



INTERNATIONAL HOLIDAYS AND CELEBRATIONS

JANUARY 2011

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| 1.1 | Independence Day – from France (1804) | Haiti |
| | Independence Day – from Egypt & Britain (1956) | Sudan |
| | Independence Day – split from the Czech Republic (1993) | Slovakia |
| | Liberation Day – end of Spanish rule (1899) & overthrow of dictator Fulgencio Batista Y Zaldivar | Cuba |
| | Founding Day – founding of Republic of China (1912) | Taiwan |
| | Temple Day | Buddism |
| | Basanta Panchami – a festival to worship the Goddess of Knowledge | Nepal |
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| 1.2 | Victory of Armed Forces – Soviet Red Army's victory over fascism in 1945 | Cuba |
| | Ancestor's Day & Breaking the Cakes (case gateaux) | Haiti* |
| | St. Berchtold's Day – honors the founder of Bern | Switzerland |
| | Takai Commission Holiday | Niue |
| | Kirmeline - celebrates the symbolic return of the snake deities from the forests to the villages | Lithuania |

<p>1.3 Anniversary of the 1966 coup d'état – mass demonstrations and strikes by students, labor unions, and civil servants the military intervened until the usurpers established their legitimacy and the government surrendered</p>	Burkina Faso
<p>1.4 Martyrs of Independence Day – from Belgium in 1959</p> <p>Korean New Year</p> <p>Day of Martyrs of the Colonial Repression – 1975 liberation from Portuguese colonial occupation</p> <p>Independence Day – marks the real beginning of mass protests in 1948 against British control</p> <p>St. Sarkis's Day - honors the saint who fought against the Georgians. St. Sarkis gradually came to symbolize love and romance</p>	<p>Zaire</p> <p>South Korea</p> <p>Angola</p> <p>Myanmar/Burma</p> <p>Armenia</p>
<p>1.5 Birth of Guru Gobind Singh – birth of the 10th Guru</p>	Sikh
<p>1.6 Army Day – commemorates its founding in 1921 and celebrates a security agreement with the U.S.</p> <p>Epiphany – commemorates the wise men's visit to the baby Jesus (also known as Three Kings Day)</p>	<p>Iraq</p> <p>International</p>
<p>1.7 Orthodox Christmas</p> <p>Coptic Christmas</p> <p>Liberation Day – commemorates the fall of the Khmer Rouge in 1979 and honors those lost in the genocide and who sacrificed in retaking the country</p> <p>Ethiopian Christmas</p>	<p>International*</p> <p>Sudan, Macedonia</p> <p>Cambodia</p> <p>Ethiopia</p>

<p>1.8 International Women's Day – a celebration of women past, present, and future</p>	Guinea Bissau
<p>Children's Day - celebrated the 2nd Saturday in January</p>	Thailand
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<p>1.9 Martyrs' Day – commemorates the riots over sovereignty of the Panama Canal Zone in 1964</p>	Panama
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<p>1.10 Traditional Day - proclaimed in 1996 by the president of Benin to celebrate traditional religious faiths, including Voudon, the 400-year-old belief practiced by the majority of the population</p>	Benin
<p>Festival of Sao Sebastiao (Rio de Janeiro) - festival of Sao Sebastiao</p>	Brazil
<p>Seijin no hi (Coming of Age Day) - honors the coming of age of those persons who have turned 20 in the preceding year; celebrated the 2nd Monday in January</p>	Japan*
<p>Birthday of Eugenio Maria de Hostos - honors the life Eugenio Maria de Hostos, born on this day, a writer and statesman who struggled for Puerto Rican independence and the end to slavery in the late 19th century; celebrated the 2nd Monday in January</p>	Puerto Rico*
<p>Day of Mourning - commemorates the 1964 riots over sovereignty of the Panama Canal Zone</p>	Panama
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<p>1.11 Independence Day - marks the day in 1944 when a group of nationalists handed the French colonial authorities a document requesting the independence of Morocco under the leadership of the late King Mohammed V</p>	Morocco
<p>Republic Day - anniversary of the establishment of Albania in 1946</p>	Albania
<p>National Unity Day - marks the day in 1944 when a group of nationalists handed the French colonial authorities a document requesting the independence of Morocco under the leadership of the late King Mohammed V</p>	Nepal

