



OCTOBER 2011

- 10.1 Cyprus Independence Day** – after a five-year struggle, Cyprus won its independence from the UK in 1960
Cyprus
- People's Republic of China Birthday** - a two-day celebration of the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949
China
- Unification Day** - marks the anniversary of the British Southern Cameroons' independence from the United Kingdom and unification with French Cameroun in 1961
Cameroon
- Captains Regent Day** – the day on which the two heads of state, the two “Regent Captains,” are invested with their powers in Piazza Liberta; occurs twice per year
San Marino
- Independence Day** - the Compact of Free Association took effect on this day in 1994; it established a constitutional government in free association with the United States
Palau
- Armed Forces Day**
South Korea
- Independence Day** - commemorates three events: when Nigeria gained independence from Britain in 1960, became a federal republic with new constitution in 1963, and restored to civilian rule in 1979
Nigeria

10.1	Patriotism Day	Rwanda
	Mehregan (Autumn Festival) – also known as the Persian Festival of Autumn, is an ancient Persian fest which is dedicated to Mehr (or Mithra/Mitra), the goddess and symbol of light, friendship, faith, love and kindness	Iran
	National Day - commemorates the founding of People's Republic of China on this day in 1949	Hong Kong
	Tuvalu Day (Independence Day) - commemorates independence from the United Kingdom	Tuvalu
	International Music Day - proclaimed by the UN/UNESCO in 1975 as an annual event to celebrate music	International

10.2	Gandhi Jayanti - 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	India
	Independence Day – celebrates independence from France in 1958	Guinea

10.3	Tag der Deutschen Einheit (Day of German Unity) - commemorates the date in 1990 when East and West Germany were reunited as one country	Germany
	Day of the Francisco Morazán (Soldiers' Day) - 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	Honduras
	Independence Day – on this day in 1932, Iraq attained independence from the United Kingdom	Iraq

10.3	<p>Tangun Day (National Foundation Day) – on this day in 2333 BCE, the legendary Tangun, founder of the nation, established his kingdom of Chosun</p>	South Korea
	<p>Labour Day – a celebration of the achievements of organized labor on behalf of the worker to bring about the 8-hour day in the late 1850’s; observed the first Monday in October</p>	South Australia, New South Wales, Australia Capital Territory*
<hr/>		
10.4	<p>Peace Day - anniversary of the signing of the 1992 Peace General Agreement that put an end to the war in Mozambique</p>	Mozambique
	<p>Independence Day - commemorates independence from the United Kingdom in 1966</p>	Lesotho
	<p>St. Petronius Day - the feast day of St. Petronius, Bishop of Bologna renowned in Italy for his virtues</p>	Italy
<hr/>		
10.5	<p>Republic Day - celebrates the end of the Monarchy and the beginning of the Portuguese Republic</p>	Portugal
	<p>Constitution Day – commemorates the signing of the constitution on this day in 1979</p>	Vanuatu
	<p>Double Ninth Day – a traditional Chinese holiday and Taoist festival celebrated on the 9th day of the 9th lunar month; defined by a double dose of this potent yang energy is considered to be imbalanced, in a potentially dangerous way; people do things to protect themselves, including climbing mountains, drinking chrysanthemum wine, and carrying sprigs of Dogwood; some visit the graves of their ancestors, as a way to pay respect on Double Ninth Day</p>	Taiwan*
	<p>National Sports Day</p>	Lesotho

