

UK BANK HOLIDAYS 2022

1 January	<i>New Year's Day</i>
3 January	<i>New Year's Day Bank Holiday (substitute day)</i>
15 April	<i>Good Friday</i>
17 April	<i>Easter Sunday</i>
18 April	<i>Easter Monday</i>
2 May	<i>May Day Bank Holiday</i>
2 June	<i>Spring Bank Holiday</i>
3 June	<i>Queen's Platinum Jubilee Bank Holiday</i>
29 August	<i>Summer Bank Holiday</i>
25 December	<i>Christmas Day</i>
26 December	<i>Boxing Day</i>
27 December	<i>Christmas Day Bank Holiday (substitute day)</i>

For a full description of the meaning of these *Bank Holiday's* please see the appropriate date

Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Calendar 2022

JANUARY 2022

01 January 2022

New Year's Day

New Year is one of the most widely celebrated holidays in the world. In many parts of the globe New Year festivities begin the day before on New Year's Eve, December 31. People host and attend New Year parties at home or celebrate in restaurants, bars, or on the street, counting down to the end of the year and wishing each other a happy new year.

04 January 2022

World Braille Day

World Braille Day is an international day celebrating awareness of the importance of braille as a means of communication in the full realisation of the human rights for blind and visually impaired people.

06 January 2022

Epiphany (Christian)

Epiphany is a Christian feast day that celebrates the revelation of God incarnate as Jesus Christ. In Western Christianity, the feast commemorates principally the visit of the Magi to the Christ Child, and thus Jesus' physical manifestation to the Gentiles. It is also known as the twelfth day of Christmas.

07 January 2022

Christmas Day (Orthodox Day)

Many Orthodox Christians annually celebrate Christmas Day on or near January 7 to remember Jesus Christ's birth, described in the Christian Bible. This date works to the Julian calendar that pre-dates the more commonly observed Gregorian calendar.

14 January 2022

Orthodox New Year's Day

The Old New Year or the Orthodox New Year is an informal traditional holiday, celebrated as the start of the New Year by the Julian calendar. In the 20th and 21st centuries, the Old New Year falls on January 14 in the Gregorian calendar.

16 January 2022

World Religion Day

The aim of World Religion Day, held on the third Sunday in January every year, is to promote inter-faith understanding and harmony. Through a variety of events held around the globe, followers of every religion are encouraged to acknowledge the similarities that different faiths have.

17 January 2022

15th Shevat (Judaism)

Tu B'Shvat is a Jewish holiday occurring on the 15th day of the Hebrew month of Shevat. It is also called Rosh HaShanah La'llanot, literally 'New Year of the Trees'. In contemporary Israel, the day is celebrated as an ecological awareness day, and trees are planted in celebration.

International Martin Luther King Day

Martin Luther King was one of the principal leaders of the United States civil rights movement. His birth is marked by Martin Luther King Day, an American federal holiday established by President Ronald Reagan in 1983 15 years after the clergyman's assassination. Martin Luther King was born on 15 January 1929, with Martin Luther King Day observed each year on the third Monday in January. It is one of only four national holidays in America to commemorate a person. Initial resistance towards the holiday meant it was not officially observed in all 50 states until 2000.

27 January 2022

Holocaust Memorial Day

This day honours the memory of those who lost their lives in the Holocaust and the survivors that bore witness to the horrors to which the Jewish people were subjected. This day focuses on promoting education, remembrance, and research to ensure that genocide, ethnic cleansing, racism and anti-Semitism become part of our past but not our future.

FEBRUARY 2022

01 February 2022

Chinese New Year

Chinese New Year is the Chinese festival that celebrates the beginning of a new year on the traditional Chinese calendar. The festival is commonly referred to as the Spring Festival in China as the spring season in the lunisolar calendar traditionally starts with lichun, the first of the twenty-four solar terms which the festival celebrates around the time of the Lunar New Year. Marking the end of winter and the beginning of the spring season, observances traditionally take place from New Year's Eve, the evening preceding the first day of the year to the Lantern Festival, held on the 15th day of the year. The first day of Chinese New Year begins on the new moon that appears between 21 January and 20 February. In 2022, the first day of the Chinese New Year will be on Friday, 1 February, which is the Year of the Tiger.

LGBT+ History Month begins

History Month is an annual month-long observance of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender history, and the history of the gay rights and related civil rights movements. It was founded in 1994 by Missouri high-school history teacher Rodney Wilson. LGBT History Month provides role models, builds community, and represents a civil rights statement about the contributions of the LGBTQ+ community. As of 2020, LGBT History Month is a month-long celebration that is specific to Hungary, the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, Brazil, Greenland, and the city of Berlin.

