



INTERNATIONAL HOLIDAYS AND CELEBRATIONS

NOVEMBER 2011

11.1 National Revival Day

International

Day of the Bulgarian Revival Leaders - a period when Bulgarians gathered spiritual and intellectual strength to establish their right of independence political and social existence, and their own culture and education

Bulgaria

Guede loa - it is believed that the Guede loa come out of the cemeteries, possess their horses and come into the hounforts to amuse themselves in the form of souls incarnated or reincarnated

Haiti

Revolution Day - commemorates the beginning of the revolution against the French in 1954, which led to independence in 1962

Algeria

El Dia de Los Ninos (Children's Day) – a day to celebrate the country's children

Panama

D. Hamilton Jackson Day/Liberty Day - commemorates the contributions of David Hamilton Jackson to the advancement of his fellow people and the Virgin Islands

US Virgin
Islands

Independence Day – commemorates independence from the United Kingdom in 1981

Antigua &
Barbuda

Puno Jubilee Week – the beginning of a week-long celebration of the founding of Puno by the Spaniards

Peru

- 11.1** **Remembrance Day** – formerly known as “Day of the Dead” this day commemorates the departed Slovenia
- All Saints Day** - celebrated in honor of all the saints; also known as All Hallows International
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- 11.2** **All Souls' Day** - a day to remember friends, family, and loved ones who have died Uruguay, Haiti, Angola, El Salvador, Nicaragua
- Día de los Muertos** (Day of the Dead) - a celebration that blends Christian and Aztec traditions; departed souls are remembered with a spirit of friendliness and good humor instead of mourning Mexico
- Dzyady** (Remembrance Day) - an age-old Belarusian tradition originating out of Pagan times and later adopted into Christianity; a special plate and glass are set at dinner in remembrance of deceased relatives Belarus
- Commemoration of the Dead** San Marino
- Senor de la Buena Muerte** (Lord of the Good Death) Peru
- Finados** Brazil
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- 11.3** **Independence Day** (Separation Day) – to celebrate independence from Colombia in 1903 Panama
- Bunka no Hi** (Culture Day) - a holiday to promote the love of freedom, peace, and cultural development Japan
- Festivity of San Martin de Porres** – held on the date of San Martin’s death to commemorate his life and service; St. Martin was a brother of the Dominican Order Peru
- FSM Independence Day** - marks the day on which the Federated States of Micronesia gained independence as a sovereign nation in 1986 Micronesia

11.3	Victory Day – celebrates the victory of Maldives over the terrorist group in Sri Lanka	Maldives
	Independence of Cuenca Day - in 1820 Cuenca, the third largest city in Ecuador and the capital of the Azuay province, gained its independence from Spain; the day is celebrated with processions through the streets, dancing, and cultural performances and activities	Ecuador
	Thanksgiving Day - observed the first Thursday of November	Liberia*
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11.4	St. Carlos Borromeo - the feast day of St. Carlos Borromeo, an Italian saint responsible for many significant reforms during the period of Counter-Reformation	Andorra
	Citizenship Day - to commemorate the day in 1986 that the covenant to establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in political union with the United States of America went into effect	Northern Marianas
	Community Service Day	Dominica
	Constitution Day - anniversary of the passage of the Tongan Constitution, enacted by King George Tupou, in 1875	Tonga
	Flag Day - celebrated the day after Panama declared its independence from Colombia in 1903	Panama
	National Unity Day - commemorates the victory over Austria-Hungary in 1918	Italy
	Unity Day - commemorates the popular uprising which expelled the Polish-Lithuanian occupation from Moscow in November, 1612	Russia
	Arbor Day - a holiday in which individuals and groups are encouraged to plant and care for trees; observed the first Friday of November	Samoa*

11.5	Colón Day – a celebration of independence from Colombia in 1903	Panama
	Guy Fawkes Night (Bonfire Night) - celebrates the foiling of the Gunpowder Plot in 1605 in which a number of catholic conspirators, including Guy Fawkes, attempted to blow up the Houses of Parliament in London	United Kingdom
	Waqf al Arafa - on this day, it is common for Muslim pilgrims to walk from Mina to the nearby Plain of Arafa, where Muhammad gave his final sermon; many Muslims fast on this day to repent for their sins	Islam
	Cry of Independence Day - marks the day in 1811 in which Jose Matias Delgado, a Salvadoran priest, doctor, and leader of the independence movement, rung the bells of the Church of La Merced, as a public cry for liberty and independence from Spain	El Salvador
	Kurban Bayrami/Eid-e Ghorban/ Eid al-Adha (Feast of Sacrifice) – an annual celebration to commemorate Abraham’s sacrifice of a ram in substitution of his son, Ishmael; this feast comes at the completion of the Haji (pilgrimage to Mecca) and feed the poor	Islam*
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11.6	Tulsi Vivah – the ceremonial marriage of the Tulsi plant (holy basil) to the Hindu god Vishnu or his Avatar Krishna; usually performed on the 11 th or 12 th lunar day of the month Kartik	Hindu*
	Constitution Day - commemorates the day in 1844 that the first constitution was adopted after gaining independence from Haiti	Dominican Republic*
	Green Day March - commemorates the day in 1975 when 350,000 unarmed Moroccan civilians, including both men and women, marched into the Western Sahara area to reclaim it for Morocco from Spain	Morocco

