

INTERNATIONAL HOLIDAYS AND CELEBRATIONS



SEPTEMBER 2011

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| <p>9.1 Ganesh Chaturthi – festival of Ganesh, the son of Shiva and Parvati, who is believed to bestow his presence on earth for all his devotees in the duration of the festival; celebrations continue for 5, 7, or 10 days</p> <p>Constitution Day - Commemorates the adoption of the constitution in Bratislava on this day in 1992</p> <p>Fulpati Saptami/Maha Nawami/Vijaya Dashami</p> <p>National Day - Anniversary of the overthrow in 1969 of King Idris I, which led to the establishment of a republic</p> <p>Independence Day - anniversary of independence from Russia in 1991</p> <p>Reincorporation of Tarata - commemorates the day in 1929 that the city was reincorporated to Peruvian territory</p> <p>Start of the Armed Struggle - anniversary of the beginning of the struggle for independence which started in 1961</p> <p>Worker's Day (Labor Day)</p> <p>Territory Day – commemorates the day in 1956 when the federation of the Leeward Islands was abolished</p> | <p>Hindu*</p> <p>Slovakia</p> <p>Nepal, India, Bangladesh</p> <p>Libya</p> <p>Uzbekistan</p> <p>Peru</p> <p>Eritrea</p> <p>Marshall Islands</p> <p>British Virgin Islands</p> |
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9.2	National Day (independence from the French in 1945) - celebrates independence from the French in 1945. At that time, the country was split into communist North Vietnam and	Vietnam
	Rijerbal Day (Workers Day) – celebrated the 1 st Friday in September	Marshall Islands*
	Rishi Panchami/Janmashtami - a new moon festival celebrated with fasting in honor of the Hindu deity Lord Krishna	Hindu*
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9.3	Independence Day - anniversary of the assumption of power of Sheikh Jassem bin Mohamed al-Thani, ancestor of the current ruling family, in 1878	Qatar
	San Marino's Day & Foundation of the Republic – celebrates the Feast of San Marino and the origin of the republic in 301	San Marino
	Levy Mwanawasa Day – the birthday of the 3 rd president who initiated a campaign to rid the country of corruption	Zambia
	National Flag Day - commemorates the first occasion when the flag was flown in 1901	Australia
	Armed Forces Day	Taiwan
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9.4	Civil Servant's Day	Venezuela
	Father's Day – celebrated on the 1 st Sunday of September	Australia*
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9.5	Anniversary of Chachapoyas - anniversary of the founding of Chachapoyas on this day in 1538 by the Spanish conquistador Alonso de Alvarado	Peru
	Luxembourg City Kermesse (jour férié d'usage) - on this day Luxembourg City celebrates its annual Kermesse or fete; observed the 1 st Monday in September	Luxembourg*
	Labor Day – celebrated on the 1 st Monday in September with parades	US, Bermuda, Puerto Rico, Canada, Palau*

9.6	Armed Forces Day - recognizes and honors the valor of the military force	São Tomé e Príncipe
	Flag Day/Bonaire Day - a day of celebratory events. Each year, the festivities take place in a different barrio (or neighborhood)	Bonaire
	Defense Day - anniversary of the end of the Pak-India War II in 1965	Pakistan
	Unification Day - anniversary of the unification of Bulgaria and Eastern Rumelia	Bulgaria
	Somhlolo (Independence Day) - marks independence from Great Britain in 1968	Swaziland

9.7	Independence Day – a celebration of independence from Portugal on this day in 1822; it was declared by Dom Pedro I, son of the King of Portugal and the first Brazilian Emperor, but the independence act was not recognized until August 29, 1825	Brazil
	Victory Day/Lusaka Agreement Day – in honor of an agreement to end the Second Congo War through a ceasefire, release of prisoners, and the deployment of an international peacekeeping force under the auspices of the UN	Mozambique
	National Tree Planting Day	Namibia

