23 – National Day of Luxembourg: One of the most important Luxembourg national holidays. This day marks the birthday of the Grand Duke, although no Duke was born on June 23. Luxembourg National Day is designed to bring people together to celebrate independence and honor Luxembourg's cultural heritage. Traditionally, the holiday begins with a military parade in the morning, followed by a service in a cathedral. In the evening there are fireworks all around the country, with concerts and other cultural events. ([Luxembourg National Holidays: Bank Holidays and Traditions](#))

July

Festival de Wiltz: The month of July hosts Festival de Wiltz, an open-air music and performing arts event with live concerts and theatre nightly amongst a backdrop of the Wiltz castle. Thousands of spectators come to enjoy the classical themes on summer nights. ([Festival de Wiltz](#))

August

15 – Léiffrawëschdag (Harvest Festival): Greiveldange celebrates the harvest with the opportunity to present and taste local products. ([Léiffrawëschdag](#))

21–Sept 9 – Schueberfouer: The largest annual fair in Luxembourg. It opens in the middle of August and lasts until mid-September. It is not really a holiday, but many locals perceive Schueberfouer as such. In 2026, the planned dates for the fair are August 21 to September 9. ([Luxembourg National Holidays: Bank Holidays and Traditions](#))

September

12–14 – Grape Festival: The most famous Drauwen- a Wäifest (Grape and Wine Festival) takes place every September and attracts thousands of people to one of the cities of the Moselle region. Traditionally, the queen of grapes is chosen. The coronation of the wine queen, the music parade and the concerts take place in Grevenmacher for three days. ([Luxembourg National Holidays: Bank Holidays and Traditions](#))

Netherlands

January

1 – New Year's Day (Nieuwjaarsdag): New Year's Day marks the start of the year in the Gregorian calendar. New Year's Day is a public holiday in the Netherlands. For more information on how it is celebrated in Netherlands, go [here](#).

April

27 – King's Day (Koningsdag): On King's Day, Dutch people celebrate the birthday of King Willem-Alexander with parties and street markets. If April 27 falls on a Sunday, King's Day is celebrated one day earlier. The King and other members of the royal family join members of the public for the celebrations in a different municipality each year. ([Public Holidays in the Netherlands](#))

May

4 – National Remembrance Day: National Remembrance Day is commemorated every May 4 in the Netherlands. Every year since 1945, the Dutch have observed this day. At 8 p.m., citizens hold a two-minute vigil — a moment of silence — to commemorate civilians and soldiers who have died within the Kingdom of the Netherlands and worldwide since the advent of World War II. Before the moment of silence, a commemorative service is held in Amsterdam, at the National Monument built to honor the fallen. People deliver speeches and a wreath-laying ceremony takes place. ([National Remembrance Day in Netherlands - National Today](#))

5 – Liberation Day (Bevrijdingsdag): Liberation Day marks the celebration of freedom and the end of the Second World War for the Netherlands. There are various festivals and celebrations on Liberation Day each year, but it is an official day off only once every five years. ([Public Holidays in the Netherlands](#))

July

1 – Ketikoti: Ketikoti is a celebratory festival commemorating the emancipation of slaves on July 1 of every year in the Netherlands. Ketikoti, translated to 'Broken Chains,' was marked as the day when slavery was abolished in the country back in 1863. ([Ketikoti - National Today](#))

December

5 – Sinterklaas: This day is not a public holiday but is widely celebrated. The day commemorates the life of St. Nicholas, patron saint of children. In some places, St. Nicholas makes a public appearance with his helper, Zwarte Piet. Children are visited in schools, hospitals, and shopping centers. Many shops are filled with *Sinterklaas* trinkets, gifts, and toys. Special songs are sung to honor St. Nicholas. In the traditional celebration, Zwarte Piet ("Black Pete") is St. Nicholas' helper and is dressed in Moorish attire and black face paint. ([St Nicholas' Day in the Netherlands](#))

Please note [debate over the imagery of Black Pete](#) remains one of the main issues for people of color in the Netherlands. During Sinterklaas parades and celebrations, many people dress up as "Black Petes" by wearing blackface with red lips and curly wigs. In addition, the racially charged Black Pete imagery is displayed in different ways such as in stories and for decorations. While many people in the Netherlands insist the Black paint on Black Pete is chimney soot and has no relation to race, protests to remove the imagery from Christmas celebrations have steadily increased in recent years.

