

# INTERNATIONAL HOLIDAYS AND CELEBRATIONS



## AUGUST 2011

<b>8.1</b>	<b>Ramadan Begins</b>	Islam*
	<b>National Children's Day</b> - children lead the village in celebrations and are treated to a traditional meal; observed the first Monday of August	Tuvalu*
	<b>People's Liberation Army Day</b>	China
	<b>National Day</b> - decreed in 1891, but the origins of this holiday date to 1291, when the foundation of the Swiss Confederation was laid	Switzerland
	<b>Armed Forces Day</b>	Angola
	<b>Parents' Day</b>	Zaire
	<b>Krishna Janmashtami</b>	Hindu
	<b>Emancipation Day</b> - slavery was abolished throughout the British Empire in 1833; those of African descent living in Trinidad and Tobago have observed this holiday since 1985, when it replaced Columbus Discovery Day	Barbados, Trinidad & Tobago, St. Lucia, Grenada, Jamaica
	<b>Independence Day</b> - commemorates independence from France in 1960	Benin
	<b>Kadooment Day</b> (Crop Over) – the beginning of a five-week festival to celebrate the end of the local sugar cane crop harvest	Barbados
	<b>Lughnasadh</b> (Lammas Day) - a celebration of the harvest and one of the "Greater Sabbats" during the Wiccan year; in medieval England, loaves made from the first ripe grain were blessed in the church on this day – lammas means "loaf mass"	International

<b>8.1</b>	<b>Imbolc</b> – a celebration of the goddess Brigid, and the end of winter	Pagan (South Hemisphere)
	<b>Mini Fetes</b> - month long performances by dancers and singers	French Polynesia
	<b>Trademen's Day</b> – a celebration to honor laborers; celebrated the first Monday in August	Iceland
	<b>Freedom Day</b> – marks the end of slavery; celebrated the first Monday in August	Guyana*
	<b>Commerce Day</b> - observed the first Monday of August	Iceland*
	<b>Farmers' Day</b> – a celebration marked by a National Agricultural show, games, exhibits, carnival rides for children, agricultural demonstrations and awards, performances and food	Zambia*
	<b>Labor Day</b> - celebrated the first Monday in August	Samoa*
	<b>Santo Domingo de Guzman</b> - to honor with processions and celebrations the patron saint of Managua, the capital of Nicaragua	Nicaragua

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<b>8.2</b>	<b>Virgin of the Angels Day</b> - commemorates the 1903 uprising against the Ottoman Empire and honors the prophet Elias Angeles. The church has a statue of the Black Madonna known as La Negrita, who supposedly has great healing powers. Angeles. The church has a statue of the Black Madonna known as La Negrita, who supposedly has great healing powers.	Costa Rica
	<b>Ilinden</b> (National Day) - commemorates the 1903 uprising against the Ottoman Empire and honors the prophet Elias	Macedonia
	<b>Motupe</b> - the most important religious celebration in the Lambayeque region; on this day the pilgrimage Santisima Cruz de Motupe begins in honor of the local patron saint	Peru

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<b>8.3</b>	<b>Independence Day</b> - celebrates the attainment of independence from France on this day in 1960	Niger
	<b>National Flag Day</b> - celebrates the attainment of independence from France on this day in 1960 on August 3, the day the flag was first flown over Venezuelan soil at La Vela de Coro	Venezuela

