



# INTERNATIONAL HOLIDAYS AND CELEBRATIONS

## JULY 2011

<b>7.1 The Precious Blood</b>	Haiti
<b>Communist Party Foundation</b> – anniversary of the Chinese Communist Party	China
<b>Canada Day</b> - marks the joining of the Canadian provinces in 1867	Canada
<b>Independence Day</b> - celebrates independence from Belgium in 1962	Burundi
<b>National Day</b> - anniversary of independence from Belgium when sovereignty was granted in 1962	Rwanda
<b>Republic Day</b> - commemorates the inauguration of the republic in 1960	Ghana
<b>Foundation of the Republic</b> – commemorates the day in 1960 when Italian Somaliland gained independence and also the merger of British and Italian regions of the country	Somalia
<b>Keti-koti</b> (Emancipation Day) – marks the end of slavery, in 1863, when the country was a Dutch territory	Suriname
<b>SAR Establishment</b> – commemorates the reversion of the city from British to Chinese rule in 1977	Hong Kong
<b>Emancipation Day</b> – commemorates the abolition of slavery	St. Eustatius

7.1	<p><b>Jashan-eTirgan</b> (Rain Festival) – a celebration of the harvest and a counter to drought; this day also honors Arash Kamangir, a mythical character who gave his life as he threw an arrow over Damavand Mountain to establish the border of Iran and Turan</p>	Iran
	<p><b>Sir Seretse Khama Day</b> – celebrates the life of Botswana’s last prime minister during the colonial era and the independent nation’s first president</p>	Botswana
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7.2	<p><b>Fishermans' Day</b> - celebrated with fairs and festivals related to the lives of the fishermen; observed the first Friday in July</p>	Marshall Islands
	<p><b>Flag Day</b> - commemorates the founding of the island by the Spanish sailor Alonso de Ojeda in 1499</p>	Curacao
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7.3	<p><b>Independence Day</b> - celebrates the 1944 liberation of the Belarusian capital of Minsk from German troops</p>	Belarus
	<p><b>Liberation Day</b> – commemorates the end of the Rwandan Genocide</p>	Rwanda
	<p><b>Sagrado Corazón</b> (Sacred Heart)</p>	Colombia*
	<p><b>Caricom Day</b> (Treaty of Chaguaramas) - anniversary of the treaty establishing the Caribbean Community, signed by the prime ministers of Barbados, Guyana, Jamaica, and Trinidad and Tobago</p>	Guyana
	<p><b>Danish West Indies Emancipation Day</b> - commemorates freeing of slaves in the Danish West Indies</p>	U.S. Virgin Islands
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7.4	<p><b>Independence Day</b></p>	US, Puerto Rico, Guam
	<p><b>Heroes' Day</b> – celebrated the first Monday in July</p>	Zambia*

<b>7.4</b>	<b>Birthday of Queen Sonja</b> - marks the birth in 1937 of Queen Sonja of Norway, the queen consort of Norway and wife of King Harald V	Norway
	<b>Commemoration of Jewish Genocide</b> - the official commemoration day of victims of genocide	Latvia
	<b>Family Day</b> – celebrated the first Monday in July	Lesotho*
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<b>7.5</b>	<b>Constitution Day</b> – on this day in 1915, the Armenian people approved the Constitution of the Armenian Republic	Armenia
	<b>Saints Cyril &amp; Methodius Day</b> - The feast day of Saints Cyril & Methodius, two Greek brothers who became missionaries of Christianity among the Slavs of Great Moravia and Pannonia. Through their work they influenced the cultural development of all Slavic peoples for which they received the title “Apostles to the Slavs”	Slovakia
	<b>Independence Day</b> – secured independence from Spain on this day in 1811	Venezuela
	<b>Independence Day</b> - marks independence from France in 1962	Algeria
	<b>Independence Day</b> – marks independence from Portugal in 1975	Cape Verde Islands
	<b>Peace &amp; Unity Day</b> – marks the anniversary of the 1973 coup	Rwanda
	<b>Tynwald Day</b> (Midsummer Court) – on this day the Isle’s legislature meets in St. John’s instead of Douglas; the session is held in both the Royal Chapel of St. John the Baptist and the open air in Tynwald Hill	Isle of Man
	<b>Unity Day</b> – created to help foster solidarity between the diverse groups that make up the country; celebrated the first Tuesday in July	Zambia*