New Zealand

January

1–3 – New Year's Day, Day After New Year's Day, and Day off for New Year's Day: All these days are public holidays in New Zealand. New Year's Day, which is on January 1, marks the start of the year in the Gregorian calendar. New Year's Day is a public holiday in New Zealand. For more information on how it is celebrated in New Zealand, go [here](#).

February

6 – Waitangi Day: Every year on February 6, New Zealand marks the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi in 1840. In that year, representatives of the British Crown and over 500 Māori chiefs signed what is often considered to be New Zealand's founding document. The day was first officially commemorated in 1934, and it has been a public holiday since 1974. For Māori, it is the occasion for reflecting on the Treaty. ([Waitangi Day | NZHistory](#))

April

25 – ANZAC Day: This day commemorates New Zealanders killed in war and honors returned and serving servicemen and women. In 2026, the date will be observed April 27. ([Anzac Day | NZHistory](#))

June

1 – King's Birthday: New Zealand celebrates the official birthday of King Charles III. The holiday falls on the first Monday in June. On King's Birthday, New Zealand celebrates the official birthday of Charles III of the United Kingdom, although his actual birthday is in November. New Zealand is a constitutional monarchy with the King or Queen of the UK acting as the head of state. ([Public Holidays and Anniversary Dates - NZ Government](#))

July

10 – Matariki: The rise of Matariki (a star cluster) in the winter skies above Aotearoa is an important time in the Māori calendar, as it signifies the start of the Māori new year. Historically, new year celebrations provided the opportunity for whānau to come together to acknowledge the year gone by, prepare and plan for the year ahead; and to celebrate with kai, kōrero, ceremony and entertainment. ([Matariki Festival: About Matariki](#))

October

26 – Labour Day: Labour Day commemorates the struggle for an eight-hour working day. New Zealand workers were among the first in the world to claim this right when, in 1840, the carpenter Samuel Parnell won an eight-hour day in Wellington. ([Labour Day - Labour Day | NZHistory](#))

Singapore

January

1 – New Year's Day: New Year celebrations in Singapore include endless activities filling the city's bustling streets and fireworks illuminating the skyline. See more about local traditions [here](#).

February

17 – Lunar New Year: This is the biggest and most significant event of the Chinese community, and it is observed by Singaporeans from all walks of life. The festival traditionally begins on the first day of the first month in the Chinese calendar and ends on the 15th day. In 2004 the government introduced a supervised firecracker display. See more traditions for this holiday in Singapore [here](#).

March

20 – Hari Raya Puasa (Eid al Fitr): Commonly known as Eid Ul Fitr globally, Hari Raya Puasa is a major festival for the Malay community in Singapore and usually falls in the month of September or October. Hari Raya Puasa marks the end of Ramadan, the Islamic holy month of fasting. Geylang Serai, the cultural heart of the Malay/Muslim community is well lit and decorated, and a festive mood prevails. Cultural performances such as traditional Malay song and dance also form part of the celebrations. Families celebrate by wearing their finest clothes, attending early morning prayer meetings at local mosques, visiting family and friends and partaking in a thanksgiving feast. ([Public Holidays - Singapore Ministry of Manpower](#))

May

1 – Labour Day: In Singapore, May Day (or Labour Day) is celebrated on May 1 each year as a mark of solidarity amongst workers. The celebration of May Day as a public holiday began in 1960 after the People's Action Party came into power. Before then, only workers defined as such under the Labour Ordinance 1955 and those defined as industrial clerks under the Clerks Employment Ordinance 1957 were given paid holidays. May Day is a day of special significance for organized workers, as it serves to remind others what their collective strength has achieved for workers. By making it a public holiday, the Government of Singapore intended it to be a day set aside in honor of workers and their contributions to the country. ([Labour Day](#))

