



INTERNATIONAL HOLIDAYS AND CELEBRATIONS

JULY 2009

7.1—**Canada Day**; Canada

Marks the joining of the Canadian provinces in 1867

7.1—**Foundation of the Republic**; Somalia

Commemorates the day in 1960 that Italian Somaliland gained independence and also the merger of British and Italian regions of the country

7.1—**Liberation Day**; Suriname

Marks the end of slavery, in 1863, when the country was a Dutch territory

7.1—**SAR Establishment**; Hong Kong

Commemorates the reversion of the city from British to Chinese rule in 1977

7.1—**Tirgan** (Rain Festival); Iran

A celebration of the harvest and a counter to drought. The day also honors Arash Kamangir, a mythical character who gave his life as he threw an arrow over Damavand Mountain to establish the border of Iran and Turan

7.1—**Emancipation Day**; St. Eustatius

Commemoration of the abolition of slavery

7.1—**Heiva I Tahiti**; French Polynesia

A festival to showcase Tahiti's rich culture

7.1—**Independence Day**; Burundi

Celebrates independence from Belgium in 1962

7.1—**National Day**; Rwanda

Anniversary of independence from Belgium when sovereignty was granted in 1962

7.1—**Sir Seretse Khama Day**; Botswana

Celebrates the life of Botswana's last prime minister during the colonial era and the independent nation's first president

7.1—**Territory Day**; British Virgin Islands

This holiday originated in 1956 when the Federation of the Leeward Islands, created in 1872, was dissolved

7.2—**Flay Day**; Curacao

Celebrated with official ceremonies and cultural events

7.3—**Danish West Indies Emancipation Day**; US Virgin Islands

Celebrates the freedom for slaves in the Danish West Indies achieved in 1848

7.3—**Independence Day**; Belarus

Marks liberation of Minsk from German occupation by Soviet troops in 1944

7.4—Birthday of Queen Sonja; Norway

Marks the birth in 1937 of Queen Sonja of Norway, the queen consort of Norway and wife of King Harald V

7.4—Commemoration of Jewish Genocide; Latvia

The official commemoration day of victims of genocide

7.4—Day of Agwe; Haiti

A celebration of Agwe, god of the sea and ruler over sea going vessels, stormy weather, and cannons of all things

7.4—For Independence Day; Guam

7.5—Independence Day; Venezuela

Commemorates the proclamation of independence from Spain in 1811. Independence was not achieved until 1821

7.5—St. Cyril & St. Methodius Day; Czech Republic

The feast day of Saints Cyril & Methodius, two Greek brothers who became missionaries of Christianity among the Slavs of Great Moravia and Pannonia. Through their work they influenced the cultural development of all Slavic peoples for which they received the title “Apostles to the Slavs”

7.5—Independence Day; Algeria

Marks independence from France in 1962

7.5—Independence Day; Cape Verde Islands

Marks independence from Portugal in 1975

7.5—Peace and Unity Day; Rwanda

Marks the anniversary of the 1973 coup

7.5—Tynwald Day; Isle of Man

Also known as “Midsummer Court”, on this day the Isle’s legislature meets in St. John’s instead of Douglas. The session is held in both the Royal Chapel of St. John the Baptist and the open air on Tynwald Hill

7.6—Jan Hus Day; Czech Republic

An official public holiday in honor of the Bohemian religious reformer and philosopher Jan Hus, who was condemned as a heretic and burned at the stake on this day in 1415. His teachings inspired the revolutionary Hussite movement, and he remains an inspiring legendary figure

7.6—Family Day; Lesotho

Celebrated the first Monday in July

7.6—Fisherman’s Day; Marshall Islands

Celebrated with fairs and festivals related to the lives of the fishermen

7.6—Anniversary of the Coronation of King Mindaugas; Lithuania

Honors the first known grand Duke of Lithuania who was crowned king in 1251 and is generally considered the founder of the Lithuanian state