<b>8.3</b>	<b>Fiesta de San Salvador</b> - celebrations are in the form of a traditional Flamenco Festival of song and dance, organised inside the castle fort of Castellar to commemorate the festival in honour of Saint Salvador, the Patron of the town; held the first weekend in August	El Salvador*
	<b>Armed Forces Day</b>	Equatorial Guinea
	<b>Pidjiguiti Martyr's Day</b> - anniversary of the Pidjiguiti massacre in 1959, when police shot down some 50 striking dockworkers. This became the beginning of the active resistance against the Portuguese colonial power. A monument shaped like a gigantic black fist beginning of the active resistance against the Portuguese colonial power. A monument shaped like a gigantic black fist commemorates the massacre	Guinea Bissau
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<b>8.4</b>	<b>Naag Panchami</b> - followers of Nagas worship Naga Devata; they visit temples and snake pits and offer prayers to the snakes; milk and silver jewelry are offered to the Cobras to seek their protection from evils; devotees also observe a full day fast on this day; swings are put up in the villages and people enjoy themselves while singing shravan songs	Hindu*
	<b>Anniversary of Huancavelica</b> - the commemoration of the Spanish founding of the city, celebrated with parties and fireworks	Peru
	<b>Constitution Day</b> – the Cook Islands became a self-governing nation on this day in 1965	Cook Islands
	<b>Revolution Day</b> - on this day in 1984 the Republic of Upper Volta was renamed Burkina Faso	Burkina Faso
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<b>8.6</b>	<b>Independence Day</b> - commemorates independence from the United Kingdom in 1962	Jamaica
	<b>Independence Day</b> - signifies independence from Spain in 1825	Bolivia
	<b>Accession of H.H. Sheikh Zayed</b> - commemorates the day in 1966 Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan became emir of Abu Dhabi; he served as president of United Arab Emirates from 1971 until 2004	United Arab Emirates

8.6	<b>The Transfiguration</b> - according to legend it was on this day Jesus transfigured himself in front of his disciples, strengthening their belief in his holy origin on this day Bulgarians pick grapes, take them to the church to be sanctified, and then give them out for health and fertility	Bulgaria
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8.7	<b>Nori Nem</b>	Hindu*
	<b>Youth Day</b> - honors the important role youth play in the growth of society	Kiribati
	<b>Battle of Boyacá</b> - anniversary of the battle in 1819 in which Colombia acquired its definitive independence from the Spanish Monarchy	Colombia
	<b>Independence Day</b> - commemorates full independence on this date in 1960	Ivory Coast
	<b>Emancipation Day</b> - commemorates the emancipation of slaves in the 1830s	St. Kitts & Nevis
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8.8	<b>Heroes' Day</b> – held in honor of national heroes of Zimbabwe; observed every second Monday in August	Zimbabwe*
	<b>Emancipation Day</b> /August Monday – commemorates the emancipation for slavery in 1834	Bahamas*
	<b>Ceasefire Day</b> (End of Iran-Iraq War) - anniversary of the end of the Iran-Iraq War	Iraq
	<b>Farmers' Day</b> (Nane Nane Day)	Tanzania
	<b>Queen's Name Day</b>	Sweden
	<b>Father's Day</b> – also known as “Baba Day”	Taiwan
	<b>St. Mary Mackillop Day</b> - feast day of Saint Mary MacKilop, patron saint of Australia, who, together with Father J.T. Woods, founded the Sisters of St. Joseph of the Sacred Heart	Australia
	<b>Independence Day</b> - commemorates independence from Honduras in 1904	Bhutan
	<b>Carnival</b> – cultural presentations, calypso shows, performances by steel bands, colorful and imaginative costumes	Grenada