27 – Hari Raya Haji: Hari Raya Haji is a holiday celebrated by Muslims to mark the completion of the Hajj pilgrimage. This pilgrimage is an annual one that takes place in Mecca, Saudi Arabia. It is considered the fifth pillar of Islam that every physically and financially capable Muslim is expected to complete at least once in their life. Also known as Eid al-Adha, which means 'the festival of sacrifice,' it is one of the two largest and main holidays in Islam. ([Public Holidays - Singapore Ministry of Manpower](#))

31 – Vesak Day: Vesak Day, the full moon day of the fourth lunar month, is the most important annual event for the Buddhist community in Singapore. Vesak Day usually falls in the month of May and commemorates the birth, enlightenment and final nirvana of the Buddha. Buddhist temples are colorfully decorated with Buddhist flags and lights and shrines are adorned with flowers, fruits and other offerings. Vesak Day celebrations are closed hall events open to members of the public. Some of the highlights include: vegetarian food fair, public talks, hymn singing etc. Acts of generosity known as dana are observed by Buddhist organizations and temples. ([Public Holidays - Singapore Ministry of Manpower](#))

June

3 – Dragon Boat Festival: A traditional Chinese holiday with apocryphal origins dating back to China’s Warring States era. Dragon boat races and dumplings—two of the most distinctive elements of the festival—have their roots in a story of patriotism and politics. ([Dragon Boat Festival](#))

August

9 – National Day: Singapore’s National Day falls on August 9 and the National Day Parade (NDP) is a commemoration of Singapore’s Independence. One of Singapore’s much anticipated annual events, the NDP is witnessed by close to 25,000 spectators every year. Held at the Marina Bay, the celebrations include pre-parade light-hearted filler events, followed by the actual parade and ceremonies including the popular Presidential Gun Salute, and culminates into a Grand Finale which is a 45-minute show segment, followed by an impressive fireworks display. In 2026, National Day in Singapore will be observed on August 10. ([Your Guide to Singapore’s Public Holidays & Festivals](#))

November

8 – Diwali (Deepavali): Deepavali, or the Festival of Lights, is the most important festival in the Hindu calendar and the most significant festival for the Indian community in Singapore. Deepavali usually falls in the month of October or November and celebrations begin weeks ahead in the Indian ethnic quarter of Little India. Signifying the triumph of good over evil or light over darkness, the streets of Little India sport colorful lights and traditional overarching decorations. Roadside stalls sell terracotta lamps, flowers and other traditional decorative items. Sweetmeat shops offer a wide array of mouth-watering traditional Indian sweets and savories. Families celebrate by partaking in reunion feasts, visiting the homes of family and friends, exchanging sweets, lighting oil lamps at home and visiting the temple. ([Your Guide to Singapore’s Public Holidays & Festivals](#))

Switzerland

January

1 – New Year's Day: New Year's holiday in Switzerland has a long tradition that varies from region to region. Read more about local traditions [here](#).

February

22–25 – Basel Carnival: The "Fasnacht" is recognized as the largest festival in Switzerland, with some 15,000 to 20,000 masked participants taking part. Owing to its uniqueness and quality, it has even been added to the UNESCO intangible cultural heritage list. ([Fasnacht in Basel](#))

March

1 – Republic Day: Republic Day in Neuchâtel is celebrated on March 1 to commemorate the 1848 revolution, which resulted in the canton becoming a republic. ([Republic Day in Neuchâtel](#))

April

2 – Battle of Näfels: The Battle of Näfels Day (Näfelser Fahrt — 'Näfels Ride') is celebrated as a public holiday in the Swiss canton of Glarus on the first Thursday of April. The Battle of Näfels was one of the key battles of the conflict between the Old Swiss Confederacy and the Archduchy of Austria. It was a decisive Swiss victory over two Austrian armies, despite being severely outnumbered. ([Battle of Näfels Day in Glarus](#))

19 – Sechseläuten: This Zurich spring custom got its unusual name from the medieval custom of ringing a bell of the Grossmünster every evening at six o'clock to proclaim the end of the working day during the summer semester. Since it marked the beginning of springtime, the first ringing of the bell provided a good opportunity for a celebration. In the 19th century, a new main protagonist was added to the celebration: The Böögg, a snowman-like figure filled with firecrackers meant to represent winter, is now burned to forecast the weather for the coming summer. ([Sechseläuten in Zurich](#))

