



# INTERNATIONAL HOLIDAYS AND CELEBRATIONS

## NOVEMBER 2008

### 11.1—**Revolution Day**; Algeria

Commemorates the beginning of the revolution against the French in 1954, which led to independence in 1962

### 11.1—**Dia de Muertos** (Day of the Dead); Mexico

A celebration that blends Christian and Aztec traditions. Departed souls are remembered with a spirit of friendliness and good humor instead of mourning

### 11.1—**El Dia de Los Ninos** (Children's Day); Panama

A day to celebrate the country's children

### 11.1—**D.Hamilton Jackson Day/Liberty Day**; US Virgin Islands

Commemorates the contributions of David Hamilton Jackson to the advancement of his fellow people and the Virgin Islands

### 11.1—**Independence Day**; Antigua & Barbuda

Commemorates independence from the United Kingdom in 1981

### 11.1—**Puno Jubilee Week**; Peru

Celebrates the founding of Puno by the Spaniards

### 11.1—**Remembrance Day**; Slovenia

Formerly called "Day of the Dead", a commemoration of the departed

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### 11.2—**Dzyady** (Remembrance Day); Belarus

An age-old Belarusian tradition originating out of Pagan times and later adopted into Christianity. A special plate and glass is set at dinner in remembrance of deceased relatives

### 11.2—**Commemoration of the Dead**; San Marino

### 11.2—**Senor de la Buena Muerte** (Lord of the Good Death); Peru

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### 11.3—**Independence Day**; Panama

One of two Independence Day celebrations this month. This one honors independence from Colombia in 1903

**11.3—Bunka-no-Hi** (Culture Day); Japan

A holiday to promote the love of freedom, peace, and cultural development

**11.3—Arbor Day**; Samoa

A holiday in which individuals and groups are encouraged to plant and care for trees

**11.3—Festivity of San Martin de Porres**; Peru

Held on the date of San Martin's death to commemorate his life and service. St. Martin was a brother of the Dominican Order

**11.3—Independence Day & Discovery Day**; Dominica

One of two Independence Day celebrations. This one honors the day in which independence was gained from the United Kingdom in 1978. A day to celebrate the unique Creole culture

**11.3—Independence of Cuenca Day**; Ecuador

In 1820 Cuenca, the third largest city in Ecuador and the capital of the Azuay province, gained its independence from Spain. The day is celebrated with processions through the streets, dancing, and cultural performances and activities

**11.3—Victory Day**; Maldives

Celebrates the victory of Maldives over the terrorist group of Sri Lanka

**11.4—Citizenship Day**; Northern Marianas

To commemorate the day in 1986 that the covenant to establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in political union with the United States of America went into effect

**11.4—Community Service Day**; Dominica

**11.4—Constitution Day**; Tonga

Anniversary of the passage of the Tongan Constitution, enacted by King George Tupou, in 1875

**11.4—Flag Day**; Panama

Celebrated the day after Panama declared its independence from Colombia in 1903

**11.4—National Day**; Micronesia

Marks the day on which the Federated States of Micronesia gained independence as a sovereign nation in 1986

**11.4—National Unity Day**; Italy

**11.4—Unity Day**; Russia

Commemorates the popular uprising which expelled the Polish-Lithuanian occupation from Moscow in November, 1612

**11.4—St. Charles Day**; Andorra

**11.5—Guy Fawkes Night** (Bonfire Night); United Kingdom

Celebrates the foiling of the Gunpowder Plot in 1605 in which a number of catholic conspirators, including Guy Fawkes, attempted to blow up the Houses of Parliament in London

**11.5—Colon Day**; Panama

Panama's version of Columbus Day

**11.5—Cry of Independence Day**; El Salvador

Marks the day in 1811 in which Jose Matias Delgado, a Salvadoran priest, doctor, and leader of the independence movement, rung the bells of the Church of La Merced, as a public cry for liberty and independence from Spain

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**11.6—Constitution Day;** Dominican Republic  
Marks approval of the constitution in 1966

**11.6—Confucius' Birthday;** Vietnam  
Honors the strong influence of Confucianism in Vietnam. Celebrations are held at the Temple of Souvenirs in Saigon

**11.6—Constitution Day;** Dominican Republic  
Commemorates the day in 1844 that the first constitution was adopted after gaining independence from Haiti

**11.6—Green Day March;** Morocco  
Commemorate the day in 1975 when 350,000 unarmed Moroccan civilians, including both men and women, marched into the Western Sahara area to reclaim it for Morocco from Spain

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**11.7—Accord & Reconciliation Day;** Russia  
Marks the anniversary of the October Revolution, which led to the downfall of the tsarist government in 1917

