

# INTERNATIONAL HOLIDAYS AND CELEBRATIONS



## OCTOBER 2010

### **10.1—Independence Day;** Nigeria

Commemorates three events: when Nigeria gained independence from Britain in 1960, became a federal republic with a new constitution in 1963, and restored to civilian rule in 1979

### **10.1—National Day;** China

A two-day celebration of the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949

### **10.1—Mehregan** (Autumn Festival); Iran

Celebrates God creating the sun, which gave light to the world. The mythical king Fereydoon brought peace to earth on this day by defeating Zahak, an evil symbol

### **10.1—Independence Day;** Palau

The Compact of Free Association took effect on this day in 1994. It established a constitutional government in free association with the United States.

### **10.1—National Day;** Hong Kong

### **10.1—Tuvalu Day** (Independence Day); Tuvalu

Commemorates independence from the United Kingdom

### **10.1—Unification Day;** Cameroon

Marks the anniversary of the British Southern Cameroons' independence from the United Kingdom and unification with French Cameroun in 1961

### **10.1—International Music Day;** International

Proclaimed by the UN/UNESCO in 1975 as an annual event to celebrate music.

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### **10.2—Gandhi Jayanti;** India

Marks the birth of Mahatma Gandhi in 1869. He was born in Porbander, India, and is honored as a leader of Indian nationalism and Hindu religious beliefs

### **10.2—Independence Day;** Guinea

Celebrates independence in 1958

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### **10.3—Tag der Deutschen Einheit** (Day of German Unity); Germany

Commemorates the date in 1990 when East and West Germany were reunited as one country

### **10.3—Tangun Day** (Gaecheonjeol or National Foundation Day); South Korea

Observes when the legendary Tangun, founder of the nation, established his kingdom of Chosun in 2333 BCE

### **10.3—Day of the Francisco Morazán;** Honduras

Honors General Jose Francisco Morazán Quezada, a Central American statesman, lawyer, and orator born in Honduras in 1792. He was also the leader of the Liberal Party, President of the Federal Republic of Central America, and Head of state of Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador, and Costa Rica

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**10.4—Independence Day;** Lesotho

Commemorates independence from the United Kingdom in 1966

**10.4—Peace Day;** Mozambique

Anniversary of the signing of the 1992 Peace General Agreement that put an end to the war in Mozambique

**10.4—St. Petronius Day;** Italy

The feast day of St. Petronius, Bishop of Bologna renowned in Italy for his virtues

**10.4—Labor Day;** Australia

Celebrates the Australian labor movement. Observed the first Monday in October

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**10.5—National Sports Day;** Lesotho

**10.5—Republic Day;** Portugal

Celebrates the end of the Monarchy and the beginning of the Portuguese Republic

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**10.6—Armed Forces Day;** Egypt

Commemorates the Egyptian Army's initial successful crossing of the Bar Lev Line and initial tactical victories in the October War

**10.6—October Revolution War;** Syria

Anniversary of the war between Arab countries and Israel

**10.6—Remembrance Day;** Turkmenistan

Anniversary of the 1948 earthquake

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**10.7—Our Lady of the Rosary;** Spain

The feast day of Our Lady of the Rosary

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**10.8—Battle of Angamos (Navy Day);** Peru

A naval battle fought on this day in 1879 between Peru and Chile during the naval stage of the War of the Pacific

**10.8—Death of Henri Christophe;** Haiti

Honors the key leader in the Haitian Revolution whose leadership helped win independence from France in 1804. He served as President of the State of Haiti in 1807 and proclaimed himself Henri I, King of Haiti, in 1811

**10.8—Independence Day;** Croatia

Commemorates independence from Yugoslavia in 1991

**10.8—National Tree Planting Day;** Namibia

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**10.9—Hangul Day;** South Korea

Celebrates the invention of the 24-letter phonetic Korean alphabet, Hangul, in 1446 under the direction of King Sejong of the Yi dynasty