8.8	<b>Tisha B'Av</b> (the Fast of the Ninth of Av) – begins at sunset; a day of mourning to commemorate the many tragedies that have befallen the Jewish people	Judaism*
8.9	<b>Defense Forces Day</b> – a day to honor the armed forces; held on the second Tuesday in August	Zimbabwe*
	<b>National Women's Day</b> - commemorates the national march of women on this day in 1956 to petition against legislation that required African person to carry the “pass”, special identification documents which curtailed an African’s freedom of movement during the apartheid era	South Africa
	<b>National Day</b> - marks the day of independence from Malaysia in 1965	Singapore
	<b>International Day of the World's Indigenous People</b> - a U.N. resolution calling for international cooperation for the solution of problems faced by indigenous people in such areas as culture, education, health, human rights, the environment, and social and economic development	International
8.10	<b>Independence Day</b> - signifies this date in 1960, which initiated a war for freedom within Latin America	Ecuador
	<b>St. Lawrence Day</b> - feast day of Lawrence of Rome, one of the seven deacons of ancient Rome who were martyred during the persecution of Valerian in 258	Spain , Italy
	<b>Qiangtan Kyagqen Horse Reacing Festivals</b> - a celebration which includes horse races, archery, and horsemanship	Tibet
	<b>International Biodiesel Day</b>	International
8.11	<b>Heroes' Day</b> - a day to honor fallen liberation leaders	Zimbabwe
	<b>Independence Day</b> - signifies this date in 1960, when full independence was achieved from France	Chad
	<b>King Hussein Accession</b> - anniversary of the day in 1952 when Hussein bin Talal was named King of Jordan. He served as king until his death in 1999	Jordan

**8.11 Montserrat Annual Pilgrimage Begins** – legend has it that in 890 shepherd boys heard singing and saw lights coming from Montserrat where a statue of the Madonna and Child was found in a cave; millions have made this 10-day pilgrimage

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**8.12 Queen’s Birthday** – to honor Sirikit, born on this day in 1932

Thailand

**Arequipa Week** – anniversary of the founding of Arequipa on August 15, 1538

Peru

**International Youth Day** – celebrated to recognize efforts of the world’s youth in enhancing global society; aims to promote ways to engage them in becoming more actively involved in making positive contributions to their communities

International

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**8.13 Women’s Day**

Tunisia

**Independence Day** - commemorates independence proclaimed on this day in 1960

Central African Republic

**International Lefthanders Day** - a day to increase awareness of the difficulties and frustration experienced by left-handers in everyday life

International

**Lao Issara** (Day of the Free Laos) - commemorates the formation of Lao Issara, an anti-French, non-communist nationalist movement formed in 1945 by Prince Phetsarath

Laos

**Nikini Full Moon Poya Day** – commemorates the first Dhamma Sangayana (Convocation); was first held three months after the passing away of the Buddha

Sri Lanka\*

**Festival of Souls** (Obon) – a Japanese Buddhist custom to honor the departed spirits of one’s ancestors; lasts for three days; celebrated at different times during the year; “Shichigatsu Bon” is based on the solar calendar and is celebrated around July 15th in areas such as Tokyo, Yokohama, and Tohoku; “Hachigatsu Bon” is based on the solar calendar and is celebrated around the 15th of August; “Kyu Bon” is celebrated on the 15th day of the seventh month of the lunar calendar in areas like the northern part of the Kanto region

Japan\*

**8.13 Harvest Festival** – a time to thank ancestors for providing rice and fruits; celebration starts with a family gathering and eating rice cakes South Korea

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**8.14 Oued Ed-Dahab Day** - a day to celebrate the return to Morocco of the Oued Eddahab region which was formerly held by Mauritania Morocco

**Honey Spas** - the first of three harvest festivals to be celebrated in the month of August, the last month of the summer season, when the harvest is sown; honey is collected, blessed, and eaten Russia

**V.J. Day** (Victory over Japan) – parades are held in several cities to commemorate Japan’s surrender on this day in 1945 U.S.

**Independence Day** - commemorates independence from Britain in 1947 Pakistan

**Ghost Festival Begins** – a belief that ghosts and spirits dominate the whole 7<sup>th</sup> month of the year, this two-week festival is dedicated to sending them back to the underworld with parades, lighting of lanterns and releasing of water lanterns Taiwan

**World Lizard Day** International

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**8.15 Brazzaville** (National Day) - a celebration of full autonomy from France in 1960 Congo

**Korean Liberation Day** - in North Korea, marks the surrender of Japan in 1945; in South Korea, marks the creation of an independent government in 1948 South Korea, North Korea

**Independence Day** - marks independence from Great Britain in 1947, when the Indian Independence Act went into effect India