- 11.6** **Confucius' Birthday** – celebrated the 27th day of the eighth month in the lunar calendar Vietnam*
- Constitution Day** – commemorates the day in 1994 that the constitution was adopted Tajikistan
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- 11.7** **New Era Day** – commemorates the accession of President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, who took power on this day in 1987 in a bloodless coup, ousting President Habib Bourguiba, who had been President since the country became independent on March 20, 1956 Tunisia
- Accord & Reconciliation Day** – a day to commemorate the 1941 parade through Red Square, carried out as an act of defiance to the German army, which was only approximately 12 miles away; from 1917 until the Soviet Union's final collapse in 1991, the day was officially known as the Day of the Great Socialist October Revolution, celebrating the Bolshevik Revolution which deposed the Russian Monarchy and introduced communism to the world Former states of Soviet Union
- Revolution Day** - commemorates the 1975 uprising of the people and soldiers, led by Colonel Abu Taher; this ended the three day coup organised by General Khaled Mosharraf and put General Ziaur Rahman, founder of Bangladesh Nationalist Party, in power Bangladesh
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- 11.8** **Mitrovdan** (St. Demetrius Day) – to honor a patron saint of the ruling Rurikid family; he was a Christian martyr who lived during the 4th century and was one of the most revered military saints Bosnia Herzegovina & Serbia
- World Town Planning Day** - a day to give special recognition to the ideals of community planning; it is celebrated to draw attention to the aims, objectives, and progress of urban and regional planning International

Cretan National Day	Greece
Queen's Birthday - commemorates the birthday of Queen Aishwory	Nepal
Father's Day – celebrated the second Sunday of November	Finland, Norway, & Sweden*

11.9	Berlin Wall Opening Day - marks the day in 1989 when East Berliners were allowed to cross into West Berlin; within weeks of this event communist regimes began to crumble across Eastern Europe	Germany
	Constitution Day – commemorates the day in 1990 the new democratic constitution was created; prior to this day, Nepal was a monarchy	Nepal
	Independence Day - observes independence from French rule in 1953	Cambodia
	Allama Muhammad Iqbal Day - commemorates the birthday of Sir Muhammad Iqbal, Muslim poet, philosopher, and politician, considered to be the greatest 20th-century poet to write in Urdu; his vision of an independent state for Muslims of British India inspired the creation of Pakistan	Pakistan
	Virgen de la Almudena (Virgin of Almudena) – a day to honor the patron saint of Madrid	Spain

11.10	First Call for Independence from Spain – commemorates the first call for independence from Spain, which was declared on November 28, 1821	Panama
	Loy Kratong - a festival held to pay homage to the goddess of rivers and waterways, Mae Nam; celebrated during the full moon of the 12 th month in the Thai lunar calendar	Thailand*

11.10 Militsiya Day – a day to pay tribute to police officers in Russia Russia

11.11 Veteran's Day/Armistice Day - marks the anniversary of the symbolic end of World War I. Commemorates the armistice signed between the Allies and Germany; a day to honor members of the armed forces killed during war

Belgium,
France,
French
Polynesia,
Guadeloupe,
US, New
Caledonia,
Puerto Rico,
St. Martin,
Switzerland

Remembrance Day - commemorates the sacrifices of members of the armed forces and of civilians in times of war

Bermuda,
Canada,
Guadeloupe

Guru Nanak's Birthday – a celebration of the founder of Sikhism (also revered by Punjabi Hindus and Sahajdhari Sindhis); legend has it that after bathing in the Bein river, Nanak received a message from God; after 3 days of visions, he gave all of his possessions away and spread the message, “There is neither Hindu nor Muslim,” thereby promoting fraternity and universalism

Sikh*

Independence Day - commemorates the restoration of independence in 1918

Poland

Concordia Day - a national public holiday celebrating the arrival of Columbus to the island in 1493; also a celebration of the French and Dutch concordant to establish a harmonious and peaceful coexistence of both countries together on one island

St. Martin

Gansabhauet - an archaic tradition celebrated in Sursee on St. Martin's Day; the tradition comes from the Middle Ages when interests and taxes were due on Martini day and farmers had to deliver 10% of their crops in town