9.8	Feast of Our Lady of Victories – to commemorate the lifting of the 1565 barricade against the Turks, the surrender of the French in 1800 and the end of the barricade of the Axis powers in 1943	Malta
	National Day & Our Lady of Meritxell – beginning of a three-day festival to honor the patron saint of Andorra	Andorra
	Crowning of Vytautas the Great - Vytautas Didysis was a national leader and named king in 1429 but died before he could be crowned	Lithuania
	Dia de Asturias – a festive day of the autonomous Spain of the Principality of Asturias	Spain
	International Literacy Day - a day to focus on worldwide literacy issues. An estimated one in seven persons is illiterate, and out of a total of 680 million illiterate adults, more than 500 million are women	International

9.8	Mala Gospa (Little Lady) – a feast day to honor the Virgin Mary	Bosnia-Herzegovina
	Nativity of Our Lady – a festival to honor the Virgin Mary	Liechtenstein
	Siege of Leningrad Day - anniversary of the unsuccessful military operation by the Axis powers to capture Leningrad; the siege lasted from September 9, 1941, to January 27, 1944	Russia
	Liberation Day	Micronesia

9.9	Independence Day - anniversary of the founding of the DPRK in 1948	North Korea,
	Father Laval Day - a day to honor Pere Laval, the saint of Mauritius, who dedicated his life to fighting against slavery, becoming a symbol of racial harmony and integration	Mauritius
	Independence Day - anniversary of independence from the Soviet Union in 1991	Tajikistan
	Independence Day – anniversary of independence from Yugoslavia in 1991	Macedonia

9.10	Teacher's Day - a day for students to show their appreciation for teachers	China
	St. George's Caye Day - anniversary of the battle which ended on this day in 1798	Belize
	Gibraltar National Day - commemorates the 1967 referendum when the people of Gibraltar voted to reject Spanish sovereignty	Gibraltar

9.11	Enkutatash - the Ethiopian New Year, celebrated as a national holiday; Enkutatash means “gift of jewels” and relates to the story of the ancient Ethiopian Queen, the Queen of Sheba; after her visit with King Solomon in Jerusalem, the queen was offered fine jewels for her homecoming; falls on the 11 th except for leap years when it falls on the 12 th	Coptic & Ethiopian Orthodox Christian, Ethiopia, Egypt*
	Patriot Day – in memory of the 2,977 killed by terrorists on this day in 2011	U.S.

<p>9.11 Catalan National Day - commemoration of the 1714 Siege of Barcelona defeat during the War of the Spanish Succession</p>	Spain
<p>Quaid-e-Azam/Jinnah's Death Anniversary - a day to honor Muhammad Ali Jinnah, father of the state of Pakistan, who died on this day in 1948</p>	Pakistan
<p>Reconciliation Day</p>	Chile*
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<p>9.12 Chuseok (Korean Thanksgiving) - a time to give thanks for the harvest and pay respects to ancestors; rice cakes shaped like crescent moons are eaten</p>	North Korea, South Korea*
<p>Mid-Autumn Festival / Moon Festival / Mooncake Festival / Lantern Festival – a festival for lunar worship and moon watching, celebrated with fireworks</p>	Taiwan*
<p>Binara Full Moon Poya Day – commemorates the day the Buddha visited heaven and preached to his mother and to the heavenly multitude</p>	Sri Lanka*
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<p>9.13 Pitru Paksha Begins – a 16-day period when Hindus pay homage to their ancestors through food offerings</p>	Hindu
<p>Librarian's Day</p>	Argentina
<p>International Chocolate Day</p>	International
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<p>9.14 Finding of the True Cross – a feast day that commemorates the finding of the true Cross by St. Helena</p>	Greece
<p>Battle of San Jacinto – anniversary of the Battle of San Jacinto in 1856</p>	Nicaragua
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<p>9.15 Independence Day - after the final Spanish defeat in the Mexican War of Independence, the authorities in Guatemala declared these Central American countries independent on this day in 1821</p>	Costa Rica, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Guatemala, Honduras
<p>International Day of Peace (World Peace Day) - first observed in 1981</p>	International

9.15	Nuestra Senora de la Bien Aparecida	Spain
	Shout of Dolores (Cry of Independence) – the battle cry (<i>¡Viva Mexico!</i>) that marked the beginning of the Mexican War of Independence	Mexico
	Software Freedom Day – a worldwide celebration of free software	International
	Our Lady of Sorrows – a feast in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Slovakia
	Restoration Day	Slovenia

