

INTERNATIONAL HOLIDAYS AND CELEBRATIONS



JUNE 2011

6.1 Madaraka Day - commemorates the day Kenya attained internal self-rule in 1963, preceding full independence on December 12, 1963 Kenya

Children's Day - the country's population of children is celebrated with parties in elementary school and gifts from parents China

Presidents' Day Palau

Independence Day - marks independence from New Zealand on January 1, 1962, and status as the first independent Polynesian state. The three-day celebration is in June because of the rainy season in January Western Samoa

Gawai Dayak Festival - festival marking the gathering of the rice harvest, proclaiming the new planting season and appeasing the spirits Malaysia

6.2 Ascension Day – commemorates Jesus Christ's ascension into heaven International*

Republic Day - marks the 1946 establishment of Italy as a republic Italy

Botev Day - named for one of the most prominent Bulgarians, publicist, poet, and revolutionary, Hristo Botev, who gave his life for Bulgaria's independence on this day in 1876 Bulgaria

6.3	Martyrs' Day - honors a group of Catholic and Protestant converts killed by Kabaka Mwanga of Buganda Kingdom between 1885 and 1887	Uganda
	Labour Day	Bahamas*
	Mabo Day - celebrates the Mabo Judgment, named after Australian Eddi Mabo, made by the High Court of Australia on this date in 1992 which rejected the notion of "Terra Nullius" and stated in law that indigenous Australians have by prior occupation, ownership of land where native title has not been extinguished	Australia
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6.4	Birthday of S.P.B. Yang di-Pertuan Agong – H M The King of Malaysia	Malaysia*
	Emancipation Day - celebrates independence of Tonga in 1970	Tonga
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6.5	Constitution Day - commemorates the anniversary of the signing of the Danish constitution of 1849, which established Denmark as a constitutional monarchy, as well as honors the constitution of 1953, which was adopted on the same day	Denmark
	Constitution Day	Faroe Islands
	Anniversary of Uprising Against the Shah – in 1963, the Imam was arrested after issuing a public warning to the Shah; masses of angry demonstrators were confronted by tanks and slaughtered; six days of uprising followed	Iran
	Presidents' Day	Equatorial Guinea
	Father's Day	Denmark*
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6.6	Swedish National Holiday - commemorates the date in 1523 when Gustavus I (Gustavus Vasa) ascended the throne	Sweden
	Queen's Birthday – honor Queen Elizabeth II; celebrated the first Monday in June	New Zealand, Cook Islands*

6.6	Memorial Day - marks the day the nation pays tribute to its war dead with services at the National Cemetery in Seoul	South Korea
	Dragon Boat Festival / Dragon Festival / Dumpling Festival - originally a time to ward off bad spirits, the Dragon Boat Festival is now a celebration of the life of Qu Yuan, a Chinese Poet, who drowned himself in 278 CE in protest of injustice and corruption	Taiwan*
	Liberation Day – Celebrates the initial resolution leading to independence on June 29, 1976	Seychelles*
	Pushkin’s Birthday - Celebrates the life of the great Russian poet Alexander Pushkin	Russia

6.7	1919 Commemoration (Sette Giugno)- commemorates events which occurred in 1919 when, after British authorities raised the price of bread, riots ensued, resulting in four deaths	Malta
	Union Dissolution - marks the day in 1905 when Norway gained independence from Sweden	
	Revolution Day	Chad

6.8	Orthodox Pentecost – celebrated 50 days after Pascha, to commemorate the descension of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples enabling them to speak in languages they did not know	Ukraine*
	Shavuot (Revelation of the Torah) (Pentecost)	Jewish*
	Bounty Day & Pitcairners Arrival Day Anniversary - marks the arrival of the Pitcairners, some of the mutinous crew of “The Bounty”, in 1856	Norfolk Island
	World Oceans Day - an opportunity to honor the intrinsic value of the ocean and to get involved in protecting the future of our oceans through community action and involvement	International

6.9	National Heroes' Day - commemorates the sacrifices of many people towards the present phase of the liberation of Uganda	Uganda
	Dia de la Rioja	Spain