10.6	Remembrance Day - anniversary of the 1948 earthquake	Turkmenistan
	Armed Forces Day - commemorates the Egyptian Army's initial successful crossing of the Bar Lev Line and initial tactical victories in the October War	Egypt
	October Revolution War - anniversary of the war between Arab countries and Israel	Syria
<hr/>		
10.7	Italian Evacuation Day – commemorates the exodus of the Italian settlers from Libya	Libya
<hr/>		
10.8	Yom Kippur – a 25-hour period set aside for fasting and prayer; one's fate is inscribed for the coming year into the Book of Life on Rosh Hashanah and that fate is sealed on Yom Kippur	Judaism*
	Birthday of Yang di-Pertua of Melaka – Yang di-Pertua is the head of state of the Malaysian states	Malaysia
	Battle of Angamos [Navy Day] – a naval battle fought on this day in 1879 between Peru and Chile during the naval stage of the War of the Pacific	Peru
<hr/>		
10.9	Independence Day – independence from Britain was secured on this day in 1962	Uganda
	Nangul Day – commemorates the invention and proclamation of hangul, the native alphabet of the Korean language	South Korea
	Death of Henri Christophe – 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	Haiti

10.9	Independence Day - commemorates independence from Yugoslavia in 1991	Croatia
	Independence of Guayaquil Day - 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	Ecuador
	Cirio de Nazare - 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	Brazil
<hr/>		
10.10	Moi Day – a day set aside to honor the accomplishments of Moi, their former president, who died in 1978	Kenya
	Independence War - 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	Cuba
	Double Tenth Day (Wuchang Uprising) – commemorates the proclamation of the Chinese Republic in 1911	Taiwan
	Sports Day (taiku no hi) – staged by schools and offices, people take part in competitive sporting activities; also known as field day; usually held on the second Monday in October	Japan*
	Party Foundation Day – commemorates the founding meeting of the North Korea Bureau of the Communist Party of Korea on this day in 1945	North Korea
	Columbus Day (Dia de la Raza) - a celebration of the arrival of Christopher Columbus in the Americas; observed the second Monday in October	US, Puerto Rico, Belize, Uruguay, El Salvador, Costa Rica, Bahamas, Mexico, Chile*

10.10	Fiji Day - commemorates the granting of Fiji to the British in 1874	Fiji
	Thanksgiving Day – observed the second Monday in October	Canada*
<hr/>		
10.11	Revolution Day - marks the day in 1941 when Macedonians rose up against fascist occupation	Macedonia
	Revolution Day	Palau
<hr/>		
10.12	Sharad Purnima – a harvest festival; a traditional celebration of the moon; according to a folk-tale, a king suffered financial loss due to his evil behavior, but after his queen observed this fast and worshipped Laxmi, the goddess of wealth, their prosperity was restored	Hindu*
	Race Recognition Day	Argentina
	National Day – honors Columbus’ discovery of the New World	Spain
	Our Lady of Aparecida - celebrates Brazil’s patron saint, the Virgin Mary Aparecida	Brazil
	Day of Indigenous Resistance – a day to honor the victims of violence of Spanish settlers	Venezuela
	Independence Day - marks the anniversary of independence since 1968	Equatorial Guinea
	Vap Full Moon Poya Day – marks the end of the Vassa “rain” retreat, a 3-month period of intensive medication and practice; held on the Full Moon of October	Sri Lanka
	Day of Liberation – commemorates the liberation of Laos from her protective status with France and the establishment of her monarchy in 1954	Laos

10.13 Anniversary of Rwagasore's Assassination - Burundi
anniversary of the assassination of Prince Louis
Rwagasore, Burundi nationalist, prime minister, and
founder of the Union for National Progress

Succot (Tabernacles) – commemorates the Judaism
wandering of the Jews in the wilderness after their
Exodus from the hands of the Egyptians, when they
had to dwell in makeshift booths or huts

10.14 Svetitskhovloba (Georgia Orthodox Festival) - Georgia
celebration of the first Christian church in Georgia;
according to chronicles, holy chyton (shirt) of the
Savior is buried under this church

October Revolution (National Day) – commemorates Yemen
the revolts of 1962

President's Day - Birthday of President Mobutu Zaire

Petkouden – the feast day of St. Petka, or Paraskevi Bulgaria

Santa Fortunata - a day to honor Santa Fortunata, Peru
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

Nyerere Day - a day to honor the first president of Tanzania
the United Republic of Tanzania, Julius Kambarage
Nyerere (who died on this day in 1999), who is
considered the father of the country

