

INTERNATIONAL HOLIDAYS AND CELEBRATIONS



OCTOBER 2009

10.1—Independence Day; Nigeria

Commemorates three events: when Nigeria gained independence from Britain in 1960, became a federal republic with a new constitution in 1963, and restored to civilian rule in 1979

10.1—National Day; China

A two-day celebration of the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949

10.1—Mehregan (Autumn Festival); Iran

Celebrates God creating the sun, which gave light to the world. The mythical king Fereydoon brought peace to earth on this day by defeating Zahak, an evil symbol

10.1—Independence Day; Palau

The Compact of Free Association took effect on this day in 1994. It established a constitutional government in free association with the United States.

10.1—National Day; Hong Kong

10.1—Stone Fishing Ceremony; French Polynesia

A celebration featuring traditional activities including copra-cutting contests, canoe racing, and fire walking

10.1—Tuvalu Day (Independence Day); Tuvalu

Commemorates independence from the United Kingdom

10.1—Unification Day; Cameroon

Marks the anniversary of the British Southern Cameroons' independence from the United Kingdom and unification with French Cameroun in 1961

10.1—International Music Day; International

Proclaimed by the UN/UNESCO in 1975 as an annual event to celebrate music.

10.2—Gandhi Jayanti; India

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

10.2—Eid al-Fitr (Feast of the Breaking of the Fast); Islamic (Muslim)

A celebration of the end of the Ramadan fast and a time of goodwill to all. Begins at sundown the previous day

10.2—Republic Day; Guinea

Celebrates independence in 1958

10.3—Tag der Deutschen Einheit (Day of German Unity); Germany

Commemorates the date in 1990 when East and West Germany were reunited as one country

10.3—Tangun Day (National Foundation Day); South Korea

Observes when the legendary Tangun, founder of the nation, established his kingdom of Chosun in 2333 BCE

10.3—Day of the Francisco Morazán; Honduras

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

10.4—Independence Day; Lesotho

Commemorates independence from the United Kingdom in 1966

10.4—Peace Day; Mozambique

Anniversary of the signing of the 1992 Peace General Agreement that put an end to the war in Mozambique

10.4—St. Petronius Day; Italy

The feast day of St. Petronius, Bishop of Bologna renowned in Italy for his virtues

10.5—National Sports Day; Lesotho

10.5—Republic Day; Portugal

Celebrates the end of the Monarchy and the beginning of the Portuguese Republic

10.6—Armed Forces Day; Egypt

Commemorates the Egyptian Army's initial successful crossing of the Bar Lev Line and initial tactical victories in the October War

10.6—October Revolution War; Syria

Anniversary of the war between Arab countries and Israel

10.6—Remembrance Day; Turkmenistan

Anniversary of the 1948 earthquake

10.7—Goodwill Day; Namibia

10.7—Merchant Holiday; Antigua & Barbuda

10.7—Our Lady of the Rosary; Spain

The feast day of Our Lady of the Rosary

10.8—Battle of Angamos (Navy Day); Peru

A naval battle fought on this day in 1879 between Peru and Chile during the naval stage of the War of the Pacific

10.8—Death of Henri Christophe; Haiti

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

10.8—Independence Day; Croatia

Commemorates independence from Yugoslavia in 1991

10.9—Hangul Day; South Korea

Celebrates the invention of the 24-letter phonetic Korean alphabet, Hangul, in 1446 under the direction of King Sejong of the Yi dynasty

10.9—Columbus Day; Dominican Republic

Commemorates the arrival of Christopher Columbus in 1492

10.9—Independence Day; Uganda

Commemorates independence from the United Kingdom in 1962

10.9—Independence of Guayaquil Day; Ecuador

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

10.9—National Dignity Day; Peru

Commemorates the day in 1968 when the facilities of the International Petroleum Company were occupied and expropriated

10.10—Double Tenth Day; Taiwan

A commemoration of the proclamation of the Chinese Republic in 1911

10.10—Independence War; Cuba

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

10.10—Party Foundation Day; North Korea

Anniversary of the founding meeting of the North Korea Bureau of the Communist Party of Korea on this day in 1945

10.11—Antifascist Uprising Day; Macedonia

Marks the day in 1941 when Macedonians rose up against fascist occupation

10.11—Revolution Day; Palau

10.12—Cirio de Nazare; Brazil

The start of the two-week "Candle Procession" of northern Brazil celebrated since the last part of the eighteenth century