7.6	<p><b>Statehood Day</b> (Anniversary of the Coronation of King Mindaugas) – honors the first known grand Duke of Lithuania who was crowned king in 1251 and is generally considered the founder of the Lithuanian state</p>	Lithuania
	<p><b>Republic Day</b> - celebrates independence in 1964</p>	Malawi
	<p><b>Independence Day</b> - anniversary of the declaration of independence made in 1975</p>	Comoros
	<p><b>Jan Hus Day</b> - an official public holiday in honor of the Bohemian religious reformer and philosopher Jan Hus, who was condemned as a heretic and burned at the stake on this day in 1415; his teachings inspired the revolutionary Hussite movement, and he remains an inspiring legendary figure</p>	Czech Republic
	<p><b>Eino Leino Day</b> - honors Eino Leino, poet and first writer to use Finnish fluently for all artistic purposes</p>	Finland
	<p><b>Running of the Bulls</b> – part of the San Fermin Festival; runs in Pamplona from July 6-14 every year</p>	Spain
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7.7	<p><b>Saba Saba</b> - commemorates the 1954 founding of the Tanzanian political party, TANU</p>	Tanzania
	<p><b>Tanabata</b> (Star Festival) - according to a Chinese legend, the two stars Altair and Vega, which are usually separated from each other by the Milky Way, are able to meet</p>	Japan
	<p><b>Independence Day</b> - commemorates independence from Britain in 1978</p>	Solomon Islands
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7.9	<p><b>Independence Day</b> - marks independence from Spain in 1816</p>	Argentina
	<p><b>Constitution Day</b> - adopted its constitution in 1981 and establish a government based on the government of the USA</p>	Palau

- 7.9** **Aïd Chebeb** (Youth Day) - celebrates the birthday of King Hassan II, born in 1929 Morocco
- Martyrdom of the Bab** - commemorates the arrest, torture, imprisonment, and execution of the Bab, the prophet-herald of the faith, in Tabriz, Persia, in 1850; begins at sundown the previous day Baha'i
- Sao Paulo State Rebellion** – in 1932, the people of Sao Paulo began a military movement against the central government in Rio de Janeiro and the Paulistas; the movement ended in a 3 month civil war Brazil (Sao Paulo)
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- 7.10** **Independence Day** - marks independence from the United Kingdom in 1973 Bahamas
- Birthday of Yang DiPertua Negeri of Penang** – to honor the head of state of Penang Malaysia\*
- Death of El Cid** - marks the anniversary of the death of Rodrigo Diaz de Vivar, known as El Cid Campeador, a Castilian nobleman, gifted military leader and diplomat who, after being exiled, conquered and governed the city of Valencia Spain
- Flemish Community Holiday** (Guldensporensdag) - celebrated on this day every year in remembrance of the Battle of Golden Spurs or Guldensporensdag Belgium
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- 7.11** **Gospel Day** Kiribati\*
- Naadam Day** - commemorates the overthrow of the monarch in 1921 and includes horse racing, archery, and wrestling competitions; held July 11-13 Mongolia
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- 7.12** **Independence Day** - marks independence from Portugal in 1975 São Tomé e Príncipe

<b>7.12 Orangeman's Day</b> - commemorates the 1690 Protestant victory over Roman Catholic forces in the Battle of the Boyne in Ireland. King William of Orange, the Protestant King of England, defeated former King James II, a Catholic	UK, Scotland
<b>Battle of the Boyne Day</b> - marks the battle fought in 1690 between two rival claimants of the English, Scottish, and Irish thrones, the Catholic King James and the Protestant King William, who won the battle	Ireland
<b>Independence Day</b> - marks independence from British Colonial rule in 1979	Kiribati*
<b>Petrovdan</b> - a feast in honor of the holy apostles Peter and Paul	Bosnia-Herzegovina

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<b>7.13 Obon</b> (Festival of Lanterns) - celebrated from July 13 to 15 in some areas and from August 13 to 15 in others. According to Buddhist beliefs, the dead revisit earth at this time, so lanterns are lit for their souls	Japan
<b>Statehood Day</b> - commemorates the day in 1878 on which the Berlin Congress recognized Montenegro as the twenty-seventh independent state in the world	Montenegro