May

1 – Labour Day: Labour Day is a national holiday in 10 cantons in Switzerland. The event is designed to celebrate the achievements of workers and to protest social issues through marches, speeches and social action. ([A Brief Introduction to Labour Day in Switzerland](#))

June

23 – Jura Independence Day: Jura Independence Day is a holiday that's observed in the Republic and Canton of Jura each year. Also known as Fête d'Indépendance in French, this day is a regional public holiday that celebrates Jura becoming a Swiss canton on June 23, 1979. ([Jura Independence Day](#))

August

1 – National Day: The Swiss National Day is celebrated every year on the first of August to commemorate the summer of 1291, when the three cantons of Uri, Schwyz and Unterwalden concluded a historic alliance that is considered the foundation of the Swiss Confederation. Buildings are decorated with national flags, bakers produce special bread rolls and children carrying lighted paper lanterns roam the streets at night. The highlights of the festivities are the fireworks organized by the municipalities, as well as the numerous hilltop bonfires. A special kind of celebration takes place at the Rhine Falls near Schaffhausen. Beginning one day earlier, the largest

waterfalls in Europe are illuminated on July 31st with a spectacular light show and a magnificent firework display. ([Top Traditional Events](#))

1 – Swiss National Day: On August 1, Switzerland commemorates the signing of the Letter of Confederation of 1291, in which the localities of Uri, Schwyz and Unterwalden pledged to help each other if attacked. Legend has it that the representatives of the three founding localities – "the three Confederates" – swore their oath on the Rütli meadow, which overlooks Lake Lucerne. They vowed to free their country from the Habsburgs. The official celebration of the Confederation takes place on August 1 on this mythical meadow, with an address by the President of the Swiss Confederation to the entire nation. In a 1993 referendum, Swiss National Day was declared a public holiday throughout Switzerland. ([National holiday and national anthem](#))

September

Alpine Descent of Cattle (Alpabzug, Désalpe, and S-chargiada): An important traditional festival celebrated in Swiss villages and towns from mid-August to mid-September. About 400,000 cows head to pastures high up in the Alps every summer. Their return is celebrated with festivities and vivid parades of cows and sheep, which are artfully decorated with twigs and flowers. In some villages, cows are decorated with beautiful flower crowns. Cows that give the most milk or those that lead the herds are usually selected to wear "tschäppl" from dahlias, sunflowers, and chrysanthemums. In addition to parades, celebrations feature vendors, music, and delicious foods. ([Cattle Drive and Alpine Descent](#))

October

Chestnut Festival: Once considered the food of the poor, chestnuts are making a grand return to kitchens of the Ticino region. Today, the locals are proud of their culinary heritage and chestnuts are served throughout the canton, whether traditionally roasted, in the form of chestnut gnocchi or even as marrons glacés. To honor this regional treasure, a chestnut festival is organized every October in the picturesque town of Ascona. Accompanied by musical entertainment, visitors are invited to taste over 2000 kg of these fire-roasted fruits and various other chestnut-based delicacies. ([Chestnut Festival](#))

November

1 – All Saints Day: All Saints' Day (*Allerheiligen*) is a public holiday in 15 largely Catholic Swiss cantons, including Ticino, Valais, and Luzern, with shops and schools closed. It is a solemn day for honoring saints and remembering the deceased, often featuring candle-lighting in cemeteries. ([All Saint's Day in Switzerland](#))

23 – Zibelemärit: Every year on the fourth Monday in November, the beloved *Zibelemärit*, or Onion Market, returns to the Swiss capital. As the upper part of Bern's old town is transformed into a giant marketplace, the air in its lanes fills with the sweet scent of onion tarts and Glühwein. Throughout the day, thousands of visitors enjoy the tasty specialties and the artistically woven onion braids, which are sold by hundreds of regional farmers, along with other winter vegetables, drupes and nuts. ([Zibelemärit in Bern, Bern Region](#))

December

Fête de l'Escalade: The Escalade is a Genevan festival celebrated every year in December to commemorate Geneva's victory against the Duke of Savoy's troops in 1602. The battle was severe, but the people of Geneva valiantly defended their town. As part of the festival, a parade of some 800 people in traditional costumes roam around Geneva's Old Town on foot or horseback. ([Escalade in Geneva](#))

January

1 – New Year's Day: New Year's Day, which is on January 1, marks the start of the year in the Gregorian calendar. New Year's Day is a public holiday in the UAE. For more information on how it is celebrated in the UAE, go [here](#).