10.12—Nossa Senhora de Aparecida; Brazil

Celebrates Brazil's patron saint, the Virgin Mary Aparecida

10.12—Battle of Sarandi; Uruguay

Anniversary of the 1825 battle

10.12—Day of Liberation from the French; Laos

10.12—Dia de la Raza (Day of the Race); Argentina, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Mexico, & Puerto Rico

Honors Columbus' discovery of the New World

10.12—Independence Day; Equatorial Guinea

Marks anniversary of independence since 1968

10.12—National Holiday of Spain (also Hispanidad Day); Spain

Honors Columbus' discovery of the New World

10.12—Thanksgiving Day; Canada

Celebrated the second Monday in October, this is an annual holiday to give thanks at the close of the harvest season

10.13—Cession Day; Fiji

Commemorates the granting of Fiji to the British in 1874

10.13—Rwagasore Day; Burundi

Anniversary of the assassination of Prince Louis Rwagasore, Burundi nationalist, prime minister, and founder of the Union for National Progress

10.14—Sukkot (Feast of Booths); Jewish

An eight-day festival commemorating the divine protection given to the Israelites during their 40 years of wandering in the desert. Also a festival of giving thanks and celebrating the fall harvest. Begins at sundown the previous day

10.14—President's Day; Zaire

Birthday of President Mobutu

10.14—Petkouden; Bulgaria

The feast day of St. Petka, or Paraskevi

10.14—Santa Fortunata; Peru

A day to honor Santa Fortunata, 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.

10.14—The October Revolution; Yemen

Commemorates the revolts of 1962

10.14—Nyerere Day; Tanzania

A day to honor the first president of the United Republic of Tanzania, Julius Kambarage Nyerere, who is considered the father of the country

10.14—Day of Svetitskhoveli Cathedral (in Mtskheta); Georgia

Celebration of the first Christian church in Georgia. According to chronicles, holy chyton (shirt) of the Savior is buried under this church

10.15—Cayenne Festival; French Guiana

A festival in the capital city of French Guiana featuring dance and light shows

10.15—Evacuation Day; Tunisia

Commemorates the withdrawal of French troops in 1962

10.15—National Tree Planting Day; Sri Lanka

10.15—Rectification Day; Burkina Faso

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

10.16—St. Gallus Day; Switzerland

The feast day of St. Gall

10.16—World Food Day; International

A worldwide event designed to increase awareness, understanding and informed year-round action to alleviate hunger

10.17—Deepavali (Hindu Festival of Light); India & Singapore

Celebrated as the Festival of Lights, diyas (cotton-like string wicks inserted in small clay pots filled with coconut oil) are lit to signify victory of good over the evil within an individual

10.17—Dessalines Day; Haiti

Anniversary of the death of Jean Jacques Dessalines, a revolutionary who was declared emperor in 1805

10.17—Feast of St. Margaret Alacoque; St. Lucia

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

10.17—International Day for the Eradication of Poverty; International

A campaign by the UN to make poverty history. It was first observed on this day in 1987. On that day 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.

10.17—Senor de Luren; Peru

Celebrated in Ica the third week of October. Senor de Luren is the patron saint of Ica

10.18—Karva Chauth; Hindu

A fast honoring the god Shiva and goddess Parvati. It is given special consideration by Hindu women to ensure the welfare, prosperity, and longevity of their husbands

10.18—National Flag Day; Chile

The national flag was adopted on this day in 1817

10.18—National Independence Day; Azerbaijan

Commemorates independence from the Soviet Union in 1991

10.18—Persons Day; Canada

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

10.19—Constitution Celebration; Niue

Commemorates the Schedules of the Niue Constitution Act on this day in 1974

10.19—Heroes' Day; Jamaica

Observed on the third Monday in October. It is a celebration of the island's seven National Heroes, and also the date on which awards within the Jamaican honors system are bestowed

10.19—Samora Machel Day; Mozambique

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

10.19—Mother Teresa Day; Albania

Mother Teresa's homeland of Albania honors her with a national holiday. October 19 is the anniversary of the day in 2003 that she was beatified by the Vatican

10.20—Birthday of the Bab; Baha'i

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

10.20—Belgrade Day; Serbia

10.20—Kenyatta Day; Kenya

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

10.20—Revolution Day; Guatemala

Commemorates the overthrow of General Jorge Ubico's dictatorship in 1944 by the October Revolutionaries