**Assumption of the Virgin Mary/Feast of Assumption** - commemorates the taking of the Virgin Mary’s body and soul into heaven International

**Acadian Day** - celebrated on the day of the Assumption of Mary Canada

**Constitution Day** - commemorates the 1982 revision of the original constitution of 1968 Equatorial Guinea

**Mothers' Day** Costa Rica

<p><b>8.15 Old Panama City Day</b> - anniversary of the founding of Panama City on this date in 1519 by Pedro Arias de Avila</p>	Panama
<p><b>National Day</b> – begins with a high mass, followed by a public reception hosted by the royal family in the castle gardens, finishing with a street party, replete with a display of fireworks</p>	Liechtenstein
<p><b>Founding of Asuncion</b> - commemorates the founding of Asuncion, the capital and largest city of Paraguay and one of the oldest cities in South America</p>	Paraguay
<p><b>Wafaa El-Nil</b> (Flooding of the Nile) Begins – a two-week celebration that begins with the ceremonial throwing of a martyr’s relic into the river</p>	Egypt
<p><b>Military Regime Day</b></p>	Niger
<p><b>National Mourning Day</b> - marks the anniversary of the death of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on this day in 1975; he is the founding president and father of the nation</p>	Bangladesh
<p><b>Rectification Day</b> – anniversary of the day Blaise Compaoré took control and made numerous policy changes to Marxist policies put in place by Thomas Sankara; Sankara was killed in a bloody coup prior to the change in government</p>	Burkina Faso
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<p><b>8.16 Restoration Day</b> - celebrates the 1863 declaration of independence from Spain, after a brief lapse into colonial status. Independence was attained in 1865, following a bitter war</p>	Dominican Republic
<p><b>Children's Day</b> - commemorates the day of the infamous Battle of Acosta Nu, where 20,000 men of the Brazilian Army crushed a Paraguayan battle made up of 3,500 children ages six to fifteen</p>	Paraguay
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<p><b>8.17 Independence Day</b> – gained their independence from France on this day in 1960</p>	Gabon
<p><b>San Martín Day</b> - anniversary of the death of Jose Francisco de San Martin Matorras, an Argentine general and the prime leader of the southern part of South America’s successful struggle for independence from Spain, on this day in 1850</p>	Argentina



<p><b>8.17 Slovenians Incorporated into the Mother Nation</b></p> <p><b>Proklamasi Kermerdekaan</b> (Independence Day) - celebrates independence from Dutch colonial rule in 1945; after more years of fighting, Indonesia was formally granted autonomy on December 27, 1949</p>	<p>Slovenia</p> <p>Indonesia</p>
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<p><b>8.19 Apple Spas</b> - the second of three harvest festivals to be celebrated in the month of August, the last month of the summer season when the harvest is sown; fruits and vegetables are gathered and blessed</p>	<p>Russia</p>
<p><b>Birth of Crown Prince Mette Marit</b> - celebrates in birth of Mette-Marit, Crown Princess of Norway, on this day in 1973</p>	<p>Norway</p>
<p><b>Day of the Failed August, 1991 Coup</b> - honors those that died during an attempt to end Gorbachev's grip on power; marked the beginning of the end of communism in the former Soviet Union</p>	<p>Russia</p>
<p><b>Revolution of 1945</b> - the beginning of demonstrations and uprisings against French colonial rule by the Viet Minh led by Ho Chi Minh</p>	<p>Vietnam</p>
<p><b>National Aviation Day</b> – to celebrate the history and development of aviation; coincides with the birthday of Orville Wright, who together with his brother Wilbur, made significant contributions to powered flight</p>	<p>U.S.</p>
<p><b>Independence Day</b> - commemorates the Treaty of Rawalpindi in 1919 which granted independence from Britain</p>	<p>Afghanistan</p>
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<p><b>8.20 Revolution of King and People</b> - anniversary of the day in 1953 when French colonial authorities exiled King Mohammed V and the Royal Family after the king refused to disavow the action of the national movement and sign decrees consecrating French domination over Morocco; in response, the Moroccan people joined the King in defending their homeland and their monarch</p>	<p>Morocco</p>
<p><b>Restoration of Independence Day</b> - celebrates Estonia's return to independence in 1991</p>	<p>Estonia</p>
<p><b>Krishna Janmashtami</b> – the birthday of Lord Krishna, the leader, hero, protector, philosopher, teacher and friend of the Hindu people</p>	<p>Hindu*</p>

