



INTERNATIONAL HOLIDAYS AND CELEBRATIONS

JUNE 2009

6.1—Independence Day; Western Samoa

Marks independence from New Zealand on January 1, 1962, and status as the first independent Polynesian state. The three-day celebration is in June because of the rainy season in January

6.1—Children’s Day; China

The country’s population of children is celebrated with parties in elementary school and gifts from parents

6.1—Gawai Dayak; Malaysia

Festival marking the gathering of the rice harvest, proclaiming the new planting season and appeasing the spirits

6.1—Madaraka Day; Kenya

Commemorates the day Kenya attained internal self-rule in 1963, preceding full independence on December 12, 1963

6.1—Mother & Child Day; Mongolia

6.1—National Tree Planting Day; Cambodia

6.2—Republic Day; Italy

Marks the 1946 establishment of Italy as a republic

6.2—Botev Day; Bulgaria

Named for one of the most prominent Bulgarians, publicist, poet, and revolutionary, Hristo Botev, who gave his life for Bulgaria’s independence on this day in 1876

6.3—Martyr’s Day; Uganda

Honors a group of Catholic and Protestant converts killed by Kabaka Mwanga of Buganda Kingdom between 1885 and 1887

6.3—Mabo Day; Australia

Celebrates the Mabo Judgment, named after Australian Eddi Mabo, made by the High Court of Australia on this date in 1992 which rejected the notion of “Terra Nullius” and stated in law that indigenous Australians have by prior occupation, ownership of land where native title has not been extinguished

6.4—Emancipation Day; Tonga

Celebrates independence of Tonga in 1970

6.5—Constitution Day; Denmark

Commemorates the anniversary of the signing of the Danish constitution of 1849, which established Denmark as a constitutional monarchy, as well as honors the constitution of 1953, which was adopted on the same day

6.5—Constitution Day; Faroe Islands

6.5—Father's Day; Denmark

6.5—Liberation Day; Seychelles

Celebrates the initial resolution leading to independence on June 29, 1976

6.5—President's Day; Equatorial Guinea

6.6—Flag Day; Sweden

Commemorates the date in 1523 when Gustavus I (Gustavus Vasa) ascended the throne

6.6—Memorial Day; South Korea

Marks the day the nation pays tribute to its war dead with services at the National Cemetery in Seoul

6.6—Pushkin's Birthday; Russia

Celebrates the life of the great Russian poet Alexander Pushkin

6.7—1919 Commemoration (Sette Giugno); Malta

Commemorates events which occurred in 1919 when, after British authorities raised the price of bread, riots ensued, resulting in four deaths

6.7—Revolution Day; Chad

6.7—Trinity Sunday; Monaco

Celebrated the first Sunday after Pentecost to honor the Christian doctrine of the Trinity

6.7—Union Dissolution; Norway

Marks the day in 1905 when Norway gained independence from Sweden

6.8—Tuen Ng (Dragon Boat Festival); China

Honors China's first major poet, Ch'u Yuan, who drowned himself in 278 CE in protest of injustice and corruption

6.8—Race Day; Baha'i

Promotes racial harmony and the essential unity of humanity

6.8—Bounty Day & Pitcairners Arrival Day Anniversary; Norfolk Island

Marks the arrival of the Pitcairners, some of the mutinous crew of "The Bounty", in 1856

6.8—World Ocean Day; International

An opportunity to honor the intrinsic value of the ocean and to get involved in protecting the future of our oceans through community action and involvement

6.9—Dia de la Rioja; Spain

6.9—Hereos Day; Uganda

Commemorates the sacrifices of many people towards the present phase of the liberation of Uganda

6.9—Murcia Autonomy Day; Spain

Anniversary of the proclamation of the autonomy of Murcia, located in the South-East corner of Spain

6.10—Camões Day; Portugal

Observes the anniversary of the death in 1580 of Luiz Vaz de Camões, national poet

6.10—Abolition of Slavery; French Guiana

The anniversary of the abolition of slavery in 1848

6.10—Army Day; Jordan

6.10—Day of National Reconciliation; Congo

6.10—Day to Celebrate Sovereignty Over the Malvinas; Argentina

The United Provinces of Rio de la Plata claimed sovereignty over Islas Malvinas in 1820

6.11—Corpus Christi; International

A feast honoring the Eucharist

6.11—Our Lady of the Chapel; Spain

6.12—Independence Day; Philippines

Celebrates independence from Spain in 1898. The Philippines were a U.S. colony until 1946

6.12—Chaco Peace; Paraguay

Anniversary of the truce between Paraguay and Bolivia in 1935

6.12—Dia dos Namorados; Brazil

Similar to Valentine's Day, this is a day when couples show their love with an exchange of gifts

6.12—Russia Day; Russia

Commemorates the day in 1990 when the Russian parliament formally declared its sovereignty

6.13—St. Anthony's Day; Portugal, Brazil

The feast day of Saint Anthony, also known as Saint Anthony of Lisbon and Saint Anthony of Padua, a catholic saint born on the Feast of the Assumption in Lisbon, Portugal. St. Anthony was proclaimed a Doctor of the Church and is often invoked for the recovery of things lost. He is also known as the marriage saint.