16 – The Prophet's Ascension (Lailat al Miraj): A Muslim holiday in the UAE that commemorates the prophet Muhammad's nighttime journey from Mecca to the "Farthest Mosque" in Jerusalem, where he ascended to heaven, was purified, and given the instruction for Muslims to pray five times daily. Note that in the Muslim calendar, a holiday begins on the sunset of the previous day, so observing Muslims will celebrate Lailat al Miraj starting at sundown on January 15. ([Lailat Al Miraj in the United Arab Emirates](#))

February

17 – Start of Ramadan: The Islamic holiday is a public holiday in the UAE marked by fasting, praise, prayer, and devotion to Islam. ([Ramadan | The Official Portal of the UAE Government](#))

March

20 – Eid al-Fitr Holiday: The first day of the Islamic month of Shawwal, marking the end of Ramadan. Many Muslims attend communal prayers, listen to a khutbah (sermon), and give Zakat al-Fitr (charity in the form of food) during Eid al-Fitr. This public holiday lasts for three days in the UAE, from March 19 to March 22. ([UAE Announces Eid al Fitr Holiday](#))

May

25 – Start of Hajj season: The Hajj is an annual Islamic pilgrimage to Mecca, Saudi Arabia, and is one of the five pillars of Islam. It is a mandatory religious duty for adult Muslims who are physically and financially capable of undertaking the journey. The Hajj season in the UAE takes place during the Islamic month of Dhu al-Hijjah, the twelfth and last month of the Islamic lunar calendar. The dates change every year due to the lunar calendar being approximately 11 days shorter than the Gregorian calendar. As a result, the Hajj season shifts each year, moving backward through the Gregorian calendar. ([Hajj season begins in United Arab Emirates](#).)

26 – Arafat (Hajj) Day: The second day of pilgrimage within the Islamic faith ([The Meaning of Arafat and Eid Al-Adha in Islam](#))

27–29 – Eid al-Adha (Feast of Sacrifice): An Islamic festival to commemorate the willingness of Ibrahim (also known as Abraham) to follow Allah's (God's) command to sacrifice his son, Ishmael. ([The Meaning of Arafat and Eid Al-Adha in Islam](#))

July

17 – Al-Hijra (Islamic New Year): The day that marks the beginning of the new Islamic calendar year and is an official public holiday in the UAE. ([Islamic New Year in the United Arab Emirates](#))

August

25 – Mouloud: Mouloud, or Mawlid, is a day meant to celebrate the Prophet Mohammed's birthday. Sunni Muslims observe the Prophet Mohammed's (also known as Muhammad) birthday on the 12th day of the Islamic month of Rabi' al-awwal, while Shi'a Muslims mark it on the 17th of this month. There are mixed beliefs on how

one observes Muhammed's birthday. Some people see the Prophet's birthday as an event worthy of praise. Others view the celebration of birthdays as contradictory to Islamic law. ([Mouloud in United Arab Emirates](#))

November

30 – Commemoration Day: The UAE celebrates Commemoration Day (previously known as Martyr's Day) to honor the sacrifices and patriotism of the Emirati martyrs who gave their lives to military, civil, and humanitarian work ([Why Do We Celebrate Commemoration Day in the UAE?](#))

December

2 – National Day and National Day Holiday: National Day in the UAE marks the anniversary of the unification of all seven emirates into one nation. ([United Arab Emirates National Day - National Today](#))

United Kingdom

January

1 – New Year's Day: The New Year is celebrated on January 1. Many people have a party and spend time with family and friends. The celebrations start on New Year's Eve (December the 31st). See more local traditions [here](#).