7.6—Independence Day; Comoros

Anniversary of the declaration of independence made in 1975

7.6—Republic Day; Malawi

Celebrates independence in 1964

7.6—Eino Leino Day; Finland

Honors Eino Leino, poet and first writer to use Finnish fluently for all artistic purposes

7.7—Independence Day; Solomon Islands

Commemorates independence gained from Britain in 1978

7.7—Saba Saba; Tanzania

Commemorates the 1954 founding of the Tanzanian political party, TANU

7.7—Running of the Bulls; Spain

The first running of the bull in Pamplona during the San Fermin festival which is held every year from July 6-14

7.7—Victory Day; Yemen

7.9—Independence Day; Argentina

Marks independence from Spain in 1816

7.9—Aïd Chebeb (Youth Day); Morocco

Celebrates the birthday of King Hassan II, born in 1929

7.9—Martyrdom of the Bab; Baha'i

Commemorates the arrest, torture, imprisonment, and execution of the Bab, the prophet-herald of the faith, in Tabriz, Persia, in 1850. Begins at sundown the previous day

7.9—Constitution Day; Palau

Commemorates the anniversary of the 1979 constitution

7.9—Sao Paulo State Civil Holiday; Brazil

7.10—Death of El Cid; Spain

Marks the anniversary of the death of Rodrigo Diaz de Vivar, known as El Cid Campeador, a Castilian nobleman, gifted military leader and diplomat who, after being exiled, conquered and governed the city of Valencia

7.10—Independence Day; Bahamas

Marks independence from the United Kingdom in 1973

7.11—Naadam Day; Mongolia

Commemorates the overthrow of the monarch in 1921 and includes horse racing, archery, and wrestling competitions

7.11—Flemish Community Holiday (Guldensporenslag); Belgium

Celebrated on this day every year in remembrance of the Battle of Golden Spurs or Guldensporenslag

7.11—La Fete de la Magdalene; France

The feast day of Mary Magdalene

7.12—Aniversario Puerto Maldonado; Peru

7.12—Orangemen's Day; United Kingdom

Commemorates the 1690 Protestant victory over Roman Catholic forces in the Battle of the Boyne in Ireland. King William of Orange, the Protestant King of England, defeated former King James II, a Catholic

7.12—Battle of the Boyne Day; Ireland

Marks the battle fought in 1690 between two rival claimants of the English, Scottish, and Irish thrones, the Catholic King James and the Protestant King William, who won the battle

7.12—Independence Day; Kiribati

Marks independence from British Colonial rule in 1979

7.12—Independence Day; Sao Tome & Principe

Marks independence from Portugal in 1975

7.12—Petrovdan; Bosnia-Herzegovina

A feast in honor of the holy apostles Peter and Paul

7.13—O-Bon (Feast of Lanterns); Japan

Celebrated from July 13 to 15 in some areas and from August 13 to 15 in others. According to Buddhist beliefs, the dead revisit earth at this time, so lanterns are lit for their souls

7.13—Statehood Day; Montenegro

7.14—Bastille Day; France

Commemorates the event that launched the French Revolution. The Bastille held political prisoners and became a symbol of oppression by the monarchy. On this date in 1789 the Bastille was stormed and prisoners freed

7.14—Emmeline Pankhurst Day; United Kingdom

Marks the anniversary of Emmeline Pankhurst's death. Pankhurst was a political activist and leader of the British suffragette movement

7.14—Fandoana Bathing Festival; Madagascar

7.14—Crown Princess' Birthday; Sweden

Celebrates the birth of Victoria Ingrid Alice Desiree, Crown Princess of Sweden, Duchess of Vastergotland, and heiress apparent of the Swedish throne, born in Stockholm on this day in 1977

7.14—Turkment Bakhsi Holiday; Turkmenistan

7.15—Sultan’s Birthday; Brunei Darussalam

Honors the birth of Hassanal Bolkiah Mu’izzaddin Waddaulah, the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, on this day in 1946

7.15—St. Swithin’s Day; United Kingdom

Named after St. Swithin, a Saxon Bishop of Winchester, on this day people watch the weather because tradition says that whatever the weather is like on this day, it will continue so for the next forty days