Switzerland

- 11.11 St. Martin's Day** - celebrates the life of Martin of Tours, a Roman soldier turned monk UK, Scotland, Denmark
- Independence Day** - commemorates independence from Portugal in 1975 Angola
- Lacplesa Day** - commemorates the victory over the Bermontians at the battle of Riga in 1919 Latvia
- Independence of Cartagena** – on this day in 1811, Cartagena declared its independence from Spain; celebrated on the 11th, if that is a Monday, or the following Monday Colombia*
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- 11.12 Constitution Day** – commemorates the adoption of their constitution on this day in 1995 Azerbaijan
- Dr. Sun Yat-sen's Birthday** - celebrates the life of Dr. Sun Yat-sen, forerunner of China's democratic revolution. He dedicated his life to independence, reunification, prosperity, human rights, freedom, democracy and livelihood. He was born on this day in 1866 Taiwan
- Santa Cruz Massacre** - remembered in East Timor as one of the bloodiest days in their history, one that drew national attention to their fight for independence in 1991 East Timor
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- 11.13 Father's Day** Norway
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- 11.14 King Hussein's Birthday** - celebrates the life of the late King Hussein who became king of Jordan in 1952 and reigned for nearly five decades Jordan
- Prince of Wales' Birthday** - celebrates the birth of Prince Charles, eldest son and Heir Presumptive to the Throne of the United Kingdom British Virgin Islands

11.14	Anniversary of the Movement of Readjustment - on this date in 2002 the President dismissed the Government of Prime Minister Alamara Nhasse, dissolved the National Assembly, and called for legislative elections	Guinea Bissau
	Eid-e Ghadir Khom – to commemorate the day on which Hazrat Ali was officially nominated the successor of Prophet Mohammad by Holy Prophet himself on the order of Allah	Iran
	Children’s Day - honors all children and commemorates the 1889 birth of Jawaharlal Nehru, the first premier of India	India
	Volkstrauertag - National day of mourning observed to commemorate those who have died in war; is observed the Sunday nearest November 16	Germany*
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11.15	Shichi-Go-San (Seven-Five-Three) - an ancient celebration that marks the special ages of seven, five, and three	Japan
	Proclamation of the Republic - commemorates the day in 1889 when Brazil’s second Emperor, Dom Pedro II, was deposed and the United States of Brazil was declared	Brazil
	National Peace Day	Ivory Coast
	The King’s Feast – a ceremony held in honor of the King	Belgium
	Proclamation of “T.R. Northern Cyprus” - celebrated by the Turkish Cypriots as the Independence Day	Cyprus
	Independence Day - on this day in 1988 the independent state of Palestine was proclaimed by the Palestine National Council	Palestinian Authority
	Prince Charles’ Birthday - celebrated the 3 rd Monday in November to commemorate the birth of Prince Charles on November 14, 1948	Fiji

11.15	Day of Arafat (Waqf al Arafat) – an important pilgrimage day; Muslim pilgrims gather near Mount Arafat, the site where Muhammad gave his famous Farewell Sermon	Islam
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11.16	Guss-und Bettag (Day of Prayer and Repentance) – a day for Protestants to pray and reflect on quiet thoughts; observed on the last Wednesday before November 23 rd and 11 days before the start of Advent	Germany*
	Anniversary of Huaripampa	Peru
	Correction Day - commemorates the day in 1970 in which the Correction Movement, lead by then defense minister Hafez al-Assad, finally brought long lasting stability after years of political disturbance	Syria
	Saint Eustatius Day - commemorates the official state holiday; celebrates the time a Dutch commander saluted an American brig, thus making Statia the first government to recognize American Independence	St. Eustatius
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11.17	Struggle for Freedom & Democracy Day - commemorates the student demonstration against Nazi occupation in 1939, and especially the demonstration in 1989 in Prague considered to make the beginning of the Velvet Revolution	Slovakia
	Army Day - a day to honor military forces	Zaire
	Day of National Revival - commemorates the day in 1988 which began several days of meetings to protest Moscow's policies. It was the beginning of the new national movement	Azerbaijan
	Presidents' Day	Marshall Islands*
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11.18	Battle of Vertières Day - commemorates the Battle of Vertieres, a defining campaign in the Haitian's revolution against France	Haiti
	Independence Day - commemorates independence from France in 1956, after a protracted struggle	Morocco
	National Day - on this day in 1918 Latvia gained its independence from Russia	Latvia
	Flag Day – to honor the country's flag, approved this day in 1991	Uzbekistan
	National Day - commemorates the many accomplishments of Oman since the beginning of its modern renaissance under His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said; this day marks the birth of Sultan Qaboos	Oman

