

September 2017 International/National Diversity-Cultural Celebrations

National Hispanic Heritage Month – In 1968, Congress first designated the week including September 15 and 16 as National Hispanic Heritage Week to celebrate the cultural, heritage, and contributions of the diverse cultures within the Hispanic community. This week was chosen because of two historical events: independence for Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua on September 15, 1821 and Mexico’s Independence Day, which was the beginning of the struggle against the Spanish on September 16, 1810. In 1988, Congress expanded the week to a full 31-day period from September 15 to October 15.

What will you do on 9/11 Day Campaign?

Join the movement, how will you give back on 9/11? Take the pledge to do a good deed on 9/11, for more information visit their website at <http://www.911day.org/>.

9/11 Day is the international non-profit movement to observe September 11 every year as a day of charitable service and doing good deeds. This observance was created soon after 9/11 to provide a positive way to forever remember and pay tribute to the 9/11 victims, honor those that rose in service in response to the attacks, and remind people of the importance of working more closely together in peace to improve our world.

9/11 Day was founded and is lead each year by MyGoodDeed, they were successful in their effort to secure the formal designation of September 11 as a National Day of Service and Remembrance, which was supported on a bipartisan basis by former President George W. Bush, formally authorized in 2009 under federal law approved by Congress, and established officially by President Barack Obama under Presidential Proclamation in September.

Sept 1

Eid-ul-Adha – Islam

Concludes the Hajj and is a 3-day festival celebrating Abraham’s test of obedience to Allah when asked to sacrifice his son Ismael. At the last minute, Allah replaced Ismael with a lamb. Since Eid is determined by the first sighting of the new moon, the date varies by a day depending on whether the Saudi Arabian or North American sighting is being observed. This date is using the North American Calendar.

Sept 2

Independence Day – Vietnam

Sept 4

Father’s Day – Australia, New Zealand

Labor Day – USA, Canada

On June 29, 1894, the U.S. Congress voted Labor Day as a national holiday to honor working people’s contribution of labor.

Sept 5

Ananta-Chaturdasi – Jain

Festival of ten virtues is a 10-day fast and meditation.

International Day of Charity – UN

Sept 6

Ksamavani – Jain

“Day of universal forgiveness” for wrongs committed by them and to them.

Defence Day – Pakistan

National day in memory of how Pakistan defended itself against the Indian army in the Indo-Pakistan war of 1965.

Sept 7 **Independence Day – Brazil**

Sept 8 **Izzat – Baha’i**

The 10th month in the Baha’i calendar. “Izzat” means Might.

International Literacy Day – U.N.

A day to focus on worldwide literacy issues. More than 780 million of the world’s adults (nearly two-thirds of whom are women) do not know how to read or write, and between 94 and 115 million children do not have access to education.

Sept 11 **Day of Remembrance – USA**

The effects of the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon in 2001 impacted Americans and most other nations. It has brought us to focus on the devastation terrorism has caused in the world, as well as to honor those whose lives were lost that day – including their surviving families.

Meskerem (New Year) - Ethiopia

Coptic Orthodox Christians are found in all of Africa. They include Egypt, Libya, Sudan and Ethiopia. During the time of Pharaohs 4,000 years ago, the appearance of Soothis (Dog Star) marked a signal that the Nile River would rise, flooding the fertile plants so that planning could begin. The end of the rainy season is known as the New Year.

Sept 12-16 **Gahambar Paitishahem – Zoroastrian**

This day celebrates the creation of the Earth.

Independence Day - Qatar

Sept 15 **Hispanic Heritage Month – U.S.**

In 1968, Congress first designated the week including September 15 and 16 as National Hispanic Heritage Week. This week was chosen because of two historical events: Independence Day (September. 15), which celebrated the formal signing of the Act of Independence of Central American in 1821; and Mexico’s Independence Day (September. 16), which commemorates the beginning of the struggle against Spanish control in 1810. In 1988, Congress expanded the week to a full 31-day period from September 15 through October 15.

Independence Day – Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua

Sept 16 **Dia de la Independencia – Mexico**

Declares independence from Spain on this date in 1820. Celebrations begin 11 p.m. the previous day to honor the time in 1810 when Father Miguel Hidalgo made the call to freedom that began the rebellion.