**11.7—Commemoration Day;** Tunisia  
Also known as New Era Day, this day commemorates the accession of President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, who took power in 1987 after a bloodless coup which ousted President Habib Bourguiba

**11.7—Former Anniversary of the October Revolution;** Ukraine  
Marks the anniversary of the 1917 October Revolution, which led to the downfall of the tsarist government in the pre-Soviet Ukrainian state

**11.7—October Revolution Day;** Belarus  
Marks the anniversary of the October Revolution, which led to the downfall of the tsarist government in 1917 and awakened oppressed nations to unite for a free and equal society

**11.7—Revolution Day;** Bangladesh  
Marks the sepoy-people uprising in 1975 which installed Chief Justice Abusadet Mohammed Sayem as the new President

**11.7—Thanksgiving Day;** Liberia

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**11.8—Cretan National Day;** Greece

**11.8—Mitrovdan;** Bosnia Herzegovina & Serbia  
Celebration of the feast day of the Holy Great Martyr St. Dimitri

**11.8—Queen's Birthday;** Nepal  
Commemorates the birthday of Queen Aishworya

**11.8—World Town Planning Day;** International  
A day to give special recognition to the ideals of community planning. It is celebrated to draw attention to the aims, objectives, and progress of urban and regional planning

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**11.9—Independence Day;** Cambodia  
Observes independence from French rule in 1953

**11.9—Allama Muhammad Iqbal Day;** Pakistan  
Commemorates the birthday of Sir Muhammad Iqbal, Muslim poet, philosopher, and politician, considered to be the greatest 20<sup>th</sup>-century poet to write in Urdu. His vision of an independent state for Muslims of British India inspired the creation of Pakistan

**11.9—Berlin Wall Opening Day;** Germany

Marks the day in 1989 when East Berliners were allowed to cross into West Berlin. Within weeks of this event communist regimes began to crumble across Eastern Europe

**11.9—Dia de Caman;** Peru

**11.9—Father's Day;** Finland, Norway, & Sweden

**11.9—Virgen de la Almudena;** Spain

A day to honor the patron saint of Madrid

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**11.10—Anniversary of 1<sup>st</sup> Call for Independence in Los Santos;** Panama

Marks the day in 1821 when the town of Los Santos revolted for freedom against Spain thus beginning the fight for Panamanian independence

**11.10—Cry of Independence;** Palau

**11.10—Maputo City Day;** Mozambique

**11.10—Militsiya Day;** Russia

A day to pay tribute to police officers in Russia

**11.10—Potosi Local Festival;** Bolivia

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**11.11—Independence Day;** Poland

Commemorates the restoration of independence in 1918

**11.11—Armistice Day;** Belgium, France, French Polynesia, Guadeloupe, New Caledonia, St. Martin, & Switzerland

Marks the anniversary of the symbolic end of World War I. Commemorates the armistice signed between the Allies and Germany. A day to honor members of the armed forces killed during war

**11.11—Concordia Day;** St. Martin

A national public holiday celebrating the arrival of Columbus to the island in 1493. Also a celebration of the French and Dutch concordant to establish a harmonious and peaceful coexistence of both countries together on one island

**11.11—Cutting of the Goose in Sursee** (Gansabhauet); Switzerland

An archaic tradition celebrated in Sursee on St. Martin's Day. The tradition is related to the fact that interests and taxes were due on Martini day in the Middle Ages and farmers had to deliver 10% of their crops in town

**11.11—St. Martin's Day** (Martinstag, Morten's Day, Martinmas); United Kingdom, Scotland, Denmark,

Celebrates the life of Martin of Tours, a Roman soldier turned monk

**11.11—Guru Nanak's Birthday;** India

Celebrates the life of Guru Nanak, the founder of Sikhism

**11.11—Independence Day;** Angola

Commemorates independence from Portugal in 1975

**11.11—Lacplesa Day;** Latvia

Commemorates the victory over the Bermontians at the battle of Riga in 1919

**11.11—Volkstrauertag;** Switzerland

National day of mourning observed to commemorate those who have died in war

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**11.12—Children’s Day;** India

Honors all children and commemorates the 1889 birth of Jawaharlal Nehru, the first premier of India

**11.12—Dr. Sun Yat-sen’s Birthday;** Taiwan

Celebrates the life of Dr. Sun Yat-sen, forerunner of China’s democratic revolution. He dedicated his life to independence, reunification, prosperity, human rights, freedom, democracy and livelihood

**11.12—Il Full Moon Poya Day;** Sri Lanka

Second full moon in November

**11.12—National Memorial Day;** Liberia

**11.12—Santa Cruz Massacre;** East Timor

Remembered in East Timor as one of the bloodiest days in their history, one that drew national attention to their fight for independence in 1991