6.14—Queen's Birthday; U.K.

Honors Queen Elizabeth II's April 21 birthday on this date due to characteristically inclement April weather in London

6.14—Commemoration Day of Victims of the Communist Terror; Latvia

Anniversary of the day in 1941 when the Soviet occupation regime deported to Siberia around 15,000 people from Latvia, regarding them as ideologically opposed to the Soviet communist system

6.14—Day of Mourning and Hope; Lithuania

Marks the date of the first mass deportations of Lithuanians to Siberia in 1941

6.14—Freedom Day; Malawi

6.14—Liberation Day; Falkland Islands

Commemorates the deliverance by British Forces of the Falkland Islands from Argentine occupation in 1982

6.15—Day of National Salvation; Azerbaijan

Commemorates the day Heydar Aliyev returned to the leadership of the Republic resulting in positive changes for the country

6.15—Valdemar's Day (National Flag Day); Denmark

Anniversary of the victory of King Valdemar in 1219. According to legend, the Danish flag descended from heaven to bring victory to King Valdemar

6.16—Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev; Sikh

Commemorates the death of the fifth guru of the Sikhs and the first Sikh martyr

6.16—Chhelum; Pakistan

6.16—Youth Day; South Africa

Commemorates the start of the Soweto riots in 1976, initially sparked by a government edict that all instruction in black school would be held in Afrikaans

6.16—Bloomsday; Ireland

Celebrates the life of Irish writer James Joyce and is named after Leopold Bloom, the protagonist of Joyce's Ulysses. Includes performances of the events from his novel Ulysses.

6.17—Independence Day; Iceland

Recognized full sovereignty from Denmark in 1944

6.17—Father's Day; El Salvador & Guatemala

6.18—Evacuation Day; Egypt

6.19—Artigas Day; Uruguay

Celebrated on the birthday of Jose Gervasio Artigas, a national hero of Uruguay, sometimes called “the father of Uruguayan independence”

6.19—Independence Day; Kuwait

Marks the sovereignty established on this day in 1961 when the British treaty of 1899 terminated

6.19—Labor Day; Trinidad & Tobago

Marks the labor uprising on this day in 1937 which is generally recognized as the start of the modern trade union movement

6.19—National Day; Algeria

Anniversary of the overthrow of Mohammed Ben Bella in a bloodless coup d'etat in 1965

6.20—Martyr's Day; Eritrea

A day to pay tribute to all those who paid the ultimate price in the 30-year war to re-claim national independence and liberation of the country

6.20—World Refugee Day; International

An annual commemoration marked by a variety of events to recognize and celebrate the contribution of refugees throughout the world and to draw attention to the millions of refugees world-wide who are forced to flee their homes

6.21—Solstice; International

In the Northern Hemisphere, summer begins today. In the Southern Hemisphere, today is the beginning of winter. Between the equator and the Arctic Circle, the sun rises and sets farthest north on the horizon for the year and the period of daylight is longest – 12 hours, 8 minutes at the equator and increasing to 24 hours at the Arctic Circle

6.21—National Day; Greenland

Celebrated on the longest and lightest day of the year, this is a day for the nation to celebrate its national and cultural values

6.21—White Nights Festival begins; Russia

A series of classical ballet, opera, and music events culminating in the Scarlet Sails celebration

6.21—National Aboriginal Day; Canada

A special day to celebrate the unique heritage, cultures and contributions of First Nations, Inuit and Metis people, in Canada

6.21—National Music Day (Fete de la musique); France

Originally started in 1982 as a way to develop integration and exchange among young people, this special day in which free musical events are offered has grown to include more than a hundred countries

6.22—Antifascist Struggle Commemoration Day; Croatia

Anniversary of an uprising against fascist invaders on this date in 1941

6.22—Foundation of the Nation's Army; Congo

6.22—Schoolteacher's Day; El Salvador

A day to recognize the contribution of educators in the country

6.23—Grand Duke's Birthday; Luxembourg

A day to honor the monarch of Luxembourg

6.23—Independence Day (Jura only); Switzerland

6.23—Jonines Night; Lithuania

A feast day celebrating Midsummer Day marked with wreaths made and set to float down the river, herb markets, wheels and gates twined with herbs, and bonfires