**10.9—Independence Day;** Uganda

Commemorates independence from the United Kingdom in 1962

**10.9—Independence of Guayaquil Day;** Ecuador

Anniversary of the day in 1820 when a group of civilians supported by soldiers from the Granaderos de Reserva overwhelmed the resistance of the Royalist guards and declared independence from Spain

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**10.10—Double Tenth Day;** Taiwan

A commemoration of the proclamation of the Chinese Republic in 1911

**10.10—Independence War;** Cuba

Marks the beginning of the Ten Year's War in 1868 when sugar mill owner Carlos Manuel de Cespedes and his followers proclaimed Cuba's independence from Spain

**10.10—Party Foundation Day**; North Korea

Anniversary of the founding meeting of the North Korea Bureau of the Communist Party of Korea on this day in 1945

**10.10—Cirio de Nazare**; Brazil

The start of the two-week "Candle Procession" of northern Brazil celebrated since the last part of the eighteenth century.

Observed the second Sunday of October

**10.10—Fiji Day**; Fiji

Commemorates the granting of Fiji to the British in 1874

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**10.11—Revolution Day**; Macedonia

Marks the day in 1941 when Macedonians rose up against fascist occupation

**10.11—Revolution Day**; Palau

**10.11—Columbus Day/Dia de la Raza**; International

Commemorates the arrival of Christopher Columbus in the Americas on October 12, 1492. Observed the second Monday of October

**10.11—Health and Sports Day**; Japan

Commemorates the opening of the 1964 Summer Olympics held in Tokyo, and exists to promote sports and an active lifestyle. Observed the second Monday of October

**10.11—Thanksgiving**; Canada

An annual holiday to give thanks at the close of the harvest season. Observed the second Monday in October

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**10.12—Nossa Senhora de Aparecida**; Brazil

Celebrates Brazil's patron saint, the Virgin Mary Aparecida

**10.12—Day of Liberation from the French**; Laos

**10.12—Independence Day**; Equatorial Guinea

Marks anniversary of independence since 1968

**10.12—National Holiday of Spain** (also Hispanidad Day); Spain

Honors Columbus' discovery of the New World

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**10.13—Rwagasore Day**; Burundi

Anniversary of the assassination of Prince Louis Rwagasore, Burundi nationalist, prime minister, and founder of the Union for National Progress

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**10.14—President's Day**; Zaire

Birthday of President Mobutu

**10.14—Petkouden**; Bulgaria

The feast day of St. Petka, or Paraskevi

**10.14—Santa Fortunata**; Peru

A day to honor Santa Fortunata, a martyr from the early days of Christianity, whose remains rest in an urn in the church of Santo Domingo. On the eve locals prepare for the verbena (night festival) and the burning of fireworks announcing the holiday.

**10.14—The October Revolution**; Yemen

Commemorates the revolts of 1962

**10.14—Nyerere Day**; Tanzania

A day to honor the first president of the United Republic of Tanzania, Julius Kambarage Nyerere, who is considered the father of the country

**10.14—Day of Svetitskhoveli Cathedral** (in Mtskheta); Georgia

Celebration of the first Christian church in Georgia. According to chronicles, holy chiton (shirt) of the Savior is buried under this church

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**10.15—Cayenne Festival**; French Guiana

A festival in the capital city of French Guiana featuring dance and light shows

**10.15—Evacuation Day;** Tunisia

Commemorates the withdrawal of French troops in 1962

**10.15—National Tree Planting Day;** Sri Lanka

**10.15—Rectification Day;** Burkina Faso

Marks the day in 1987 when President Blaise Compaore launched the Movement of Rectification that led to the establishment of democratic institutions, leading to political freedom and economic renewal in the framework of regional and global integration

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**10.16—St. Gallus Day;** Switzerland

The feast day of St. Gall

**10.16—World Food Day;** International

A worldwide event designed to increase awareness, understanding and informed year-round action to alleviate hunger

**10.16—Chung Yeung Festival;** Hong Kong

A day to respect and remember ancestors. Families journey to the graves of their ancestors to perform cleansing rites and pay their respects

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**10.17—Dessalines Day;** Haiti

Anniversary of the death of Jean Jacques Dessalines, a revolutionary who was declared emperor in 1805