10.15 Mother's Day Malawi

Evacuation Day - commemorates the withdrawal of Tunisia
French troops in 1962

Cayenne Festival - a festival in the capital city of French Guiana
French Guiana featuring dance and light shows

- 10.15 National Tree Planting Day** Sri Lanka
- Rectification Day** - 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 Burkina Faso
- Karva Chauth** – on this day married women observe a fast and pray for the long life, well being and prosperity of their husband; after the fast, in the evening, family and friends gather to exchange gifts and share a home-cooked meal Hindu
-

- 10.16 St. Gallus Day** - the feast day of St. Gall Switzerland
- World Food Day** – commemorates the founding of the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO); this year's theme is *Food prices – From crisis to stability* International
- Chung Yeung Festival** - a day to respect and remember ancestors; families journey to the graves of their ancestors to perform cleansing rites and pay their respects Hong Kong
-

- 10.17 International Day for the Eradication of Poverty** - International
a campaign by the UN to make poverty history; it was first observed this day in 1987, on which 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
- Senor de Luren** - celebrated in Ica the third week of October; Senor de Luren is the patron saint of Ica Peru

10.17	Peniamina Gospel Day – to honor a native of Nuie who was successful in converting his fellow islanders to Christianity	Nuie*
	Dessalines Day - anniversary of the death of Jean Jacques Dessalines, a revolutionary who was declared emperor in 1805	Haiti
	National Heroes' Day – honors Jamaica's seven national heroes; observed the third Monday in October	Jamaica*
	Feast of St. Margaret Alacoque - 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	St. Lucia
<hr/>		
10.18	Independence Day - commemorates independence from the Soviet Union in 1991	Azerbaijan
	National Flag Day – first observed on this day in 1817	Chile
	Persons Day - 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	Canada
<hr/>		
10.19	Constitution Celebration - commemorates the Schedules of the Niue Constitution Act on this day in 1974	Nuie
	Samora Machel Day - 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	Mozambique

10.19 Mother Teresa Day - Mother Teresa's homeland of Albania honors her with a national holiday; on this day in 2003 she was beatified by the Vatican

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

Kenya

Sh'mini Atzeret – marks the end of the Sukkot festival; dedicated to the love of God

Judaism

Birthday of the Bab - 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

Baha'i

Belgrade Liberation Day – commemorates the liberation in World War II

Serbia

Revolution Day – commemorates the overthrow of General Jorge Ubico's dictatorship in 1944 by the October Revolutionaries

Guatemala

10.21 Armed Forces Day – on this day in 1956, military reformists ousted Lozano Diaz from power

Honduras

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

Burundi

Hurricane Day – commemorates the destruction of Funafuti caused by Hurricane Bebe in 1972

Tuvalu

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

Taiwan

St. Ursula Day – the feast day of St. Ursula

British Virgin Islands

10.21	Egyptian Naval Day - celebrates the destruction of Israeli destroyer Eilat in 1967	Egypt
10.23	Chulalongkorn Day - commemorates the 1910 death of the king who abolished slavery in the 1800s	Thailand
	Republic Day - commemorates the 1956 Revolution as well as the anniversary of the Day of Proclamation of the Republic of Hungary this day in 1989	Hungary
	Day of the Macedonian Revolutionary Struggle – to commemorate the founding of the Macedonia Revolutionary Organization on this day in 1893	Macedonia
	Cambodia Peace Treaty Day - celebrates the peace treaty among the warring factions, signed in Paris on this day in 1991	Cambodia
10.24	United Nations Day – commemorates the anniversary of the Charter of the United Nations	Haiti & Palau
	Independence Day - commemorates independence from the United Kingdom in 1967	Zambia
	Birthday of the Sultan of Pahang	Malaysia (Pahang)
	Labour Day – observed the fourth Monday in October	New Zealand*
	Suez Day (Popular Resistance Day) – celebrates the resistance of local citizens in Suez during the October War	Egypt
10.25	Dhanteras – entrances are decorated with traditional motifs of rangoli designs to welcome the goddess of wealth and prosperity	Hindu*
	Republic Day - anniversary of the adoption of the “Declaration on State Sovereignty of Kazakh SSR” by Kazakh legislature in 1990	Kazakhstan