6.23—Midsummer Party; Denmark

An occasion celebrated since the time of the Vikings which includes visiting healing water wells and making large bonfires to ward away evil spirits

6.23—Victory Day; Estonia

Celebrated since 1934, the date recalls the victory in the 1919 Battle of Wenden of the Estonian military forces and their allies over German forces who sought to re-assert Baltic-German control over the region

6.23—Jonsok/Sankthansaften; Norway

Also known “John’s wake”, this celebration originally included pilgrimages to churches and holy springs, but now is a more secular celebration with the burning of large bonfires and mock marriages

6.24—Feast of St. John the Baptist; International

A celebration of the birth of the precursor and baptizer of Jesus, the Messiah. This day is often an official public holiday and is celebrated in many countries

6.24—Battle of Carabobo Day; Venezuela

Commemorates the battle fought between independence day fighters, led by Simon Bolivar, and the Royalist forces, led by Spanish Field Marshal Miguel de la Torre. This decisive victory led to the independence of Venezuela.

6.24—Constitution Day and Day of the Fisherman; Zaire

Celebrates the constitution of 1967 and the anniversary of the Zaire currency

6.24—Countryman’s Day; Peru

Based on Inca tradition this celebration, also known as Inti Raymi, honors the Sun God

6.24—Discovery Day (Newfoundland & Labrador); Canada

Commemorates the discovery of the province in 1497 by John Cabot. Also known as Cabot 500 Day

6.24—Fete Nationale (Quebec); Canada

Quebec’s national holiday, celebrated on the feast day of John the Baptist

6.24—Manila Day; Philippines

Commemorates the founding of Manila, the capital of the Philippines

6.24—Midsummer’s Day; International

A celebration of the solstice

6.24—Saint Vartolomej and Varnava; Serbia

6.25—Fatherland Liberation War Day; North Korea

Commemorates the day the Korean War began

6.25—Independence Day; Mozambique

Marks independence from Portugal in 1975

6.25—National Day; Slovenia

Commemorates the proclamation of independence in 1991

6.25—Statehood Day; Croatia

Commemorates the country’s 1991 declaration of independence from Yugoslavia

6.26—Independence Day; Madagascar

A celebration of independence from France in 1960

6.26—Independence Day; Somalia

Celebrates the day in 1960 that the former British Somaliland gained independence

6.26—United Nations Charter Day; U.N.

Marks the day in 1945, when the U.N. charter was signed in San Francisco, California, by representatives of 50 nations

6.26—International Day Against Drug Abuse & Trafficking; International

An expression of the UN’s determination to strengthen action and cooperation to achieve the goal of an international society free of drug abuse

6.26—National Flag Day; Romania

On this day in 1848 the Provisional Government from Wallachia established the blue-yellow-red tricolor as the national flag of Romanians in its first decree

6.26—International Day in Support of Victims of Torture; International

An occasion for the world to speak out against torture and to remember and support the many victims and survivors of torture around the world

6.27—Independence Day; Djibouti

Celebrates independence from France in 1977

6.27—Anniversary of the Amir's Succession; Qatar

6.27—Memorial Day for War Martyrs; Vietnam

A day to honor those who died during the war in Vietnam

6.27—Our Lady Perpetual Help; Haiti

A day to celebrate the Patroness of Haiti

6.28—Versailles Treaty Day; International

The anniversary of the 1919 signing of the Treaty of Versailles at Versailles, France, which officially ended World War I

6.28—Birthday of Kuan Kung (God of War); Taiwan

Kuan Kung was a mighty warrior during the period of the Three Kingdoms and is now known as the god of war and righteousness. On this day sacrificial offerings are made to his honor

6.28—St. Peter & St. Paul Day; Chile

A feast day commemorating the martyrdom at Rome of the apostles Peter and Paul

6.28—Constitution Day; Ukraine

6.29—Independence Day; Seychelles

Marks independence on this day in 1976

6.30—Independence Day; Zaire

Signifies independence from Belgium in 1960

6.30—Army Day; Guatemala

Marks the 1871 revolt for agrarian reform in which Justo Rufino Barrios overthrew the Conservative president, Vicente Cerna

6.30—Balance Day; El Salvador

6.30—National Day of Prayer; Central African Republic

6.30—National Salvation Revolution Day; Sudan

Marks the day in 1989 when the National Salvation Revolution took over in a military coup