10.21—Anniversary of President Ndadaye's Death; Burundi

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

10.21—Overseas Chinese Day; Taiwan

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

10.21—Revolution Day; Somalia

Commemorates the bloodless revolution of 1969

10.21—St. Ursula Day; British Virgin Islands

The feast day of St. Ursula

10.21—Egyptian Naval Day; Egypt

Celebrates the destruction of Israeli destroyer Eilat in 1967

10.22—Simchat Torah; Jewish

Means "rejoicing in the Torah" and immediately follows Sukkot. It celebrates the conclusion of the public reading of the Torah. Begins at sundown the previous day

10.22—Chulalongkorn Day; Thailand

Commemorates the 1910 death of the king who abolished slavery in the 1800s

10.23—Cambodia Peace Treaty Day; Cambodia

Celebrates the peace treaty among the warring factions, signed in Paris on this day in 1991

10.23—Day of Proclamation of the Republic; Hungary

Commemoration of the 1956 Revolution as well as the anniversary of the Day of Proclamation of the Republic of Hungary on this day in 1989

10.23—Peniamina Gospel Day; Niue

Anniversary of the creation of the first church by Fakafitifonua and Peniamina

10.24—Independence Day; Zambia

Commemorates independence from the United Kingdom in 1967

10.24—United Nations Day; International

Anniversary of the creation of the United Nations on this day in 1945

10.24—Suez Day; Egypt

Celebrates the resistance of local citizens in Suez during the October War, a war between Arab states led by Egypt and Syria, against Israel

10.25—Constitution Day; Lithuania

Anniversary of the approval by referendum of the Constitution on this day in 1992

10.25—Republic Day; Kazakhstan

Anniversary of the adoption of the “Declaration on State Sovereignty of Kazakh SSR” by Kazakh legislature in 1990

10.25—Restoration Day; Taiwan

Celebrates the return of Taiwan to Chinese rule after the defeat of Japan in 1945, thereby ending 55 years of Japanese colonial occupation

10.25—Thanksgiving Day; Grenada

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 colleagues

10.26—Angam Day; Nauru

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 have been considered in danger of extinction. Upon eclipsing a population of 1,500, Angam Day was declared

10.26—Armed Forces Day; Benin & Rwanda

10.26—National Day; Austria

Commemorates the day in 1955 when the Soviet Union ended its occupation, and a constitutional law of perpetual Austrian neutrality was enacted

10.26—St. Demetrius Day; Bulgaria

The feast day of Saint Demetrius of Thessaloniki, a Christian martyr who is said to have lived in the early 4th century

10.27—Independence Day; St. Vincent & the Grenadines

Anniversary of independence on this day in 1979

10.27—Naming Day; Zaire

Anniversary of the day in 1971 when the country’s name was changed from the Democratic Republic of the Congo to Zaire. The name, meaning “river”, the flag, and the anthem are celebrated with Naming Day, also known as Three Zs Day

10.27—National Flag Day; Greece

10.28—Ochi Day; Greece

Commemorates the Greeks’ resistance to Benito Mussolini’s Italian troops in 1940. *Ochi* means “no!”

10.28—Diwali; Hindu

Festival of lights marking the beginning of the New Year and one of the most important festivals. Lights, bonfires, and fireworks welcome gods, ancestors, family, and friends

10.28—Den vzniku samostatneho ceskoslovenskeho statu-1918 (Independence Day); Czech Republic

Commemorates independence from Austria-Hungary in 1918

10.29—Cumhuriyet Bayrami (Republic Day); Turkey

Anniversary of the 1923 founding of the republic

10.29—Creole Day; Dominica

A celebration of Dominica’s Creole language and culture which includes traditional dancing, folklore, food, and music

10.29—Naming Day; Tanzania

Marks the day in 1964 when the United Republic of Tanganyika and Zanzibar officially changed its name to the United Republic of Tanzania

10.29—National Youth Day; Liberia

10.29—Turkish Republic Day; Cyprus

Anniversary of the declaration of an independent Republic of Turkey on this day in 1923

10.30—King’s Birthday; Cambodia

A three-day celebration marking the coronation of King Sihanouk on October 29 and his father's, Sihanouk, birthday on October 31. Events include parades and riverbank fireworks that light up the Royal Palace in Phnom Penh

10.31—Samhain; Celtic, Pagan

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 gathered

10.31—Chiang Kai-shek's Birthday; Taiwan

Chiang Kai-shek was born on this day in 1887. He 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