27 – Holocaust Memorial Day: A time to remember the millions of people who died during the Holocaust under Nazi Persecution and in the genocides that followed in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia, and Darfur. ([NHS National Campaign Calendar](#))

February

LGBTQ+ History Month: LGBTQ+ History Month is celebrated every February across the UK, and was founded in 2004 by Schools OUT co-chairs, Paul Patrick & Professor Emeritus Sue Sanders. It was first celebrated in February 2005. ([LGBT+ History Month](#))

6 – Race Equality Week: An annual UK-wide movement uniting thousands of organizations and individuals to address the barriers to race equality in the workplace. ([Race Equality Week](#))

March

Women's History Month: Women's History Month happens in March every year. It began as a national celebration in 1981 that was held in one week. It has since grown to a full-month commemoration from 1987 onwards. ([Celebrate Women's History Month](#))

8 – International Women's Day: A day to celebrate women's achievement, raise awareness against bias and take action for equality. ([International Women's Day](#))

16 – 20 – Neurodiversity Celebration Week: Neurodiversity Celebration Week is a worldwide initiative that challenges stereotypes and misconceptions about neurological differences. ([Neurodiversity Week](#))

16 – 22 – Sign Language Week: Celebrated each year to coincide with the anniversary of the recognition of British Sign Language (BSL) by the UK Government in 2003. Sign Language Week is an initiative of the British Deaf Association (BDA). ([Sign Language Week](#))

April

Stress Awareness Month: Stress Awareness Month has been held every April since 1992 to increase public awareness about both the causes of and cures for the modern stress epidemic. ([Stress.org](#))

2 – World Autism Awareness Day: Highlights the need to help improve the quality of life of those with autism, so they can lead full and meaningful lives as an integral part of society. ([Autism Day](#))

May

4 – Early May Bank Holiday: The early May bank holiday provides a long weekend to celebrate the start of spring, often featuring traditions such as Maypole dancing, Morris dancing, and community festivals. The holiday is held on the first Monday in May. ([UK Bank Holidays](#))

4–10 – Deaf Awareness Week: A week to celebrate deafness and promote inclusion. ([British Deaf Association](#))

11–17 – Mental Health Awareness Week: Mental Health Awareness Week is an annual event where there is an opportunity for the whole of the UK to focus on achieving good mental health. ([Mental Health Awareness Week](#))

17 – International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia, and Biphobia: Aims to coordinate international events that raise awareness of LGBTQ+ rights violations and stimulate interest in LGBTQ+ rights work worldwide. ([International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia, and Biphobia](#))

21 – UN Cultural Diversity Day: Highlighting not only the richness of the world's cultures, but also the essential role of intercultural dialogue for achieving peace and sustainable development. ([Cultural Diversity Day](#))

25 – Spring Bank Holiday: The spring bank holiday is observed across the United Kingdom, as well as in Crown Dependencies such as Jersey, Guernsey, and the Isle of Man. It is often referred to as the late May bank holiday, taking place on the last Monday of the month. ([UK Bank Holidays](#))

July

South Asian Heritage Month: The month, running from July 18 to August 17, celebrates the heritage and history of South Asian countries such as India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan and Maldives. ([South Asian Heritage Month](#))

August

31 – Summer Bank Holiday: The summer bank holiday is celebrated in England, Wales, and Northern Ireland on Monday, August 31. In Scotland, the holiday is on Monday, August 3. This public holiday marks the final break of the summer season, often celebrated with festivals, trips, and outdoor activities. ([UK Bank Holidays](#))

September

East and South Asian Heritage Month: September marks this heritage month, created by Besa.n (Britain's East and South East Asian Network), a volunteer-led group that aims to fuel positive representation for ESEA people, with the goal of getting it recognized by the Department of Digital, Culture, Media and Sport. ([What Does it Mean to Celebrate the UK's First-Ever ESEA Heritage Month?](#))

11–20 – Heritage Open Days: Established in 1994, Heritage Open Days is England's contribution to the European Heritage Days and has since grown into the country's largest community heritage festival. ([Heritage Open Days](#))

14–20 – National Inclusion Week: National Inclusion Week (NIW) is a week dedicated to celebrating inclusion and taking action to create inclusive workplaces. ([National Inclusion Week](#))

18 – International Equal Pay Day: A day to raise awareness about equal pay. This recognition is an intentional focus on the disparities in pay between women and men for work of equal value, where the work requires equal or more skill, effort, responsibility and working conditions. The goal is to end pay gap discrimination. ([Equal Pay International Coalition](#))