<p><b>8.20 National Day</b> (Feast of St. Stephen)/<b>Constitution Day</b> - commemorates Saint Stephen, the first Christian King of Hungary, who ruled between 997-1038, and was canonized on this day in 1038; also the day the first bread from the new harvest is baked</p>	Hungary
<p><b>International Homeless Animal's Day</b> – to promote awareness of pet overpopulation and spark new ideas for solutions</p>	International
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<p><b>8.21 King Muhammed's Birthday</b> – born on this day in 1963</p>	Morocco
<p><b>Martyrdom Imam Ali</b> – an Islamic religious leader who was assassinated while praying in a mosque on the 19<sup>th</sup> day of Ramadan and died two days later; celebrated the 21<sup>st</sup> day of Ramadan</p>	Iran*
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<p><b>8.22 Ganesh Chaturthi</b> (Vinayaga Chaturthi) – the birthday of Ganesh (son of Shiva and Parvati) who is worshipped as the god of wisdom, prosperity, and good fortune; a 10-day festival that begins on the fourth day of the waxing moon between August 20 and September 22</p>	Mauritius*
<p><b>National Flag Day</b> - anniversary of the day in 1991 when the Russian legislature chose to fly Russia's tri-color flag rather than the hammer-and-sickle flag of the Soviet Union</p>	Russia
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<p><b>8.23 Black Ribbon Day</b> - commemorates the day in 1939 when the Molotov-Ribentrop pact was signed which handed the Baltic republics over to the Soviet Union</p>	Lithuania
<p><b>International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade &amp; Its Abolition</b> - designated by UNESCO to memorialize the transatlantic slave trade; the date is significant because, during the night of August 22 &amp; 23, 1791 on the island of Saint Domingue (now known as Haiti), an uprising began which set forth events which were a major factor in the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade</p>	International
<p><b>National Flag Day</b> - celebrated the day before Independence Day</p>	Ukraine

**8.23 Heroes' Day** - commemorates the “Cry of Pugad Lawin” by Filipino revolutionaries, called the Katipunan, led by its leader Andres Bonifacio; celebrated on the 4th Monday of August Philippines

**Onam Festival** - Onam is the biggest festival in the Indian state of Kerala and marks the homecoming of legendary King Mahabali India

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**8.24 Flag Day** - anniversary of the day the flag was first hoisted in 1847 Liberia

**Independence Day** - observes independence from the Soviet Union in 1991 Ukraine

**Constitution Day** Georgia

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**8.25 National Independence Day** - attained from Brazil in 1828 Uruguay

**Dia do Soldado** (Soldier's Day) – commemorates the efforts of the members of the Brazilian Army; established in the honor of Luis Alves de Lima e Silva, patron of the Brazilian Army, born on this day in 1803 Brazil

**Constitution Day** - commemorates the revised constitution adopted on this day in 1967 Paraguay

**Communion table for Danbala Wedo** (St. Louis - King of France) Haiti\*

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**8.26 Laylat al-Qadr** - the holiest night of the holy month on which Allah Almighty grants to His most praised, most respected and most beloved servant Sayyidina Muhammad (s) this holy night, the Night of Power Islam\*

**Heroes' Day** - honors those who died for independence, especially during the Namibian War of Independence which began on this day in 1966 Namibia

**Women's Equity Day** – established in 1971 by Bella Abzug, the date commemorates the passage of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment, the Woman Suffrage Amendment to the U.S. Constitution U.S.