**10.17—Feast of St. Margaret Alacoque;** St. Lucia

The feast day of Saint Marquerite Marie Alacoque, a French Roman Catholic nun and mystic, who promoted devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus in its modern form. She is the patron saint of those suffering with polio and those who have lost their parents

**10.17—International Day for the Eradication of Poverty;** International

A campaign by the UN to make poverty history. It was first observed on this day in 1987. On that day over a hundred thousand people gathered at the Trocadero in Paris, where the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was signed in 1948. Attendees proclaimed that poverty is a violation of human rights and affirmed the need to come together to ensure that these rights are respected.

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**10.18—National Flag Day;** Chile

The national flag was adopted on this day in 1817

**10.18—National Independence Day;** Azerbaijan

Commemorates independence from the Soviet Union in 1991

**10.18—Persons Day;** Canada

Anniversary of the day in 1929 when the appeals court for the Canadian Supreme Court ruled that women were eligible “persons” and could therefore be appointed to the Senate

**10.18—Senor de Luren;** Peru

Celebrated in Ica the third week of October. Senor de Luren is the patron saint of Ica

**10.18—Heroes’ Day;** Jamaica

Observed on the third Monday in October. It is a celebration of the island’s seven National Heroes, and also the date on which awards within the Jamaican honors system are bestowed

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**10.19—Constitution Celebration;** Niue

Commemorates the Schedules of the Niue Constitution Act on this day in 1974

**10.19—Samora Machel Day;** Mozambique

Celebrated on the Anniversary of Samora Moises Machel’s death. Machel was a Mozambican military commander, revolutionary socialist leader and eventual President of Mozambique. He led the country to independence and served as president until his death in 1986

**10.19—Mother Teresa Day;** Albania

Mother Teresa’s homeland of Albania honors her with a national holiday. October 19 is the anniversary of the day in 2003 that she was beatified by the Vatican

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**10.20—Birthday of the Bab;** Baha'i

Remembers the 1819 birth of Siyyid Al Muhammad, who took the title of "the Bab" and is recognized as a prophet-herald of the faith. Begins at sundown the previous day

**10.20—Belgrade Liberation Day;** Serbia

Commemorates liberation in World War II

**10.20—Kenyatta Day;** Kenya

A day to honor all the heroes who died fighting for independence and is named for the country's founding president, Jomo Kenyatta

**10.20—Revolution Day;** Guatemala

Commemorates the overthrow of General Jorge Ubico's dictatorship in 1944 by the October Revolutionaries

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**10.21—Anniversary of President Ndadaye's Death;** Burundi

Melchior Ndadaye, the first democratically elected and first Hutu president of Burundi, was assassinated on this day in 1993 amidst a failed military coup

**10.21—Overseas Chinese Day;** Taiwan

The ROC government shows its appreciation for the support and contributions of overseas Chinese on this day

**10.21—St. Ursula Day;** British Virgin Islands

The feast day of St. Ursula

**10.21—Egyptian Naval Day;** Egypt

Celebrates the destruction of Israeli destroyer Eilat in 1967

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**10.23—Chulalongkorn Day;** Thailand

Commemorates the 1910 death of the king who abolished slavery in the 1800s

**10.23—Cambodia Peace Treaty Day;** Cambodia

Celebrates the peace treaty among the warring factions, signed in Paris on this day in 1991

**10.23—Day of Proclamation of the Republic;** Hungary

Commemoration of the 1956 Revolution as well as the anniversary of the Day of Proclamation of the Republic of Hungary on this day in 1989

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**10.24—Independence Day;** Zambia

Commemorates independence from the United Kingdom in 1967

**10.24—United Nations Day;** International

Anniversary of the creation of the United Nations on this day in 1945

**10.24—Suez Day;** Egypt

Celebrates the resistance of local citizens in Suez during the October War, a war between Arab states led by Egypt and Syria, against Israel

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**10.25—Constitution Day;** Lithuania

Anniversary of the approval by referendum of the Constitution on this day in 1992