October

Black History Month: An annual observance that began as a way of remembering important people and events in the history of the African diaspora. ([International Black History Month in the UK](#))

5–9 – National Work Life Week: An annual campaign to get both employers and employees talking about wellbeing at work and work-life balance. ([National Work Life Week](#))

November

5 – Guy Fawkes Day (Bonfire Night): Guy Fawkes Day, also called Bonfire Night, is an observance commemorating the failure of the Gunpowder Plot of 1605. ([Guy Fawkes Day](#))

8 – Remembrance Sunday: Remembrance Sunday is a national opportunity to remember the service and sacrifice of all those that have defended our freedoms and protected our way of life. ([Remembrance Sunday](#))

11 – Remembrance Day: Remembrance Day is a memorial day observed to honor armed forces members who have died in the line of duty. ([Royal British Legion](#))

December

3 – International Day of Persons with Disabilities: Promotes an understanding of disability issues and mobilizes support for the dignity, rights and wellbeing of persons with disabilities. ([Day of Persons with Disabilities](#))

10 – Human Rights Day: On Human Rights Day, observed every year on December 10, the UK acknowledges the importance of human rights. ([Human Rights Day](#))

Religious Observances Celebrated in Each Country

February

18 – The Prophet’s Ascension (Lailat al Miraj): A Muslim holiday that commemorates the prophet Muhammad’s nighttime journey from Mecca to the “Farthest Mosque” in Jerusalem, where he ascended to heaven, was purified, and given the instruction for Muslims to pray five times daily. Note that in the Muslim calendar, a holiday begins on the sunset of the previous day, so observing Muslims will celebrate Lailat al Miraj starting at sundown on February 17. ([Al-Isra' wal-Mi'raj: The Story of the Ascension to the Skies](#))

This is a public holiday in the UAE.

March

22–April 21 – Ramadan: An Islamic holiday marked by fasting, praise, prayer, and devotion to Islam. ([Ramadan Information Sheet - Islamic Networks Group](#))

April

7 – Good Friday: A day celebrated by Christians to commemorate the execution of Jesus by crucifixion. It is recognized on the Friday before Easter. ([Good Friday | Britannica](#))

This day is a public holiday in Australia (Australian Capital Territory, New South Wales, Northern Territory, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania, Victoria, Western Australia), Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, France, Germany, Hong Kong, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Singapore, and the UK.

8 – Easter Saturday/Holy Saturday: The day after Good Friday is another holiday called Easter Saturday or Holy Saturday. This day is celebrated to commemorate the day when Christ (whose teachings are the foundations of the Christian religion) laid on his tomb after he was crucified and died the day before. ([Holy Saturday | Britannica](#))

This day is a public holiday in Australia (Australian Capital Territory, New South Wales, Northern Territory, Queensland, South Australia, Victoria), Chile, Hong Kong, the Netherlands, and New Zealand.

9 – Easter Sunday: A holiday celebrated by Christians to recognize Jesus’ return from death after the crucifixion. ([Easter | Britannica](#))

This day is a public holiday in Australia (Australian Capital Territory, New South Wales, Northern Territory, Queensland, South Australia, Victoria, Western Australia), Belgium, Brazil, France, and New Zealand.

10 – Easter Monday: Easter Monday is the day after Easter Sunday. Easter Monday is celebrated as a holiday in many Christian cultures. In previous times, the Easter celebrations often lasted eight days. ([Easter Monday](#))

This day is a public holiday in Australia (Australian Capital Territory, New South Wales, Northern Territory, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania, Victoria, Western Australia), Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Ireland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, and New Zealand.

11 – Easter Tuesday: Easter Tuesday is part of Tasmania’s Easter period. It is the day after Easter Monday, and two days after Easter Sunday. This is generally only a holiday for public sector employees. Some shops, educational institutions, and businesses may, however, have reduced opening hours. ([Easter Tuesday in Australia](#))

This day is a public holiday in Australia (Tasmania).

22 – Eid al-Fitr: The first day of the Islamic month of Shawwal, marking the end of Ramadan. Many Muslims attend communal prayers, listen to a khutuba (sermon), and give Zakat al-Fitr (charity in the form of food) during Eid al-Fitr. ([Eid al Fitr | PBS LearningMedia](#))

This holiday is a public holiday in Singapore and the UAE.