9.16	Independence Day – commemorates the call for independence from Spanish rule by Father Miguel Hidalgo	Mexico
	Malaysia Day/Birthday of Yang di-Pertua of Sabah - commemorates the establishment of the Malaysian federation on this day in 1963	Malaysia
	International Day of the Preservation of the Ozone Layer - commemorates the day in 1987 on which nations signed the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer	International
	Mayflower Day – commemorates the day in 1620 on which the Mayflower sailed from Plymouth, England to America	U.S.
	Owain Glyndwr Day – on this day in 1400, Owain Glyndwr was proclaimed Prince of Wales, after rebelling against English rule; he is a key figure in Welsh history and was the last Welsh-born Prince of Wales	Wales
	Stepfamily Day	U.S.
	Constitution Day – ratified this day in 1975	Papua New Guinea

9.17	National Heroes' Day - celebrated on the birthday of the national hero Agostinho Neto	Angola
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9.18	Dia de la Unidad Nacional (National Union Day) – commemorates their independence from Spain in 1818	Chile
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9.18 Swiss Federal Fast – a federal day of thanksgiving, repentance and prayer is a rather sober holiday celebrated on the 3rd Sunday in September Switzerland*

Victory of Uprona - anniversary of the 1961 elections for National Assembly which resulted in a sweeping victory for UPRONA, the party Burundi

Oktoberfest Begins - a two-week harvest celebration observed by feasting and drinking, music, dance and other folk customs; the festival began in 1810 and traditionally commenced when the Lord Mayor of Munich tapped the first keg of beer Germany

9.19 Keiro-no-Hi (Respect for the Aged Day) – a day to honor and pay tribute to the elderly; celebrated on the 3rd Monday of September Japan*

Día de las Glorias del Ejército (Armed Forces Day) – celebrated with a parade in which all the branches of the armed forces display some of their troops and equipment in a special part of "Parque O'Higgins" in Santiago Chile

Independence Day - commemorates independence from the United Kingdom in 1983 St. Kitts, Nevis

St. Januarius Day - feast day of St. Januarius, a bishop of Naples who was beheaded around the year 305 for visiting incarcerated deacons at the sulphur mines of Puteoli; St. Januarius is the patron saint of Naples, where the faithful gather three times a year in Naples Cathedral to witness the alleged liquefaction of what is claimed to be a sample of his blood kept in a sealed glass ampoule Italy

9.20 Liberation Day East Timor

9.21 Independence Day – commemorates the restoration of the Republic of Armenia on this day in 1991, ending 70 years of Soviet rule Armenia

Independence Day – secured on this day in 1981 Belize

Independence Day – commemorates its independence from Britain, secured this day in 1964 Malta

- 9.21 International Day of Peace** - a day of global ceasefire and nonviolence, and an invitation to all nations and people to honor cessation of hostilities U.N.
- World Gratitude Day** - designated by the U.N. Meditation Group as a day to give thanks; first celebrated in 1965 International
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- 9.22 Independence Day** - commemorates independence from the Ottoman Empire Bulgaria
- Independence Day** - commemorates independence from France in 1960 Mali
- Birthday of Princess Martha Louise** - honors the birth of Martha Louise of Norway, on this day in 1971; she is the daughter of King Harald V and Queen Sonja and fourth in line of succession to the Norwegian throne Norway
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- 9.23 Equinox** - in the Northern Hemisphere, autumn begins today with the autumnal equinox; in the Southern Hemisphere, today is the beginning of spring; the daylight length is virtually the same everywhere on the earth today - 12 hours and 8 minutes International
- Mabon** - occurs on this day in the Northern Hemisphere Celtic, Pagan
- Ostara** - occurs on this day in the Southern Hemisphere Celtic, Pagan
- Shubun no hi** - a day to pay respects to deceased parents, grandparents, and other family members; activities include cleaning the tombstones, offering flowers and food, burning incense and praying Japan
- Martyrdom Imam Jafar Sadegh** - highly respected by both Sunni and Shi'a Muslims for his great Islamic scholarship, pious character, and academic contributions Iran
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- 9.24 Heritage Day** - celebrates cultural diversity and serves as a time for South Africans of various heritages to strengthen bonds South Africa