<p><b>8.26 Our Lady of Czestochowa Feast Day</b> – a celebration of a portrait done by St. John after the crucifixion of Jesus</p>	<p>Poland</p>
<p><b>8.27 Anniversary of the Women's Revolt</b> - Anniversary of the day in 1977 when women in Guinea led a revolt against former dictator Sekou Toure's policy of banning market sales of farm produce</p>	<p>Guinea</p>
<p><b>Independence Day</b> - celebrates the declaration of independence from the Soviet Union on this date in 1991; independence was formally attained later that same year, with the dissolution of the Soviet Union on December 26</p>	<p>Moldova</p>
<p><b>8.28 Velika gospojina</b> (Assumption)</p>	<p>Bosnia-Herzegovina</p>
<p><b>Mariamoba</b> (Day of the Virgin Mary) - also known as The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and is celebrated with church ceremonies and feasts</p>	<p>Georgia</p>
<p><b>8.29 Slovak National Uprising Anniversary</b> - marks the day in 1944 when the Slovak resistance movement organized an armed insurrection in an attempt to oust the government of Jozef Tiso</p>	<p>Slovakia</p>
<p><b>Nut Spas</b> - the last of the three harvest festivals to be celebrated in the month of August, the last month of the summer season when the harvest is sown; on this day nuts are gathered, blessed, and eaten</p>	<p>Russia</p>
<p><b>Liberation Day</b> – marks the day of liberation from Japan in 1945</p>	<p>Hong Kong</p>
<p><b>L'Orient</b> - one of the most important mysteries</p>	<p>Haiti*</p>
<p><b>8.30 Victory Day</b> - honors the warriors who died in the 1922 Battle of Dumlupinar, the final battle in the war of independence; the Mehtar band, the world's oldest military band, plays; celebrations include military parades and fireworks</p>	<p>Turkey</p>

<b>8.30</b>	<b>Agwe</b> (offerings of goats, peppers & peppermints) – elaborate ceremonies take place to fee this proud deity, the Haitian sea god	Haiti*
	<b>Ramazán Bayrami Begins</b> – a three-day festival when sweets are eaten to celebrate the end of fasting during the month of Ramadan	Turkey*
	<b>Children's Day</b>	Afghanistan
	<b>St. Rose of Lima Day</b> - the feast day of Saint Rose, the first Catholic saint of the Americas, born in Lima, Peru and patroness of Lima	Peru, St. Lucia
	<b>Constitution Day</b> - celebrates the adoption of the constitution in 1995	Kazakhstan,
	<b>Constitution Day</b> – ratified this day in 1976	Turkish Islands, Caicos Islands
	<b>Popular Consultation Day</b> – commemorates the first popular consultation which was first held on this day in 1999; popular consultation is the democratic right and mechanism to ascertain the popular views of the people	Timor-Leste
	<b>San Ramon Day</b> – celebration that includes music, dancing and parades of saints	Costa Rica
	<b>Eid al-Fitr</b> (End of Ramadan) – a three-day celebration at the end of the thirty-day fast of Ramadan	Islam*

<b>8.31</b>	<b>Merdeka Day</b> (National Day) – marks the independence of Malay from British rule in 1957; the Federation of Malaysia was subsequently inaugurated in 1963, containing Malay, North Borneo, Sarawak, and Singapore; Singapore withdrew later	Malaysia
	<b>Independence Day</b> - marks independence from Russia in 1991	Kyrgyzstan
	<b>Independence Day</b> – marks their independence from the United Kingdom in 1962	Trinidad & Tobago
	<b>Limba Noastra</b> (National Language Day)	Moldova
	<b>Heroes' Day</b> – commemorates the “Cry of Pugad Sawin” by Filipino revolutionaries called the Katipunan led by its leader (Supremo) Andres Bonifacio; celebrated the last Monday in August	Philippines*