6.9	Murcia Autonomy Day - anniversary of the proclamation of the autonomy of Murcia, located in the South-East corner of Spain	Spain
6.10	Camoës/National Day - anniversary of the death in 1580 of Luiz Vaz de Camões, a national poet	Portugal
	Army Day	Jordan
	Commemoration of the National Sovereign Conference	Congo
	Abolition of Slavery - the anniversary of the abolition of slavery in 1848	French Guiana
	Day to Celebrate Sovereignty Over the Malvinas - the United Provinces of Rio de la Plata claimed sovereignty over Islas Malvinas in 1820	Argentina
6.11	Evacuation Day - the day when American military forces left Wheelus Air Base in 1970	Libya
	Ganga Dashami – it is believed that the sacred river in heaven descended to earth; a dip in the holy river invoking the Goddess is said to cleanse all sins; a devotee worships by lighting incense and lamp, and offers sandalwood, flowers, and milk; fishes and other aquatic animals are fed flour balls	Hindu*
6.12	Pentecost/Whitsun - commemorates the descension of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples enabling them to speak in languages they did not know	Christian*
	Dia dos Namorados (Valentine's Day) - similar to Valentine's Day, this is a day when couples show their love with an exchange of gifts	Brazil
	Peace of Chaco - anniversary of the truce between Paraguay and Bolivia in 1935	Paraguay
	Race Unity Day - celebrated on the second Sunday in June, promotes racial harmony and understanding	Baha'i
	Independence Day - celebrates independence from Spain in 1898. The Philippines were a U.S. colony until 1946	Philippines*

<p>6.13 Whit Monday</p> <p>St. Anthony's Day - the feast day of Saint Anthony, also known as Saint Anthony of Lisbon and Saint Anthony of Padua, a catholic saint born on the Feast of the Assumption in Lisbon, Portugal; St. Anthony was proclaimed a Doctor of the Church and is often invoked for the recovery of things lost; he is also known as the marriage saint</p> <p>Queen's Birthday - honors Queen Elizabeth II's April 21 birthday on this date due to characteristically inclement April weather in London</p> <p>Volunteers' Day – a day to recognize volunteer involvement</p>	<p>International*</p> <p>Portugal</p> <p>Montserrat, Australia*</p> <p>Australia*</p>
<p>6.14 Flag Day – commemorates the adoption of the US flag in 1777</p> <p>Freedom Day</p> <p>Commemoration Day of Victims of the Communist Terror - anniversary of the day in 1941 when the Soviet occupation regime deported to Siberia around 15,000 people from Latvia, regarding them as ideologically opposed to the Soviet communist system</p> <p>Day of Mourning and Hope - marks the date of the first mass deportations of Lithuanians to Siberia in 1941</p> <p>Liberation Day - commemorates the deliverance by British Forces of the Falkland Islands from Argentine occupation in 1982</p>	<p>US</p> <p>Malawi</p> <p>Latvia</p> <p>Lithuania</p> <p>Falkland Islands</p>
<p>6.15 Poson Full Moon Poya Day - celebrates the introduction of Buddhism to Sri Lanka and establishing the dispensation of The Buddha in Sri Lanka 2551 years ago</p> <p>National Flag Day – celebrates the anniversary of the death of its creator, Manuel Belgrano, in 1820</p> <p>Day of National Salvation - commemorates the day Heydar Aliyev returned to the leadership of the Republic resulting in positive changes for the country</p> <p>Liberation Day</p>	<p>Sri Lanka*</p> <p>Argentina</p> <p>Azerbaijan</p> <p>South Korea</p>

<p>6.15 Birthday Imam Ali – Shi'a Muslims regard him and his descendents as the rightful successors to Muhammad</p>	Iran
<p>Valdemar's Day (National Flag Day) - anniversary of the victory of King Valdemar in 1219; according to legend, the Danish flag descended from heaven to bring victory to King Valdemar</p>	Denmark
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<p>6.16 Youth Day - commemorates the start of the Soweto riots in 1976, initially sparked by a government edict that all instruction in black school would be held in Afrikaans</p>	South Africa
<p>Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev Ji - commemorates the death of the fifth guru of the Sikhs and the first Sikh martyr</p>	Sikh
<p>Bloomsday - celebrates the life of Irish writer James Joyce and is named after Leopold Bloom, the protagonist of Joyce's Ulysses. Includes performances of the events from his novel Ulysses</p>	Ireland
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<p>6.17 National Day - recognized full sovereignty from Denmark in 1944</p>	Iceland
<p>Father's Day</p>	El Salvador, Guatemala
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<p>6.18 Former Queen's Birthday – to honor Norodom Monineath Sihanouk</p>	Cambodia
<p>Evacuation Day - commemorates the withdrawal of foreign troops in 1956, and the proclamation of the republic in 1953</p>	Egypt
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<p>6.19 Father's Day</p>	UK, Slovakia, Scotland*
<p>Birth of General Artigas (Día del Nunca Más) – a national hero of Uruguay, José Gervasio Artigas Arnal is known as the father of Uruguayan independence</p>	Uruguay