<p>1.11 Sir John A Macdonald's Birthday - marks the birthday of the first Prime Minister of Canada, considered the Father of the Confederation</p>	Canada
<p>1.12 Remembrance Day - commemorates the date in 1881 when Russian forces under the command of General Mikhail Skobelev breached the fortress of Geok Tepe after a 21 day siege. Thousands of Turkmen soldiers and civilians were killed</p>	Turkmenistan
<p>Youth Day - commemorates the 1964 revolution which resulted in Zanzibar becoming part of Tanzania</p>	India
<p>Zanzibar Revolution Day - commemorates the 1964 revolution which resulted in Zanzibar becoming part of Tanzania</p>	Tanzania
<p>1.13 Defenders of Freedom Day - commemorates the date in 1991 when Lithuanians gathered to protect strategic locations against Soviet invasion</p>	Lithuania
<p>St. Knut's Day - commemorates the date in 1991 when Lithuanians gathered to protect strategic locations against Soviet invasion</p>	Norway, Sweden
<p>Liberation Day - commemorates the anniversary of the 1967 military takeover which brought Gnassingbe Eyadema into power</p>	Togo
<p>St. Melania's Day - commemorates the date in 1991 when Lithuanians gathered to protect strategic locations against Soviet invasion</p>	Ukraine
<p>1.14 Makar Sakranti/Tahi Pongal - a Hindu and South Indian winter solstice observation marking the beginning of the Pongal festival</p>	Hindu
<p>Orthodox New Year</p>	Bosnia-Herzegovina
<p>Birthday of Yang di-Pertuan Besar of Negeri Sembilan</p>	Malaysia

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| 1.15 | Chilembwe Day - a Hindu and South Indian winter solstice observation marking the beginning of the Pongal festival | Malawi |
| | Arbor Day - a day set aside to plant trees | Jordan |
| | Fiesta del Nino Perdido en Huancavelica - a festival held in honor of the Christ Child, include bands and traditional dancers | Peru |
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| 1.16 | Ekadashi – spiritual beneficial day | Hindu |
| | Martyr’s Day - anniversary of the mercenary attack on Cotonou | Benin |
| | National Day of Peace - marks the day in 1992 when a peace treaty was signed in Mexico City, officially ending the 12-year civil war that claimed 75,000 lives | El Salvador |
| | Birthday of Sultan of Kedah – in honor of Sultan Abdul Halim, the constitutional ruler since 1958 | Malaysia |
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| 1.17 | Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – prominent leader of the African American Civil Rights Movement who promoted change through nonviolence in the 1960’s; celebrated the 3 rd Monday in January | US* |
| | National Heroes’ Day | Zaire |
| | Antonovden (St. Anthony’s Day) - marks the fest day of St. Anthony. He is appealed to against infectious diseases and as such the day is devoted to protection from diseases. Women usually bake ritual bread, spread with honey, to give to neighbors and friends for health | Bulgaria |
| | Chehlum - one of the largest pilgrimages gatherings in which over 10 million people go to the city of Karbala located in Iraq; commemorates the martyrdom of Husayn bin Ali, the grandson of the Prophet Muhammad | Pakistan |
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| 1.18 | Revolution Day - commemorates the nationalist movements in the 1930’s and 1940’s that led to independence in 1956 and the abolishment of the monarchy in 1957 | Tunisia |
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<p>1.18 Lima Foundation Day - official celebration of the founding of Lima by the Spanish conquistador Francisco Pizarro in 1535</p>	Peru
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<p>1.19 Mahayana New Year/Duruthu Full Moon Poya Day - "Mahayana" also refers to the path of seeking complete enlightenment for the benefit of all sentient beings</p>	Buddism
<p>Orthodox Epiphany/Baptism – a celebration of God the Son as a human being in Jesus Christ</p>	Georgia
<p>Thaipusam – a pilgrimage procession takes place to bring the statue of Lord Muruga, who represents virtue, youth and power, on a silver chariot led by more than 60 Kavadis adorned with peacock feathers from Little India to the Nattukottai Chettiar Temple atop the hill of Waterfall Road.</p>	Malaysia
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<p>1.20 Tu B'shvat – marks the “New Year of the Trees”, plant trees and eat dried figs and nuts; celebrated the 15th day of the Hebrew month of Shevat</p>	Judaism
<p>Day of the Martyrs (Day of Sorrow) - commemorates Black January in 1990 when Soviet troops entered Baku and killed more than 180 civilians. Victims of the Nagorno-Karabakh War (1988) are also remembered on this date</p>	Azerbaijan
<p>Armed Forces Day</p>	Mali
<p>Death of Amilcar Cabral - honors the death of Amilcar Lopes Cabral, an African agronomic engineer, writer, Marxist, and nationalist politician who led independence movements. He was assassinated in 1973 just months before Guinea-Bissau declared unilateral independence</p>	Guinea Bissau
<p>Our Lady of Altagracia (Our Lady of High Grace Day) - celebrated with pilgrimages to the shrine of Our Lady Peace</p>	Dominican Republic
<p>Errol Barrow Day - honors the 1920 birth of the leader who led Barbados to freedom from Britain</p>	Barbados