10.25	Retrocession Day - celebrates the return of Taiwan to Chinese rule after the defeat of Japan in 1945, thereby ending 55 years of Japanese colonial occupation	Taiwan
	Thanksgiving Day - 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 colleague	Grenada
	Constitution Day – anniversary of the approval by referendum of the Constitution on this day in 1992	Lithuania

10.26	Armed Forces Day	Benin & Rwanda
	Angam Day - 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 has been considered in danger of extinction; upon eclipsing a population of 1,500, Angam Day was declared	Nauru
	Diwali/Deepavali (Festival of Lights) – a joyous celebration for all; earthen lamps are lit and everyone is adorned in new and brightly colored clothing	Hindu*
	National Day - commemorates the day in 1955 when the Soviet Union ended its occupation, and a constitutional law of perpetual Austrian neutrality was enacted	Austria
	St. Demetrius Day - the feast day of Saint Demetrius of Thessaloniki, a Christian martyr who is said to have lived in the early 4 th century	Bulgaria
	Peniamina Day (Gospel Day) - anniversary of the creation of the first church by Fakafitifonua and Peniamina; observed the fourth Friday in October	Nuie*

10.27	National Flag Day	Greece
--------------	--------------------------	--------

10.27	<p>Govardhana Puja/Laxhmi Puja – celebrated as the day Krishna defeated Indra; Lord Krishna taught people to worship nature, as mountains bring rains to earth and to stop worshipping the God of Rains, Lord Indra</p>	Nepal
	<p>Independence Day – on this day in 1991, Turkmenistan declared its independence from the USSR</p>	Turkmenistan
	<p>Independence Day – anniversary of independence on this day in 1979</p>	St. Vincent & the Grenadines
<hr/>		
10.28	<p>Ochi Day (Greek National Day) - commemorates the Greeks' resistance to Benito Mussolini's Italian troops in 1940; ohci means "no!"</p>	Cyprus & Greece
	<p>Bhai Beej – an Indian traditional festival that brings out the love and affection of brothers and sisters</p>	Hindu*
	<p>Den vzniku samostatneho ceskoslovenskeho statu-1918 (Independence Day) – commemorates independence from Austria-Hungary in 1918</p>	Czech Republic
<hr/>		
10.29	<p>Cumhuriyet Bayrami (Republic Day) – anniversary of the declaration of an independent Republic of Turkey on this day in 1923; parades with flags and music set help commemorate the republic's founding</p>	Turkey & Cyprus
	<p>Coronation Day - commemorates the coronation of His Majesty King Norodom Sihamoni</p>	Cambodia
	<p>Naming Day – on this day in 1964, the United Republic of Tanganyika and Zanzibar officially changed its name to the United Republic of Tanzania</p>	Tanzania
	<p>National Youth Day – a day to celebrate the contributions of the Liberian youth towards the growth and development of the nation</p>	Liberia

10.30	Creole Day - a celebration of Dominica's Creole language and culture which includes traditional dancing, folklore, food, and music	Dominica*
10.31	Halloween – a Pagan holiday on which the hostile supernatural forces are believed to wander freely	US & Scotland
	Day of Reformation - a religious holiday celebrated in remembrance of the Christian reform movement in Europe begun by Martin Luther	Germany & Slovenia
	Former King's Birthday, Norodom Sihanouk - commemorates the birthday of King Father Norodom Sihanouk	Cambodia
	Samhain - 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 gather	Pagan
	Chiang Kai-shek's Birthday - born on this day in 1887, Chiang Kai-shek 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	Taiwan

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>.