- 6.19 Trinity Sunday** - celebrated the first Sunday after Pentecost to honor the Christian doctrine of the Trinity Christian*
- Independence Day** - independence from British rule was formally established on this day in 1961 Kuwait
- Labor Day** – this day marks the beginning of an uprising of laborers in Fyzabad in 1937; it is also generally recognized as the beginning of the modern trade union movement Trinidad, Tobago
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- 6.20 National Heroes' Day** Bermuda*
- Martyr's Day** – set aside to pay respect and tribute to all those who gave their lives in the great 30-year war to re-claim national independence and liberation of the country Eritrea
- World Refugee Day** – a day to honor the courage, strength and determination of women, men and children who are forced to flee their homeland under threat of persecution, conflict and violence International
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- 6.21 Day of the Martyrs** Togo
- Summer Solstice/Midsummer** - summer begins today in the Northern Hemisphere; today marks the beginning of winter in the Southern Hemisphere Pagan
- National Day** - celebrated on the longest and lightest day of the year, this is a day for the nation to celebrate its national and cultural values Greenland
- National Aboriginal Day** - a special day to celebrate the unique heritage, cultures and contributions of First Nations, Inuit and Metis people, in Canada Canada
- National Music Day** (Fete de la musique) - originally started in 1982 as a way to develop integration and exchange among young people, this special day in which free musical events are offered has grown to include more than a hundred countries France
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- 6.22 Anti-Fascist Struggle Day** - anniversary of an uprising against fascist invaders on this date in 1941 Croatia

6.22 Schoolteacher's Day - a day to recognize the contribution of educators in the country El Salvador

6.23 Victory Day (Anniversary of the Battle of Võnnu) – to commemorate the victory in the 1919 Battle of Võnnu (near Cēsis, Latvia) of the Estonian military forces and their allies over German forces (Baltische Landeswehr) who sought to re-assert Baltic-German control over the region Estonia

Midsummer's Eve (Jani) – a 3-day celebration of the summer solstice; farms are bedecked with garlands of oak and birch branches and meadow flowers; includes singing and dancing around campfires Latvia

The Feast of Corpus Christi - celebrated in the Latin Church on the Thursday after Trinity Sunday to solemnly commemorate the institution of the Holy Eucharist International

Independence Day Switzerland (Jura only)

Jonines Night (Feast of St. John) - a feast day celebrating Midsummer Day marked with wreaths made and set to float down the river, herb markets, wheels and gates twined with herbs, and bonfires Lithuania

Midsummer Party - an occasion celebrated since the time of the Vikings which includes visiting healing water wells and making large bonfires to ward away evil spirits Denmark

Jonsok/Sankthansaften - also known “John’s wake”, this celebration originally included pilgrimages to churches and holy springs, but now is a more secular celebration with the burning of large bonfires and mock marriages Norway

6.24 Battle of Carabobo - commemorates the battle fought between independence day fighters, led by Simon Bolivar, and the Royalist forces, led by Spanish Field Marshal Miguel de la Torre; this decisive victory led to the independence of Venezuela Venezuela