7.15—St. Rosalia Day; Italy

A day to honor the patron saint of Palermo, a pious young woman credited for saving the city from a plague in 1624

7.16—Lunes del Cerro; Mexico

A festival dedicated to the corn goddess, Centeotl. The festival is held to ask the gods for sufficient rain and a bountiful harvest

7.16—Virgen del Carmen; Peru

A festival mixing Andean pre-Columbian ceremonies and Catholic religion in which masked, costumed dancers relive ancient gods and rites

7.17—Constitution Day; South Korea

Commemorates the proclamation of the constitution of the Republic of Korea in 1948

7.17—Muñoz-Rivera Day; Puerto Rico

The anniversary of the 1859 birth of Luiz Muñoz-Rivera, a Puerto Rican patriot, poet, and journalist

7.18—Asalhapuja; Buddhist

A Theraveda Buddhist celebration of the Buddha’s first sermon and the setting of the Wheel of Truth into the world

7.18—Constitution Day; Uruguay

Commemorates the constitution of 1951 which set up a collegiate form of government

7.18—Nelson Mandela’s Birthday; South Africa

Honors Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela, first President of South Africa to be elected in a fully representative democratic election, born on this day in 1918

7.19—Liberation Day; Nicaragua

Observes the day in 1979 that the army claimed victory over the dictator Anastasio Somoza Debayle

7.19—Birthday of Yang di-Pertuan Besar of Ng Sembilan; Malaysia

7.19—Edgar Degas’ Birthday; France

Celebrates the birth of Edgar Degas, a French artist famous for his work in painting, sculpture, printmaking, and drawing, and considered one of the founders of Impressionism

7.19—Martyr’s Day; Myanmar and Burma

Commemorates the day in 1947 when several of Burma’s independence leaders were gunned down by a group of armed men in uniform while they were holding a cabinet meeting in downtown Rangoon

7.20—Independence Day; Colombia

Celebrates the day in 1810 when the country declared its independence from Spain

7.20—Birthday of Crown Prince Haakon; Norway

Marks the birth of Haakon Magnus, Crown Prince of Norway, in 1973 in Oslo

7.20—Peace and Freedom Day; Cyprus

Marks the day in 1974 when Turkish military intervention was launched to end the violence between Greek and Turkish Cypriots

7.20—St. Elijah’s Day; Bulgaria

7.21—Liberation Day; Guam

Commemorates the day in 1944 that U.S. forces freed the island from the Japanese

7.21—National Holiday; Belgium

Marks accession of Leopold I in 1931, after independence from the Netherlands

7.21—Umi-no-Hi (Marine Day); Japan

A national holiday to honor the importance of the sea and its role in Japanese history and culture

7.21—Schoelcher Day (Abolition of Slavery); St. Martin and Guadeloupe

Celebrated on the birthday of Victor Schoelcher, a French parliamentarian who lived and traveled on the islands of Guadeloupe and Martinique, becoming interested in the lives of black slaves and worked toward the abolishment of slavery in French territory in 1848

7.21—St. George Festa; Malta

The feast day of St. George

7.22—Birthday of King Sobhuza II; Swaziland

Marks the birth of Ngwenyama Sobhuza II, Paramount Chief and later King of Swaziland for over 60 years

7.22—Liberation Day; Gambia

Commemorates the revolutionary dislodge of a reactionary government that misled, misinformed, and kept the Gambian masses out of the limelight of government activities

7.22—National Tree Planting Day; Central African Republic

7.23—Revolution Day; Egypt

Commemorates the 1952 revolution, ending the monarchy

7.23—Birth of Haile Selassie I; Ethiopia

Commemorates the 1982 birth of the former emperor of Ethiopia. He was born Tafari Makonnen and later took the name Haile Selassie, meaning Power of the Holy Trinity. The etymology of Rastafari is based on the word *ras*, meaning “prince”, and Haile Selassie’s birth name, *Tafari*

