



INTERNATIONAL HOLIDAYS AND CELEBRATIONS

SEPTEMBER 2009

9.1—Constitution Day; Slovakia

Commemorates the adoption of the constitution in Bratislava on this day in 1992

9.1—National Day; Libya

Anniversary of the overthrow in 1969 of King Idris I, which led to the establishment of a republic

9.1—Independence Day; Uzbekistan

Anniversary of independence from Russia in 1991

9.1—Reincorporation of Tarata; Peru

Commemorates the day in 1929 that the city was reincorporated to Peruvian territory

9.1—Start of the Armed Struggle; Eritrea

Anniversary of the beginning of the struggle for independence which started in 1961

9.1—United Arab Republic's Day; Syria

9.2—Independence Day; Vietnam

Celebrates independence from the French in 1945. At that time, the country was split into communist North Vietnam and democratic South Vietnam. On June 2, 1976, the country was reunited under a communist regime

9.2—Ramadan; Islamic (Muslim)

The ninth and holiest month of the Islamic year traditionally begins with the sighting of the new moon. This time of spiritual and physical purification commemorates the revelation of the Qur'an to Muhammad on the Lailat ul-Qadr. Fasting during this month is one of the five pillars of Islam. The fast ends when the new moon is again sighted. Begins at sundown the previous day

9.2—Onam Festival; India

Onam is the biggest festival in the Indian state of Kerala and marks the homecoming of legendary King Mahabali

9.3—Ganesh Chaturthi; Hindu

A day of offering to Lord Ganesh, god of wisdom, success, and remover of obstacles

9.3—Australian National Flag Day; Australia

Commemorates the first occasion when the flag was flown in 1901

9.3—Foundation of the Republic Day; San Marino

9.3—Independence Day; Qatar

Anniversary of the assumption of power of Sheikh Jasssem bin Mohamed al-Thani, ancestor of the current ruling family, in 1878

9.3—Independence Movement Day; Tunisia

9.4—Lunar Cake Day; Macau

A festival in celebration of the new moon. People make special lunar cakes, which they offer to each other

9.4—Civil Servant's Day; Venezuela

9.5—Anniversary of Chachapoyas; Peru

Anniversary of the founding of Chachapoyas on this day in 1538 by the Spanish conquistador Alonso de Alvarado

9.6—Somhlolo (Independence Day); Swaziland

Marks independence from Great Britain in 1968

9.6—Armed Forces Day; Sao Tome & Principe

9.6—Bonaire Flag Day; Bonaire

A day of celebratory events. Each year, the festivities take place in a different barrio (or neighborhood)

9.6—Defense Day; Pakistan

Anniversary of the end of the Pak-India War II in 1965

9.6—Unification Day; Bulgaria

Anniversary of the unification of Bulgaria and Eastern Rumelia

9.7—Independence Day; Brazil

Declaration 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

9.7—Lusaka Agreement Day; Mozambique

9.7—National Tree Planting Day; Namibia

9.7—Luxembourg City Kermesse; Luxembourg

Celebrated on the first Monday in September, on this day Luxembourg City celebrates its annual Kermesse or fete

9.7—Labor Day; Palau

Celebrated the first Monday in September

9.8—International Literacy Day; U.N.

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

9.8—Crowning of Vytautas the Great; Lithuania

Honors one of the most famous rulers of medieval Lithuania who reigned from 1392-1430

9.8—Dia de Asturias; Spain

Day of the Spanish autonomous community of Asturias

9.8—Feast of Our Lady of Victories; Malta

Commemorates the repelling of the Great Siege in 1565. The feast celebrates the victory Maltese people had over the Ottomans

9.8—Independence Day; Macedonia

Commemorates the freeing of Macedonia from Yugoslavia in 1991

9.8—National Day & Our Lady of Meritxell; Andorra

Feast day of the patron saint of Andorra

9.8—Siege of Leningrad Day; Russia

Anniversary of the unsuccessful military operation by the Axis powers to capture Leningrad. The siege lasted from September 9, 1941, to January 18, 1943