9.24	French Treaty Day - marks the day in 1853 when Admiral Despointes took possession of New Caledonia for France	New Caledonia
	Constitution Day - celebrates the signing of the constitution by King Sihanouk in 1993	Cambodia
	Anniversary of the Failed Attack on Lomé	Togo
	National Day - independence was proclaimed by Portuguese Guinea on this day in 1973; the Republic of Guinea-Bissau was formally recognized by Portugal on September 10, 1974	Guinea Bissau
	Our Lady of las Mercedes - the feast day for Our Day of Mercy, originally known as Our Lady of Ransom	Dominican Republic, Spain, Peru

9.25	Armed Forces Day - also known as Popular Liberation Forces Day; anniversary of the start of the Armed Struggle for National Liberation	Mozambique
	Roi Wangol & Mousondi - a voodoo holy day	Haiti
	Kamarampaka Day - Commemorates the anniversary of the abolition of the monarchy in 1961 and is marked yearly with the opening of the National Assembly	Rwanda
	Niklaus of Flue Day - The feast day of Saint Nicholas of Flue, a Swiss hermit and ascetic who is the patron saint of Switzerland	Switzerland, Germany

9.26	Shastradihatanam	Hindu
	Revolution Day - commemorates the revolution in 1962 which is considered the beginning of the revolution against British colonialism	Yemen

9.27	Sarva Pitri Shraddha Begins – it is believed that during the period of Pitru Paksha the Soul of deceased ancestors come down to earth from Yamalok to earth in search of water from their descendents	Hindu
	St. Vincent de Paul Day - the feast day of St. Vincent de Paul, patron saint of charitable societies as well as patron saint of Madagascar	Madagascar

- 9.27 French Community Holiday** - a holiday held only in the French Community of Belgium. The date of the holiday is the anniversary of the victory of the Belgian Revolution in 1830 Belgium
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- 9.28 Meskel (Finding of the True Cross)** - commemorates the finding of the True Cross, the cross (meskel) on which Jesus Christ was crucified. According to legend, the cross was found in the fourth century by Queen Helena, mother of the Roman emperor, Constantine; celebrations begin with gathering of yellow flowers and tying them with branches; on the eve before the feast of the Meskel, flowers are lit in a spectacular bonfire Ethiopian Orthodox Christian
- Navaratri Commences** – a nine night’s festival, celebrated in the honor of Durga (Warrior Goddess), Lakshmi (Goddess of Wealth and Prosperity), and Saraswati (Goddess of Knowledge) Hindu
- Teacher's Day** - celebrated on Confucius’ birthday; Confucius was a Chinese thinker and social philosopher, whose teachings and philosophy have been deeply influential; his philosophy emphasized personal and governmental morality, correctness of social relationships, justice and sincerity Taiwan
- Confucius’ Birthday** - commemorates the birth in 551 BCE of the teacher Confucius, who was perhaps one of the most influential men in Chinese history; he stressed five virtues: charity, justice, propriety, wisdom, and loyalty China, Taiwan
- Referendum Day** - anniversary of the day in 1958 when there was a public vote for independence Guinea
- Day of Czech Statehood** - commemorates the day on which the Czech Prince Wenceslas of the Přemyslid dynasty, was murdered by his treacherous brother Boleslav in a ruthless bid for power; held on St. Wenceslas Day, the day of the patron saint of the Czech lands; Czech Republic
- Rosh Hashanah** (New Year) – a time to remember the creation of the world; also called Feast of the Trumpets Judaism*
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- 9.29 Battle of Boquerón** - anniversary of the end of the 1930 border conflict Paraguay

<p>9.29 Manman Aloumandia – a Voodoo holiday</p> <p>Michaelmas – the feast day for St. Michael the Archangel</p>	<p>Haiti</p>
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<p>9.30 Agricultural Reform Day - a day to celebrate the importance agriculture plays in the lives of residents of Sao Tome & Principe; the dominate crop is cocoa, representing approximately 95% of exports; other export crops include copra, palm kernels, and coffee</p>	<p>São Tomé e Príncipe</p>
<p>Manit Day - an annual celebration that honors local culture, cultural values, and customs; observed the last Friday in September</p>	<p>Marshall Islands*</p>
<p>Youth Day - celebrated the last Friday in September</p>	<p>Turks & Caicos Islands*</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>.