May

18 – Ascension Day: Celebrated as the ascension of Christ from Earth in the presence of God within most of the Christian faith. ([Ascension | Britannica](#))

This day is a public holiday in Belgium, France, Germany, the Netherlands, and Luxembourg.

28 – Whit Sunday (Pentecost): Many Christians mark the seventh Sunday after Easter, observed as a feast in commemoration of the descent of the Holy Spirit on the apostles 50 days after Easter on this day. People may attend special church services or spend the day with family or friends. ([Whit Sunday](#))

This day is a public holiday in Belgium, France, Germany, and the Netherlands.

29 – Whit Monday: Whit Monday or Pentecost Monday is the holiday held the day after Pentecost, a religious holiday of the Christian faith celebrated by devotees the world over. ([Whit Monday](#))

This day is public holiday in Belgium, France, the Netherlands, and Luxembourg.

June

8 – Corpus Christi: A Catholic holiday celebrating the presence of the body and blood of Christ in the Eucharist. ([Feast of Corpus Christi | Britannica](#))

This is a public holiday in Brazil.

27 – Arafat (Hajj): The second day of pilgrimage within the Islamic faith ([The Meaning of Arafat and Eid Al-Adha in Islam](#))

This is a public holiday in the UAE.

29 – Hari Raya Haji/Eid al-Adha: An Islamic festival to commemorate the willingness of Ibrahim (also known as Abraham) to follow Allah's (God's) command to sacrifice his son, Ishmael. Muslims around the world observe this event. ([The Meaning of Arafat and Eid Al-Adha in Islam](#))

This is a public holiday in Singapore and the UAE.

July

19 – Al-Hijra (Islamic New Year): The day that marks the beginning of the new Islamic calendar year. ([Islamic New Year in the UAE](#))

This is a public holiday in the UAE.

August

15 – Assumption Day (Assumption of Mary): A religious feast to celebrate the day when, according to Catholic tradition and doctrine, the Virgin Mary was assumed bodily into Heaven. ([Origins and Practices of the Assumption of Mary | Boston Public Library](#))

This day is a public holiday in Belgium, France, Chile, and Luxembourg.

September

29 – Mouloud/Mawlid: This day is meant to celebrate the Prophet Mohammed's birthday. Sunni Muslims observe the Prophet Mohammed's (also known as Muhammad) birthday on the 12th day of the Islamic month of Rabi' al-awwal, while Shi'a Muslims mark it on the 17th of this month. There are mixed beliefs on how one observes Muhammad's birthday. Some people see the Prophet's birthday as an event worthy of praise. Others view the celebration of birthdays as contradictory to Islamic law. ([Mawlid | Britannica](#))

This is a public holiday in the UAE.

November

12 – Diwali: The Hindu, Jain, and Sikh five-day festival of lights that celebrates new beginnings and the triumph of good over evil and light over darkness. ([Diwali | Britannica](#))

This is a public holiday in Singapore.

December

8 – Immaculate Conception of Mary: This day celebrates the solemn celebration by various Christian denominations of belief in the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. ([Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary | Franciscan Media](#))

This is a public holiday in Chile.

24 – Christmas Eve: The day before Christmas.

This is a public holiday in Australia and Brazil.

25 – Christmas Day: The day that many Christians associate with Jesus' birth. ([Christmas | Britannica](#))

This is a public holiday in Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Ireland, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Singapore, and the UK.

26 – Boxing Day: Boxing Day is regarded as a time to spend with family and friends, particularly those you couldn't see on Christmas. This can include gathering for meals, drinking at pubs, or relaxing at home and enjoying the day off. ([What Is Boxing Day? The History, Purpose, and Name Meaning](#))

This is a public holiday in Australia, Belgium, Canada, Germany, New Zealand, and the UK.

26 – St. Stephen's Day: Alternative celebration of Boxing Day. This day is meant to commemorate St. Stephen, the first Christian martyr, or protomartyr, who is known for his service to those in need. ([St. Stephen's Day | Britannica](#))

This is a public holiday in France, Ireland, and Luxembourg.