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<b>7.14 Emmeline Pankhurst Day</b> - marks the anniversary of Emmeline Pankhurst's birth. Pankhurst was a political activist and leader of the British suffragette movement	UK
<b>Fandoana Bathing Festival</b>	Madagascar
<b>Uniwaine Day</b> (Elderly Men)	Kiribati*
<b>Republic Day</b>	Iraq
<b>Birthday of Crown Princess Victoria</b> - celebrates the birth of Victoria Ingrid Alice Desiree, Crown Princess of Sweden, Duchess of Vastergotland, and heiress apparent of the Swedish throne, born in Stockholm on this day in 1977	Sweden

**7.14 Bastille Day** - commemorates the event that launched the French Revolution. The Bastille held political prisoners and became a symbol of oppression by the monarchy. On this date in 1789 the Bastille was stormed and prisoners freed

New Caledonia,  
Guadeloupe,  
France

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**7.15 Unaine Day** (Elderly Women)

Kiribati\*

**St. Swithin's Day** - named after St. Swithin, a Saxon Bishop of Winchester. On this day people watch the weather because tradition says that whatever the weather is like on this day, it will continue so for the next forty days

UK

**St. Rosalia Day** - a day to honor the patron saint of Palermo, a pious young woman credited for saving the city from a plague in 1624

Italy

**Lailat al Baraa** (Night of Repentance) – the night when forgiveness is granted to those who repent

Islam\*

**Asalha Puja** – commemorates the Buddha's first sermon in the Deer Park in Benares and the founding of the Buddhist sangha

Buddhism\*

**Guru Purnima** – the day disciples offer worship or pay respect to their Guru; falls on the day of full moon in the month of Ashadh

Hindu\*

**Esala Full Moon Poya Day** - commemorates the deliverance of the first sermon to the five ascetics and setting in motion the Wheel of the Dhamma (Dhammachakka) at Sarnath Benares, India; the sermon explains the Four Noble Truths: suffering, the cause of suffering, the cessation of suffering, and the path leading to the cessation of suffering

Sri Lanka\*

**Sultan's Birthday** - honors the birth of Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, on this day in 1946

Brunei  
Darussalam

<p><b>7.16 Birthday Imam Mahdi</b> – celebration of the birthday of Muhammad al-Mahdi (believed to be the ultimate savior of humankind and the final Imam of the Twelve Imams)</p>	Iran*
<p><b>Fiesta del la Virgen del Carmen</b> - a festival mixing Andean pre-Columbian ceremonies and Catholic religion in which masked, costumed dancers relive ancient gods and rites</p>	Peru (Celendin)
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<p><b>7.17 King Letsie III's Birthday</b></p>	Lesotho
<p><b>Constitution Day</b> - commemorates the proclamation of the constitution of the Republic of Korea in 1948</p>	South Korea
<p><b>Muñoz-Rivera Day</b> - the anniversary of the 1859 birth of Luiz Muñoz-Rivera, a Puerto Rican patriot, poet, and journalist</p>	Puerto Rico
<p><b>Asalha Puja</b> - A Theraveda Buddhist celebration of the Buddha's first sermon and the setting of the Wheel of Truth into the world</p>	Buddhism*
<p><b>El Dia de Los Niños</b> – a day to honor children; observed the third Sunday of July</p>	Panama*
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<p><b>7.18 Anniversary of Soufriere Hills Volcano Eruption</b></p>	Montserrat
<p><b>Constitution Day</b> - commemorates the constitution of 1951 which set up a collegiate form of government</p>	Uruguay
<p><b>Umi no hi</b> (The Day of the Sea) – also known as Marine Day, commemorates the Emperor's safe voyage and Japan's long seafaring traditions</p>	Japan
<p><b>Nelson Mandela's Birthday</b> - honors Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela, first President of South Africa to be elected in a fully representative democratic election, born on this day in 1918</p>	South Africa