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**11.13—Harvest Festival;** US Virgin Islands

**11.14—King Hussein’s Birthday;** Jordan

Celebrates the life of the late King Hussein who became king of Jordan in 1952 and reigned for nearly five decades

**11.14—National Day;** Palestinian Authority

**11.14—National Day of Mourning;** Germany

A day to honor those who died in war

**11.14—Prince of Wales’s Birthday;** British Virgin Islands

Celebrates the birth of Prince Charles, eldest son and Heir Presumptive to the Throne of the United Kingdom

**11.14—Readjustment Day;** Guinea Bissau

On this date in 2002 the President dismissed the Government of Prime Minister Alamara Nhasse, dissolved the National Assembly, and called for legislative elections

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**11.15—Shichi-Go-San** (Seven-Five-Three Festival); Japan

An ancient celebration that marks the special ages of seven, five, and three

**11.15—The King’s Feast;** Belgium

A ceremony held in honor of the King

**11.15—Peace Day;** Ivory Coast

**11.15—Proclamation of “T.R. Northern Cyprus”;** Cyprus (Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus)

Celebrated by the Turkish Cypriots as the Independence Day

**11.15—Proclamation of the Republic;** Brazil

Commemorates the day in 1889 when Brazil’s second Emperor, Dom Pedro II, was deposed and the United States of Brazil was declared

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**11.16—Anniversary of Huaripampa;** Peru

**11.16—Correction Day;** Syria

Commemorates the day in 1970 in which the Correction Movement, lead by then defense minister Hafez al-Assad, finally brought long lasting stability after years of political disturbance

**11.16—Saint Eustatius Day;** St. Eustatius

Commemorates the official state holiday. Celebrates the time a Dutch commander saluted an American brig, thus making Statia the first government to recognize American Independence

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**11.17—Army Day;** Zaire (Democratic Congo)

A day to honor military forces

**11.17—Day of National Revival;** Azerbaijan

Commemorates the day in 1988 which began several days of meetings to protest Moscow's policies. It was the beginning of the new national movement

**11.17—Den boje studentu za svobodu a demokracii;** Czech Republic

Struggle for Freedom and Democracy Day commemorates the student demonstration against Nazi occupation in 1939 and the demonstration in 1989 that started the Velvet Revolution and eventually saw the overthrow of the communist government

**11.17—Malabo Fiesta;** Equatorial Guinea

**11.17—President's Day;** Marshall Islands

**11.17—Prince Charles' Birthday;** Fiji

Celebrated the third Monday in November to commemorate the birth of Prince Charles on November 14, 1948

**11.17—Student Youth Day;** Turkmenistan

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**11.18—Fete de l'Independence** (Independence Day); Morocco

Commemorates independence from France in 1956, after a protracted struggle

**11.18—Discovery Day;** Puerto Rico

Celebrates the day Christopher Columbus found Puerto Rico on his second voyage to the New World in 1493

**11.18—Revolution Day;** Mexico

Commemorates the revolution of 1910, when the common people revolted against poverty and the dictatorship of Porfirio Diaz. The revolution, led by Francisco Indalecio Madero, culminated in the constitution of 1917

**11.18—Beni Local Festival;** Bolivia

**11.18—Flag Day;** Uzbekistan

**11.18—National Day;** Latvia

On this day in 1918 Latvia gained its independence from Russia

**11.18—National Day;** Oman

Commemorates the many accomplishments of Oman since the beginning of its modern renaissance under His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said. This day marks the birth of Sultan Qaboos

**11.18—Vertieres' Day;** Haiti

Commemorates the Battle of Vertieres, a defining campaign in the Haitian's revolution against France

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**11.19—Army Coup Day** (Liberation Day); Mali

Anniversary of the bloodless coup in 1968 which removed Modibo Keita from power

**11.19—Garifuna Settlement Day;** Belize

Anniversary of the arrival of 500 Garifunas (a combined race consisting of Africans, Arawaks, and Yellow Caribs) to Belize in 1823

**11.19—Monaco National Commemoration Day & Prince Rainer's Day;** Monaco

A day to honor and celebrate the national tradition and the identification. Held on the day of Saint Rainier d'Arrezzo

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**11.20—Dia de la Revolucion;** Mexico

Commemorates the Mexican Revolution which began on this day in 1910 and ended in 1920

**11.20—Teacher's Day;** Vietnam

A day to honor teachers for their effort in educating the young

**11.20—Dia da Consciencia Negra;** Brazil

A day celebrated by Brazilians of African descent to honor Zumbi dos Palmares, the last of the leaders of the Quilombo dos Palmares