9.9—Father Laval Day; Mauritius

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

9.9—Independence Day; North Korea

Anniversary of the founding of the DPRK in 1948

9.9—Independence Day; Tajikistan

Anniversary of independence from the Soviet Union in 1991

9.10—Gibraltar National Day; Gibraltar

Commemorates the 1967 referendum when the people of Gibraltar voted to reject Spanish sovereignty

9.10—St. George's Caye Day; Belize

Anniversary of the battle which ended on this day in 1798

9.10—Teacher's Day; China

A day for students to show their appreciation for teachers

9.11—Enkutatash; Coptic and Ethiopian Orthodox Christian

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

9.11—Catalan National Day; Spain

Commemoration of the 1714 Siege of Barcelona defeat during the War of the Spanish Succession

9.11—Quaid-e-Azam (Jinnah's Death Anniversary); Pakistan

A day to honor Muhammad Ali Jinnah, father of the state of Pakistan. He died on this day in 1948

9.12—National Day; Cape Verde Islands

9.13—Librarian's Day; Argentina

9.14—Chung Ch'iu (Mid-Autumn Festival); China

A popular celebration of abundance and togetherness, dating back over 3,000 years

9.14—Ch'usok; North and South Korea

A harvest moon festival in which families gather for feasts and visit ancestors' graves to give thanks. Celebrated in many Asian countries under many names

9.14—Finding of the True Cross; Greece

A feast day that commemorates the finding of the True Cross by St. Helena

9.14—San Jacinto Day; Nicaragua

Anniversary of the Battle of San Jacinto in 1856

9.15—Independence Day; Central America

Marks the declared autonomy from Spanish rule and joining of the united Provinces of Central America in 1821, including Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua

9.15—Keiro-no-Hi (Respect for the Aged Day); Japan

A national holiday honoring older citizens, especially those who are centenarians

9.15—Cochabamba Local Festival; Bolivia

9.15—International Day of Peace; U.N.

Established in 1981 by the United Nations

9.15—Our Lady Mary of Sorrows; Slovakia

The feast day for Saint Mary, the patron saint of Slovakia

9.16—Fiesta Patrias (Festival of Independence); Mexico

Celebrates independence from Spain on this date in 1820. Celebrations begin at 11 p.m. the previous day to honor the time in 1810 when Father Miguel Hidalgo made the call to freedom (*Grito de Dolores*) that began the rebellion

9.16—Constitution Day; Papua New Guinea

Commemorates independence from Australia in 1975

9.16—Owain Glyndwr Day (Wales); United Kingdom
Marks the day Owain Glyndwr, a Welsh national hero, became the first Prince of Wales

9.17—Heroe's Day; Angola
Celebrated on the birthday of the national hero Agostinho Neto

9.18—Independence Day; Chile
Marks declaration of independence from Spain in 1810

9.18—Victory of Uprona; Burundi
Anniversary of the 1961 elections for National Assembly which resulted in a sweeping victory for UPRONA, the party headed by Prince Louise Rwagasore

9.19—Rosh Hashanah; International

Marks the beginning of the Jewish New Year and commemorates the creation of the world. The beginning of a period of penitence and spiritual renewal that begins at sundown the night before and ends 10 days later with Yom Kippur. Rosh Hashanah can last one or two days and is celebrated with prayers and religious services

9.19—Independence Day; St. Kitts & Nevis
Commemorates independence from the United Kingdom in 1983

9.19—St. Januarius Day; Italy
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

9.18—Armed Forces Day; Chile
Continues the Independence Day celebration

9.20—Oktoberfest; Germany

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

9.20—Liberation Day; East Timor

9.21—International day of Peace; U.N.