6.24 Independence Day - to honor those martyred in the fight for independence from Belgium Zaire

Midsummer's Day – a day to celebrate the solstice Sweden*

<p>6.24 St. John's Day/– to commemorate St. John the Baptist, the precursor and baptizer of Jesus, the Messiah</p>	<p>Portugal, Haiti, Estonia, Andorra</p>
<p>Constitution Day and Day of the Fisherman - celebrates the constitution of 1967 and the anniversary of the Zaire currency</p>	<p>Zaire</p>
<p>Countryman's Day - based on Inca tradition this celebration, also known as Inti Raymi, honors the Sun God</p>	<p>Peru</p>
<p>Discovery Day (Cabot 500 Day) - commemorates the discovery of the province in 1497 by John Cabot</p>	<p>Canada (Newfoundland & Labrador)</p>
<p>Fete Nationale (Saint Jean Baptiste Day)- Quebec's national holiday, celebrated on the feast day of John the Baptist</p>	<p>Canada (Quebec)</p>
<p>Manila Day - commemorates the founding of Manila, the capital of the Philippines</p>	<p>Philippines</p>
<p>Saint Vartolomej and Varnava</p>	<p>Serbia</p>
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<p>6.25 Independence Day - marks independence from Portugal in 1975</p>	<p>Mozambique</p>
<p>National Day - commemorates the proclamation of independence in 1991</p>	<p>Slovenia</p>
<p>Statehood Day - commemorates the country's 1991 declaration of independence from Yugoslavia</p>	<p>Croatia</p>
<p>Fatherland Liberation War Day – commemorates the day the Korean War began</p>	<p>North Korea</p>
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<p>6.26 Army and Navy Day – commemorates the establishment of Azerbaijan's first army under the independent government in 1918</p>	<p>Azerbaijan</p>
<p>Independence Day - a celebration of independence from France in 1960</p>	<p>Madagascar</p>
<p>Independence Day - celebrates the day in 1960 that the former British Somaliland gained independence</p>	<p>Somalia</p>
<p>Feast of Corpus Christi – a Christian observance that honors the Holy Eucharist; celebrated 60 days after Easter</p>	<p>U.S.*</p>

6.26	United Nations Charter Day - marks the day in 1945, when the U.N. charter was signed in San Francisco, California, by representatives of 50 nations	U.N.
	International Day Against Drug Abuse & Trafficking - an expression of the UN's determination to strengthen action and cooperation to achieve the goal of an international society free of drug abuse	International
	National Flag Day - on this day in 1848 the Provisional Government from Wallachia established the blue-yellow-red tricolor as the national flag of Romanians in its first decree	Romania
	International Day in Support of Victims of Torture - an occasion for the world to speak out against torture and to remember and support the many victims and survivors of torture around the world	International

6.27	Our Lady Perpetual Help - a day to celebrate the Patroness of Haiti	Haiti
	Memorial Day for War Martyrs - a day to honor those who died during the war in Vietnam	Vietnam
	National Unity Day - marks the signing of a 1997 peace deal that ended five years of civil war	Tajikistan
	Independence Day - celebrates independence from France in 1977	Djibouti
	Anniversary of the Amir's Succession	Qatar

6.28	Constitution Day - celebrates the anniversary of the signing or adoption of the Constitution of the Ukraine in 1996	Ukraine
	St. Vitus' Day - marks the anniversary of a monumental battle between Christianity and Islam on a field in Kosovo in 1389	Serbia
	M'sieu Guimeh Sauveur/Mystere Grande Delai	Haiti*
	Versailles Treaty Day - the anniversary of the 1919 signing of the Treaty of Versailles at Versailles, France, which officially ended World War I	International

<p>6.28 Lailat al Miraj (Ascension of the Prophet) - celebrates the Isra and Miraj of the Prophet Muhammad, when Muhammad went from Mecca to Al-Haram As-Sharif (Temple Mount) and was then raised to Jannah (Heaven), met with the Prophets and eventually with Allah (God)</p>	<p>Islam*</p>
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<p>6.29 St. Peter & St. Paul's Day – a day to honor these two saints who were martyred on the same day</p>	<p>Switzerland, Peru Malta, Chile, Costa Rica, Colombia</p>
<p>Prophet Mohammad receives his calling</p>	<p>Iran*</p>
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<p>6.30 Koninginendag - celebrates the birthday of the Queen of the Netherlands and is a day of national unity and "togetherness"</p>	<p>Netherlands</p>
<p>Beltane - is a time of "no time" (when the two worlds intermingle and unite and the magic abounds) when the veils between the two worlds are at their thinnest</p>	<p>Celtic, Pagan</p>
<p>El Día Del Niño (Children's Day)</p>	<p>Mexico</p>
<p>King's Birthday – to celebrate the birthday of King Carl XVI Gustaf</p>	<p>Sweden</p>
<p>Revolution Day - commemorates a bloodless coup in 1989</p>	<p>Sudan</p>

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