11.19	Discovery of Puerto Rico Day - celebrates the day Christopher Columbus found Puerto Rico on his second voyage to the New World in 1493	Puerto Rico
	Monaco National Day - a day to honor and celebrate the national tradition and the identification; held on the day of Saint Rainier d'Arrezzo	Monaco
	Garifuna Settlement Day - anniversary of the arrival of 500 Garifunas (a combined race consisting of Africans, Arawaks, and Yellow Caribs) to Belize in 1823	Belize
	Liberation Day - anniversary of the bloodless coup in 1968 which removed Modibo Keita from power	Mali

11.20	Dia da Consciencia Negra - a day celebrated by Brazilians of African descent to honor Zumbi dos Palmares, the last of the leaders of the Quilombo dos Palmares	Brazil
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11.20	Teacher's Day - a day to honor teachers for their effort in educating the young	Vietnam
	Dia de la Revolucion - commemorates the Mexican Revolution which began on this day in 1910 and ended in 1920	Mexico
	Totensonntag - held the Sunday before Advent to commemorate the dead	Germany*
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11.21	World Television Day - commemorates the date on which the first World Television Forum was held at the United Nations in 1996. The day is observed by encouraging global exchanges of television programs focusing on issues such as peace, security, economic and social development, and the enhancement of cultural exchanges	International
	Saint Archangel Michailo - the Serbian feast day for St. Michael	Serbia
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11.22	Independence Day - commemorates the declaration of independence from France on this day in 1943	Lebanon
	Day of 1970 Invasion - commemorates the 1970 seaborne attack of Guinea by the Portuguese	Guinea
	Feast of St. Cecilia - honors Saint Cecilia, the patroness of music, musicians, and musical instrument makers	St. Lucia
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11.23	Kinro Kansha-no-Hi (Labor Thanksgiving Day) – a holiday to honor working people and productivity	Japan
	Rudolph Maister Day – a day to honor a Slovene military officer, an accomplished poet, self-taught painter, and political activist	Slovenia
	Giorgoba (St. George's Day)	Georgia

11.24 Thanksgiving Day

US & Palau

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- 11.25 Mange-Yam/Fete de la moisson** (Eating the Yams) - Haiti
a harvest festival which includes the consecration of new yams which symbolize the continuation of life
- Independence Day** - commemorates independence from the Netherlands in 1975 Surinam
- National Statehood Day** - commemorates the day in 1943 when Bosnia and Herzegovina was reestablished as a republic within the Yugoslavian federation Bosnia-Herzegovina
- Anniversary of Moquegua** - the anniversary of the Spanish foundation of Moquegua city; it is celebrated with artistic, cultural and sports activities Peru
- St. Catherine's Day** – commemorates the martyrdom of St. Catherine; it also marks the arrival of winter France
- International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women** – a day set aside to raise public awareness of violence against women; first observed on this day in the year 2000 International
- Anniversary of the Death of President Ahmed Abdallah** – President Ahmed Abdallah served until his death on this day in 1978 Comoros

11.26 Al Hijra Muharram (Islamic New Year)

Islam

Argel Accord Day

São Tomé e Príncipe

Proclamation Day - commemorates the 1924 proclamation of the Mongolian People's Republic, which made Mongolia the world's second communist nation

Mongolia

11.27 First Sunday of Advent Christian
Hasyl Toyy (Harvest Holiday) – observed the last Sunday of November Turkmenistan*

11.28 Bonifacio Day – to honor the life of Andres Bonifacio y de Castro, a Filipino revolutionary leader and one of the main rebel leaders of the Philippine Revolution against Spain in the late 19th century Philippines*

Independence Day - marks the independence from Spain in 1821 Panama

Feast of Sacrifice Azerbaijan

Independence Day – marks the 1912 declaration of independence from the Ottoman Empire Albania

Independence Day – commemorates the independence of Mauritania since 1960 Mauritania

Republic Day – anniversary of the proclamation of the republic in 1958 Chad

11.29 President Tubman's Birthday - celebrates the life of William Vacanarat Shadrach Tubman, president of Liberia from 1944 until his death in 1971; he is regarded as the “father of modern Liberia” Liberia

Unity Day Vanuatu

Liberation Day - commemorates the day in 1944 when invading German and Italian troops were driven out by Allied forces Albania

11.30 National Day - commemorates the establishment of a Marxist-Leninist state on the anniversary of the day in 1975 when the official name of the country was changed from Dahomey to Benin Benin

11.30	St. Andrews Day	UK, Haiti, Scotland
	Independence Day - commemorates independence from Britain in 1966	Barbados
	Independence Day - commemorates independence from Britain in 1967	Yemen

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>.