A day of global ceasefire and nonviolence, and an invitation to all nations and people to honor cessation of hostilities

9.21—Id al Fitr (Festival of breaking the fast); International
Marks the end of Ramadan

9.21—Independence Day; Belize
Marks independence from the United Kingdom in 1981

9.21—Independence Day; Malta
Anniversary of independence from the United Kingdom in 1964

9.21—Independence Day; Armenia
Commemorates independence from the Soviet Union in 1991

9.21—World Gratitude Day; International
Designated by the U.N. Meditation Group as a day to give thanks. It was first celebrated in 1965

9.22—Equinox; International

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

9.22—Mabon; Celtic, Pagan
Mabon occurs on this day in the Northern Hemisphere; in the Southern Hemisphere, today is Ostara

9.22—Birthday of Princess Martha Louise; Norway
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

9.22—Independence Day; Bulgaria

Commemorates independence from the Ottoman Empire

9.22—Independence Day; Mali

Commemorates independence from France in 1960

9.23—National Day; Saudi Arabia

Marks the unification of the country by King Abdul Aziz in 1932

9.23—Shubun no Hi; Japan

A celebration of the Autumnal Equinox which includes visiting the graves of ancestors to pay respect

9.23—Grito de Lares; Puerto Rico

Marks the cry for independence made on this day in 1868

9.24—Heritage Day; South Africa

Celebrates cultural diversity and serves as a time for South Africans of various heritages to strengthen bonds

9.24—Anniversary of the failed attack on Lome; Togo

9.24—Constitutional Declaration Day; Cambodia

Celebrates the signing of the constitution by King Sihanouk

9.24—Nationality Day; Guinea Bissau

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

9.24—New Caledonia Day; New Caledonia

Marks the day in 1853 when Admiral Despointes took possession of New Caledonia for France

9.24—Our Lady of Mercy (our Lady of Ransom); Spain & Dominican Republic & Peru

The feast day for Our Day of Mercy, originally known as Our Lady of Ransom

9.25—Manit Day; Marshall Islands

An annual celebration that honors local culture, cultural values, and customs

9.25—Armed Forces Day; Mozambique

Also known as Popular Liberation Forces Day. Anniversary of the start of the Armed Struggle for National Liberation

9.25—Kamarampaka Day; Rwanda

Commemorates the anniversary of the abolition of the monarchy in 1961, and is marked yearly with the opening of the National Assembly

9.25—Niklaus of Flue Day; Switzerland and Germany

The feast day of Saint Nicholas of Flue, a Swiss hermit and ascetic who is the patron saint of Switzerland

9.25—Roi Wangol, Mousindi; Haiti

9.25—Youth Day; Turks & Caicos Islands

Celebrated the last Friday of September

9.26—The September Revolution; Yemen

Commemorates the revolution in 1962 which is considered the beginning of the revolution against British colonialism

9.27—Maskal; Ethiopian Orthodox Christian

Commemorates the finding of the True Cross, the cross (*maskal*) 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 Maskal, flowers are lit in a spectacular bonfire

9.27—French Community Holiday; Belgium

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

9.27—St. Vincent de Paul Day; Madagascar

The feast day of St. Vincent de Paul, patron saint of charitable societies as well as patron saint of Madagascar

9.27—Yom Kippur (Atonement Day); Israel

A solemn and important Jewish holiday whose central themes are atonement and repentance. It is the tenth and final day of the Ten Days of Repentance which begins with Rosh Hashanah.

9.28—Confucius's Birthday; China, Taiwan

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

9.28—Lailat ul-Qadr (Night of Power); Islam (Muslim)

Commemorates the revelation of the Qur'an to the prophet Muhammad in AD 610 by the archangel Gabriel. It falls within the last 10 days of the month of Ramadan, however, since it is not known which of these days the Qur'an was revealed, Muslims often pray on each possible night. Begins at sundown the previous day

9.28—Referendum Day; Guinea

Anniversary of the day in 1958 when there was a public vote for independence

9.28—Teacher's Day; Taiwan

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.

9.28—Day of Czech Statehood; Czech Republic

Held on St. Wenceslas, the day of the patron of the Czech lands

9.29—Boqueron Battle Day; Paraguay

Anniversary of the end of the 1930 border conflict

9.29—Manman Aloumandia; Haiti

9.29—Michaelmas; International

The feast day for St. Michael the Archangel

9.30—Botswana day (Independence Day); Botswana

Observes independence from Britain in 1966

9.30—Agriculture Day; Sao Tome & Principe

9.30—Maitresse Delai; Haiti

Maitresse Delai is the patron loa of tambourine players