Oktoberfest – Germany

The world’s largest Volkfest, a 16-day folk festival running from late September to the first weekend in October. In 1810, King Joseph Maximillian of Bavaria decided to celebrate his marriage with Princess Theresa of Saxonie in royal style and chose the now famous Theresienwiese (wise-meadow). Originally it was meant to be just a simple horse race event but the Bavarian character took over and it became a happy gathering of cheerful beer drinkers.

International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer - UN

- Sept. 17** **Constitution Day Day – U.S.**
Honors those from other countries who become U.S. citizens each year and also the anniversary of the signing of the U.S. Constitution in 1787.
- Sept 18** **Independence Day - Chile**
- Keiro No Hi – Japan**
Respect of the Aged Day, established as a national holiday in 1966 to express respect for the elders and to recognize and thank them for their contributions to society and celebrate long lives.
- Sept 21** **1st Muharram |Islamic New Year - Islam**
The first Muharran marks the first day of the first month (Muharram) of the Islamic year. Muharam lasts for 29-30 days depending on the moon sighting. It begins at sundown the previous day. The date varies by a day depending on whether the Saudi Arabian or North American sighting is being observed. This date is using the North American Calendar.
- Navratri – Hindu**
Means 'nine months' beginning on the new moon and ending on Dussehra. It is dedicated to the goddess Durga who had nine incarnations and has the power of good to destroy demons.
- Independence Day – Armenia, Malta**
- 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 and to otherwise commemorate the day through education and public awareness on issues related to peace.
- Sept 21-22** **Rosh Hashanah |New Year – Jewish**
Begins the previous sundown at 6:00 pm and observed for two days. Literally 'Head of the Year' marks the first and second day of the Jewish New Year and the anniversary of the creation of the world. It ends 10-days later with Yom Kippur. It is celebrated with prayers and religious services.
- Sept 22** **Chichen Itza Festival - Mexico**
During the Autumn Equinox, thousands gather at the Mayan Temple of Kukulcan to see the interplay of light and shadow as it forms the impression of a long tailed serpent leading down to the stone head of the serpent Kukulcan.
- Independence Day – Bulgaria, Mali**
- Mabon – Wiccan**
This day celebrates the fall equinox and the end of the harvest season.
- Shuki sorei sai – Japan, Shinto**
Autumnal Equinox Day. The Japanese honor family ancestry, visiting ancestral graves and having family reunions.
- Sept 23** **Unification Day – Saudi Arabia**
- Sept 24** **Our Lady of Las Mercedes Day – Dominican Republic and Peru**
A traditional feast of Our Lady of Mercy celebrated in many Latin countries. The Lady of Mercies (La Virgen de las Mercedes) is the patron saint of the Dominican Republic and Peru.

- Sept 24** **Heritage Day – South Africa**
A recently created holiday in which everyone is encouraged to celebrate their culture and the diversity of their beliefs and traditions.
- Republic Day – Trinidad & Tobago**
- Sept 27** **Mashiyyat (11th moon) – Baha’i**
The first day of the eleventh Baha’i month. The English translation of Mashiyyat (Arabic) is Will.
- Sept 28** **Fiesta San Miguel - Mexico**
The festival of the Archangel San Miguel is the Patron Saint of the city of San Miguel.
- Durga Puja – Hindu**
This day celebrates the divine creative force of the universe and honors the 10-armed goddess Durga, wife of Shiva. And the destroyer of demons.
- Sept 30** **San Geronimo Day – Aboriginal/Native American**
Named after St. Jerome, an Apache fighter (1829 – 1909), this day is celebrated by the Native Americans in Taos Pueblo, New Mexico.
- Yom Kippur – Jewish**
The Day of Atonement is the holiest and most solemn of all days in the Jewish year. They believe that once you atone for your mistakes, you can be ‘at one’ with God. Jews do not work and fast from sunset to sunset.
- Sept 30** **Ashura – Islam**
The tenth day of the first Islamic month (Muharram). For Shi’ite Muslims, this day mourns the martyrdom of Hazrat Iman Husain, the grandson of Prophet Muhammed. Devout Shi’ite commemorate this day of sadness with retelling the story of the battle fought in Kerbala.
- Dussehra - Hindu**
Means ‘the tenth’ and celebrates the triumph of the Lord Ram over the demon Ravan who stole his wife Sita. The great Hindu epic poem, the Ramayana is read and enacted called Ram Lila. A big effigy of Ravan is burnt accompanied by fireworks.
- World Maritime Day – UN**

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<http://usa.multiculturalcalendar.com/v/home.html>.