<b>7.19</b>	<b>Martyrs' Day</b> - commemorates the day in 1947 when several of Burma's independence leaders were gunned down by a group of armed men in uniform while they were holding a cabinet meeting in downtown Rangoon	Myanmar, Burma
	<b>Liberation Day</b> - observes the day in 1979 that the army claimed victory over the dictator Anastasio Somoza Debayle	Nicaragua
	<b>Birthday of Yang di-Pertuan Besar of Ng Sembilan</b>	Malaysia (Negeri Sembilan)
	<b>Edgar Degas's Birthday</b> - celebrates the birth of Edgar Degas, a French artist famous for his work in painting, sculpture, printmaking, and drawing, and considered one of the founders of Impressionism	France

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<b>7.20</b>	<b>Birthday of the Sultan of Terengganu</b>	Malaysia
	<b>Independence Day</b> - celebrates the day in 1810 when the country declared its independence from Spain	Colombia
	<b>Birthday of Crown Prince Haakon</b> - marks the birth of Haakon Magnus, Crown Prince of Norway, in 1973 in Oslo	Norway
	<b>Peace and Freedom Day</b> - marks the day in 1974 when Turkish military intervention was launched to end the violence between Greek and Turkish Cypriots	Cyprus
	<b>St. Elijah's Day</b> - honors the memory of St. Prophet Elijah, one of the greatest Old Testament righteous men	Bulgaria

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<b>7.21</b>	<b>Liberation Day</b> - commemorates the day in 1944 that U.S. forces freed the island from the Japanese	Guam
	<b>Independence Day</b> - marks accession of Leopold I in 1931, after independence from the Netherlands	Belgium

**7.21 Schoelcher Day** (Abolition of Slavery) - celebrated on the birthday of Victor Schoelcher, a French parliamentarian who lived and traveled on the islands of Guadeloupe and Martinique, becoming interested in the lives of black slaves. He worked to accomplish the abolishment of slavery in French territory in 1848

St. Martin  
Guadeloupe

**St. George Festa**

Malta

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**7.22 Revolution Day** - commemorates the revolutionary dislodge of a reactionary government that misled, misinformed, and kept the Gambian masses out of the limelight of government activities

Gambia

**National Tree Planting Day**

Central African  
Republic

**Birthday of King Sobhuza II** - marks the birth of Ngwenyama Sobhuza II, Paramount Chief and later King of Swaziland for over 60 years

Swaziland

**La Fete de la Magdalene** – the feast day of Mary Magdalene

France

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**7.23 Birth of Haile Selassie I** - commemorates the 1982 birth of the former emperor of Ethiopia. He was born Tafari Makonnen and later took the name Haile Selassie, meaning Power of the Holy Trinity. The etymology of Rastafari is based on the word ras, meaning “prince”, and Haile Selassie’s birth name, Tafari

Ethiopia

**National Children’s Day** - a day to celebrate the lives of Indonesia’s young people

Indonesia

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**7.24 Children's Day**

Vanuatu

- 7.24 Fiesta de Santiago** - a festive and traditional pageant of color, with exuberant dances and women in layered, multicolored skirts Peru
- Simón Bolívar Day** - honors the life of Simon Jose Antonio de la Santisima Trinidad Bolivar Palacios y Blanco, one of the most important leaders of Spanish America's successful struggle for independence. He served as President of Gran Colombia, Peru, and Bolivia Venezuela & Ecuador
- Birthday of Kuan Kung** (God of War) - legend has it that during the second decade of the 12th century, the saltwater lake in the present day Xiezhou County gradually ceased to yield salt. The emperor was told that Chi You, a deity of war, was responsible. Kuan Kung battled with chi You over the lake and triumphed, allowing the lake to resume the production of salt. He is revered by followers of Taoism and Buddhism. Taiwan
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- 7.25 Papa Ogou** (St. James the Greater) – Voodoo holy day Haiti
- National Day** - commemorating the 54<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Egyptian Revolution in 1952 Egypt
- Guanacaste Annexation Day** - anniversary of the decision made by the people of Guanacaste in 1824 to become part of Costa Rica Costa Rica
- Republic Day** - marks the founding of the republic in 1957 Tunisia
- Constitution Day** – ratified in 1952 Puerto Rico
- Foundation of Guayaquil Day** - commemorates in founding of Guayaquil, the largest and the most populous city in Ecuador, as well as the nation's main port, on this day in 1538 Ecuador
- Yalong Cultural Festival** - an important component of the Tibetan culture, the festival includes games, folk dances, opera, and a Tibetan dress show Tibet