**10.25—Republic Day;** Kazakhstan

Anniversary of the adoption of the "Declaration on State Sovereignty of Kazakh SSR" by Kazakh legislature in 1990

**10.25—Retrocession Day;** Taiwan

Celebrates the return of Taiwan to Chinese rule after the defeat of Japan in 1945, thereby ending 55 years of Japanese colonial occupation

**10.25—Thanksgiving Day;** Grenada

Commemorates the anniversary of the 1983 Caribbean and American military intervention in Grenada. On this date a joint military force landed in Grenada to restore order to the country following the deaths of then Prime Minister Maurice Bishop and a number of his colleagues

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**10.26—Angam Day;** Nauru

A day of celebration and a time of reflection for the Nauruan people. Twice in its history, the Nauruan population fell below 1,500, and the Nauruan ethnic group have been considered in danger of extinction. Upon eclipsing a population of 1,500, Angam Day was declared

**10.26—Armed Forces Day;** Benin & Rwanda

**10.26—National Day;** Austria

Commemorates the day in 1955 when the Soviet Union ended its occupation, and a constitutional law of perpetual Austrian neutrality was enacted

**10.26—St. Demetrius Day;** Bulgaria

The feast day of Saint Demetrius of Thessaloniki, a Christian martyr who is said to have lived in the early 4<sup>th</sup> century

**10.26—Karva Chauth;** Hindu

A fast honoring the god Shiva and goddess Parvati. It is given special consideration by Hindu women to ensure the welfare, prosperity, and longevity of their husbands

**10.26—Peniamina Day;** Niue

Anniversary of the creation of the first church by Fakafitifonua and Peniamina

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**10.27—Independence Day;** St. Vincent & the Grenadines

Anniversary of independence on this day in 1979

**10.27—Naming Day;** Zaire

Anniversary of the day in 1971 when the country's name was changed from the Democratic Republic of the Congo to Zaire. The name, meaning "river", the flag, and the anthem are celebrated with Naming Day, also known as Three Zs Day

**10.27—National Flag Day;** Greece

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**10.28—Ochi Day;** Greece

Commemorates the Greeks' resistance to Benito Mussolini's Italian troops in 1940. *Ochi* means "no!"

**10.28—Den vzniku samostatneho ceskoslovenskeho statu-1918** (Independence Day); Czech Republic

Commemorates independence from Austria-Hungary in 1918

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**10.29—Cumhuriyet Bayrami** (Republic Day); Turkey

Anniversary of the 1923 founding of the republic

**10.29—Naming Day;** Tanzania

Marks the day in 1964 when the United Republic of Tanganyika and Zanzibar officially changed its name to the United Republic of Tanzania

**10.29—National Youth Day;** Liberia

**10.29—Turkish Republic Day;** Cyprus

Anniversary of the declaration of an independent Republic of Turkey on this day in 1923

**10.29—Coronation Day;** Cambodia

Commemorates the coronation of His Majesty King Norodom Sihamoni

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**10.30—Simchat Torah;** Jewish

Means "rejoicing in the Torah" and immediately follows Sukkot. It celebrates the conclusion of the public reading of the Torah. Begins at sundown the previous day

**10.30—Creole Day;** Dominica

A celebration of Dominica's Creole language and culture which includes traditional dancing, folklore, food, and music

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**10.31—Samhain;** Celtic, Pagan

The first day of the New Year and marks the move from summer to winter in the Northern Hemisphere. This harvest festival, one of the "Greater Sabbats," honors Saman, an ancient lord of the dead. According to folklore, on this day the souls of all those who had died the previous year gathered

**10.31—Chiang Kai-shek's Birthday;** Taiwan

Chiang Kai-shek was born on this day in 1887. He served as Generalissimo of the Nationalist Government of the Republic of China from 1928 to 1948. He also served as President of the Republic of China

**10.31—King's Birthday;** Cambodia

Commemorates the birthday of King Father Norodom Sihanouk

**10.31—Reformation Day**; Slovenia

**10.31—Reformation Day**; Germany

A religious holiday celebrated in remembrance of the Christian reform movement in Europe begun by Martin Luther