<p>1.24 Arbaeen – the last day of the major mourning ceremony for Imam; falls on the 20th day of the month of Safar</p>	Iran*
<p>Economic Liberation Day</p>	Togo
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<p>1.25 GF Croe's Day - marks the birthday of G.F. Croes, Aruban political activist who was a proponent of Aruba's separation from the rest of the Netherlands Antilles. He is called the father of the Aruban nation.</p>	Aruba
<p>Foundation Day (Sao Paulo) - commemorates the founding of the largest city in Brazil by Jesuit missionaries on this date in 1554</p>	Brazil
<p>St. Tatiana Day (beginning of Winter Holiday) - honors the life of Saint Tatiana, patron saint of students and a Christian martyr in the 3rd century Rome during the reign of Emperor Alexander Severus</p>	Russia
<p>Burn's Night - celebration of the life and poetry of poet Robert Burns. Suppers of haggis and Scotch whisky are held</p>	Scotland
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<p>1.26 Luanda's Day – a celebration of the city of Luanda</p>	Angola
<p>Liberation Day – in 1986, Yoweri Museveni led the National Resistance Movement in ousting a corrupt government</p>	Uganda
<p>Australia Day - commemorates the anniversary of the first British settlement in 1788, which was a penal colony established to help relieve overcrowding in British prisons</p>	Australia
<p>Republic Day - marks India's severed ties from Great Britain in 1950</p>	India
<p>Swami Vivekananda Jayanti - celebrates the birthday of Swami Vivekananda; falls on the 7th day after the full moon day in the Hindu month of Paush</p>	Hindu*
<p>Duarte's Birthday - celebrates the 1814 birth of Juan Pablo Duarte, one of the fathers of the country</p>	Dominican Republic
<p>Foundation Day - marks the founding of Santos, a municipality in Sao Paulo, in 1546 by the Portuguese nobleman Bras Cubas</p>	Brazil

- 1.27 St. Sava's Day** - honors the first Archbishop of Serbia Serbia
- WWII Genocide Memorial Day** - universal commemoration in memory of the victims of the Holocaust Israel, Germany
- Saint-Devote's Day** - honors the patron saint of the Grimaldi family. On the Eve of the holiday a boat is burnt on the square at nightfall in the presence of the royal family to symbolize the boat carrying St. Devote's body which drifted off course and ran aground on the coast of Monaco Monaco
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- 1.28 Democracy Day** – a civic day concerned with equality for all Rwanda
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- 1.30 Martyrs' Day** - commemorate the heroes who sacrificed their lives for the sake of freedom and democracy Nepal
- Jashan Sadeh** (Feast of Fire) – a celebration of the Aoroastrians' discovery of fire Zoroastrianism
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- 1.31 Independence Day** - commemorates the heroes who sacrificed their lives for the sake of freedom and democracy Nauru