- 7.25 Galicia National Day** - celebrated on the feast day of St. James, Galicia is an autonomous community in northwest Spain, and was one of the first kingdoms of Europe Spain
- Gospel Day** - a celebration with plays, singing, dancing, and music, this is a chance to experience both the traditional culture and the Christian heritage of the islands Cook Islands (Rarotonga only)
- Lunes del Cerro** - a festival dedicated to the corn goddess, Centeotl. The festival is held to ask the gods for sufficient rain and a bountiful harvest. Observed the second Monday following July 16 Mexico
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- 7.26 National Day** (Mancada Anniversary) – the anniversary of the assault on the Moncada Garrison in 1953 which sparked the Cuban Revolution and the reign of Fidel Castro Cuba
- Independence Day** – anniversary of independence from the United Kingdom in 1957 Maldives
- Day of IANSA** – a day to promote gun control Brazil
- Independence Day** - commemorates the adoption of a constitution in 1847, thereby becoming Africa’s first independent republic Liberia
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- 7.27 Victory Day** – marks the end of the Korean War; the armistice was signed on this day in 1953 North Korea
- José Celso Barbosa's Birthday** - celebrates Jose Celso Barbosa, political leader of Puerto Rico known as the “father of the Statehood for Puerto Rico movement”, and the first Puerto Rican with an American medical degree Puerto Rico
- Lu Pan Day** - the festival day for Lu Pan, a builder, carpenter, and possessor of miraculous power believed to live around the time of 600 BC Hong Kong

<b>7.28</b>	<b>Liberation Day</b> - a holiday commemorating Italian dictator Benito Mussolini's resignation in 1943	San Marino
	<b>Emancipation Day</b> – commemorates the abolition of slavery; celebrated the Thursday before the first Monday in August	Bermuda*
	<b>Olavsoka Eve</b> - celebrated on the eve before the Faroese Parliament opens its session, this celebration includes a cavalcade and boat races	Faroe Islands
	<b>Independence Day</b> - marks the day in 1821 when independence from Spain was declared; Spanish rule ended in 1824	Peru

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<b>7.29</b>	<b>Somer's Day</b> – Bermuda was discovered by Admiral Sir George Somers on this day in 1609	Bermuda*
	<b>Maetresse Silverine &amp; Maetresse Lorvana</b> – Silverine only very slightly tastes of the food offered to her and Lorvana smells flowers for her nourishment	Voodoo*
	<b>St. Olav's Day</b> - a day to celebrate St. Olav, the patron saint of Norway, and king of Norway from 1015-1028	Norway

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<b>7.30</b>	<b>Fete du Trone</b> (Enthronement) – to celebrate the ascension to the throne of King Mohammed VI	Morocco
	<b>Independence Day</b> - commemorates independence gained in 1980	Vanuatu
	<b>MicMac Festival of St. Ann</b> - a religious festival which attracts MicMac Indian people from all parts of Nova Scotia	Canada
	<b>Feast of St. Ignatius Loyola</b> - commemorates the life of St. Ignatius Loyola (1491-1556), who founded the Society of Jesus, the Roman Catholic religious order whose members are known as Jesuits; celebrated the last weekend in July	Spain*

### 7.31 Upswing of the Revolution

Congo

**Verslunarmannahelgi** - celebrates the constitution of 1874; also known as Shop and Office Workers' Holiday; observed the weekend before the first Monday in August

Iceland\*

Information from [www.earthcalendar.net](http://www.earthcalendar.net), Wikipedia, [www.worldtravelguide.net](http://www.worldtravelguide.net), [aglobalworld.com/holidays-around-the-world](http://aglobalworld.com/holidays-around-the-world), About.com, [pluralism.org](http://pluralism.org), [www.schooloftheseasons.com](http://www.schooloftheseasons.com), [www.massviolence.org](http://www.massviolence.org), and [www.hindu-blog.com](http://www.hindu-blog.com).  
Some information adapted from Honoring Differences 2011 calendar, available at <http://www.diversitycalendar.com/Home.html>.