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**11.21—World Television Day;** International

Commemorates the date on which the first World Television Forum was held at the United Nations in 1996. The day is observed by encouraging global exchanges of television programs focusing on issues such as peace, security, economic and social development, and the enhancement of cultural exchanges

**11.21—Saint Archangel Michailo;** Serbia

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**11.22—Independence Day;** Lebanon

Commemorates the declaration of independence from France on this day in 1943

**11.22—Bus und Bettag (Repentance Day);** Germany

A day celebrated by the Evangelical Church as a day to change one's direction and turn to God as the approach of Advent nears

**11.22—Day of 1970 Invasion;** Guinea

Commemorates the 1970 seaborne attack of Guinea by the Portuguese

**11.22—Feast of St. Cecilia;** St. Lucia

Honors Saint Cecilia, the patroness of music, musicians, and musical instrument makers

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**11.23—Kinro Kansha-no-Hi (Labor Thanksgiving Day);** Japan

A holiday to honor working people and productivity

**11.23—St. George of Iberia;** Georgia

Commemorates the life of Georgia's patron saint

**11.23—Totensonntag;** Germany

Held the Sunday before Advent to commemorate the dead

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**11.24—National Women's Day;** Samoa

Celebrates the achievements and accomplishments of women not only from South Africa but from all over the world

**11.24—New Regime Anniversary;** Zaire (Democratic Congo)

Commemorates the beginning of the new government in 1964

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**11.25—Anniversary of Moquegua;** Peru

The anniversary of the Spanish foundation of Moquegua city. It is celebrated with artistic, cultural and sports activities

**11.25—Independence Day;** Suriname

Commemorates independence from the Netherlands in 1975

**11.25—Mange Yam** (Fete de la moisson); Haiti

A harvest festival

**11.25—National Day & National Statehood Day;** Bosnia-Herzegovinian

**11.25—St. Catherine’s Day;** France

Commemorates the martyrdom of St. Catherine. It also marks the arrival of winter

**11.25—International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women;** International

The UN invites governments, international organizations, and NGOs to organize activities designated to raise public awareness of the problem of violence against women. This date came from the brutal assassination in 1960, of the three Mirabal sisters, political activists in the Dominican Republic, on order of Dominican dictator Rafael Trujillo

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**11.26—Anniversary of the Death of Alkoutb Said Muhammad Chief Al Maarouf;** Comoros

**11.26—Proclamation Day;** Mongolia

Commemorates the 1924 proclamation of the Mongolian People’s Republic, which made Mongolia the world’s second communist nation

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**11.27—Anniversary of Cerro de Pasco;** Peru

**11.27—National Flag Day;** Sri Lanka

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**11.28—Independence Day;** Albania

Marks the 1912 declaration of independence from the Ottoman Empire

**11.28—Independence Day;** Panama

Marks the independence from Spain in 1821

**11.28—Independence Day;** Mauritania

Commemorates the independence of Mauritania since 1960

**11.28—Republic Day;** Burundi

Commemorates the day Burundi became a republic

**11.28—Republic Day;** Chad

Anniversary of the proclamation of the republic in 1958

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**11.29—Liberation Day;** Albania

Commemorates the day in 1944 when invading German and Italian troops were driven out by Allied forces

**11.29—Unity Day;** Vanuatu

**11.29—W.V.S. Tubman’s Birthday;** Liberia

Celebrates the life of William Vacanarat Shadrach Tubman, president of Liberia from 1944 until his death in 1971. He is regarded as the “father of modern Liberia”



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**11.30—St. Andrew's Day;** Scotland  
Commemorates the life of the patron saint of Scotland

**11.30—Bonifacio Day;** Philippines  
Celebrates the life of Andres Bonifacio y de Castro, a Filipino revolutionary leader and one of the main rebel leaders of the Philippine Revolution against Spain in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century

**11.30—First Advent;** Sweden

**11.30—Harvest Holiday;** Turkmenistan

**11.30—Independence Day;** Barbados  
Commemorates independence from Britain in 1966

**11.30—Independence Day;** Yemen  
Commemorates independence from Britain in 1967

**11.30—National Day;** Benin  
Commemorates the establishment of a Marxist-Leninist state on the anniversary of the day in 1975 when the official name of the country was changed from Dahomey to Benin

Information from [www.earthcalendar.net](http://www.earthcalendar.net), Wikipedia, and <http://www.shagtown.com/days/index.html>.  
Some information adapted from Honoring Differences 2008 calendar, available at [www.diversitycalendar.com](http://www.diversitycalendar.com).