7.23—Bata’s Fiesta; Equatorial Guinea

7.23—National Children’s Day; Indonesia

A day to celebrate the lives of Indonesia’s young people

7.24—Birth of the Libertador (Bolivar Day); Venezuela & Ecuador

Honors the life of Simon Jose Antonio de la Santisima Trinidad Bolivar Palacios y Blanco, one of the most important leaders of Spanish America’s successful struggle for independence. He served as President of Gran Colombia, Peru, and Bolivia

7.24—Children’s Day; Vanuatu

7.24—Fiesta de Santiago; Peru

A festive and traditional pageant of color, with exuberant dances and women in layered, multicolored skirts

7.25—Constitution Day; Puerto Rico

Commemorates the approval of a constitution in 1952

7.25—Foundation of Guayaquil Day; Ecuador

Commemorates in founding of Guayaquil, the largest and the most populous city in Ecuador, as well as the nation’s main port, on this day in 1538

7.25—Galicia National Day; Spain

Celebrated on the feast day of St. James, Galicia is an autonomous community in northwest Spain, and was one of the first kingdoms of Europe

7.25—Gospel Day (Rarotonga only); Cook Islands

A celebration with plays, singing, dancing, and music, this is a chance to experience both the traditional culture and the Christian heritage of the islands

7.25—Guanacaste Day; Costa Rica

Anniversary of the decision made by the people of Guanacaste in 1824 to become part of Costa Rica

7.25—Moncada Anniversary; Cuba

Anniversary of the 1953 attack on the Moncada army garrison in the Oriente province in Cuba by a group of rebels

7.25—Papa Ogou (St. Jacques le Majeur); Haiti

7.25—Republic Day; Tunisia

Marks the founding of the republic in 1957

7.25—Santiago Day; Spain

The feast day of St. James, the patron saint of Spain and Galicia

7.25—Yalong Cultural Festival; Tibet

An important component of the Tibetan culture, the festival includes games, folk dances, opera, and a Tibetan dress show

7.26—Independence Day; Liberia

Commemorates the adoption of a constitution in 1847, thereby becoming Africa's first independent republic

7.26—National Day; Cuba

Marks the beginning of Fidel Castro's revolution in 1953

7.26—Independence Day; Maldives

Anniversary of independence from the United Kingdom in 1957

7.27—Lu Pan Day; Hong Kong

The festival day for Lu Pan, a builder, carpenter, and possessor of miraculous power believed to live around the time of 600 BC

7.27—Jose Barbosa Day; Puerto Rico

Celebrates Jose Celso Barbosa, political leader of Puerto Rico known as the "father of the Statehood for Puerto Rico movement", and the first Puerto Rican with an American medical degree

7.28—Independence Day; Peru

Marks the day in 1821 when independence from Spain was declared. Spanish rule ended in 1824

7.28—Fall of Fascism; San Marino

A holiday commemorating Italian dictator Benito Mussolini's resignation in 1943

7.28—Olavsoka Eve; Faroe Islands

Celebrated on the eve before the Faroese Parliament opens its session, this celebration includes a cavalcade and boat races

7.29—Aymaraes; Peru

7.29—Maitresse Silverine; Haiti

7.29—St. Olav's Day; Norway

A day to celebrate St. Olav, the patron saint of Norway, and king of Norway from 1015-1028

7.30—Independence Day; Vanuatu

Commemorates independence gained in 1980

7.30—MicMac Festival of St. Ann; Canada

A religious festival which attracts MicMac Indian people from all parts of Nova Scotia

7.30—Tisha B'Av; Israel

An annual fast day in Judaism named for the ninth day of the month of Av in the Hebrew calendar and commemorates the destruction of the first and second temples in Jerusalem

7.31—Feast of St. Ignatius Loyola; Spain

Commemorates the life of St. Ignatius Loyola (1491-1556), who founded the Society of Jesus, the Roman Catholic religious order whose members are known as Jesuits

7.31—Upswing of the Revolution; Congo