04 February 2022

World Cancer Day

World Cancer Day is observed worldwide on February 4. The aim is to inform and encourage people on its prevention, early detection, and treatment. This initiative was taken by the Union for International Cancer Control to campaign and advocate for the targets of the World Cancer Declaration, penned in 2008.

05 February 2022

Vasant Panchami (Hindu)

Vasant Panchami is the Hindu festival that welcomes spring. It falls in the Hindu lunar month of Magh (January/February). It's also the time to pay tribute to Saraswati, the Goddess of Wisdom. She is usually portrayed with four hands to represent four aspects of the human intellect. She sits on a lotus to symbolise her wisdom and is clothed in white to symbolise purity.

06 February 2022

International Day of Zero Tolerance to Female Genital Mutilation

International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation is a United Nations-sponsored annual awareness day that takes place on February 6 as part of the UN's efforts to eradicate female genital mutilation. It was first introduced in 2003.

07 February 2022

Time to Talk about Mental Health Day

Time to Talk Day aim is to get people to choose to talk about mental health and by doing so help change lives. It is a chance for all of us to open-up to mental health – to talk, to listen, and to change lives.

15 February 2022

Nirvana Day (Buddhist)

Nirvana Day (Parinirvana) is the day when Buddhists from the Mahayana tradition remember the death and enlightenment of the Buddha at the age of 80. It is also known as Parinirvana Day and is celebrated by some Buddhists on the 15th of February. Nirvana Day is celebrated by some Mahayana Buddhist traditions on 8 February.

25 February 2022

International Stand Up to Bullying Day

International STAND UP to Bullying Day is a special semi-annual event in which participants sign and wear a pink "pledge shirt" to take a visible, public stance against bullying. The event takes place in schools, workplaces, and organisations in 25 countries around the globe on the third Friday of November to coincide with Anti-Bullying Week, and then again on the last Friday of February.

28 February 2022

Lailat-al-Miraj (Islam)

This is a Muslim festival that commemorates the Prophet Muhammad's journey from Mecca to the 'Farthest Mosque' in Jerusalem when he ascended to heaven, was purified and given the instruction for Muslims to pray five times daily. It is observed as one of the most important events in the history of Islam and many Muslims attend special prayer services.

MARCH 2022

01 March 2022

Shrove Tuesday (Christian)

Shrove Tuesday is the day before Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent. It is also known as Pancake Tuesday or Pancake Day. Shrove Tuesday gets its name from the ritual of shricing, i.e., the process of confessing and repenting of sins, fasting and abstaining from luxuries during Lent. Lent is the period of 40 days which comes before Easter in the Christian calendar.

St David's Day

Saint David's Day is the feast day of Saint David, the patron saint of Wales. Although it is not a national holiday it's celebrated every year with traditional festivities across Welsh towns. Many wear daffodils and leeks, eat traditional food such as cawl and Welsh rarebit and there are St David's Day parades across the country.

Self Injury Awareness Day

Self Injury Awareness Day is held annually on 1 March. Its purpose is to remove the stigma attached to self-injury and to encourage parents, family members, educators and healthcare professionals to recognise the signs of self-harm.

02 March 2022

Ash Wednesday/ Lent Begins (Christian)

Ash Wednesday is the beginning of Lent for Western Christian churches and is a day of penitence. In some traditions, services are held on Ash Wednesday when worshippers are marked on the forehead with a cross of ashes as a sign of penitence and mortality.

08 March 2022

International Women's Day

International Women's Day is celebrated on the 8th of March every year around the world. It is a focal point in the movement for women's rights. After the Socialist Party of America organised a Women's Day in New York City on February 28, 1909 and the proposal at the 1910 International Socialist Woman's Conference was that "a special Women's Day" be organized annually. After women gained suffrage in Soviet Russia in 1917, March 8 became a national holiday there. The day was then predominantly celebrated by the socialist movement and communist countries until it was adopted by the feminist movement in about 1967. The United Nations began celebrating the day in 1977.

16-17 March 2022

Purim (Judaism)

Purim commemorates the salvation of the Jewish people in ancient Persia from Haman's "plot to destroy, kill and annihilate all the Jews", as recorded in the book of Esther. Observances on this day include reading the book of Esther, giving money to at least two poor people, sending two kinds of food to at least one person and a festive Purim feast.

17 March 2022

St Patrick's Day

Saint Patrick's Day is a cultural and religious festival that commemorates the Saint and the arrival of Christianity in Ireland as well as Irish culture and heritage in general. Celebrations include parades, traditional Irish music and the wearing of green clothes and shamrocks. It is a public holiday in both Ireland and Northern Ireland.

18 March 2022

Holi (Hindu)

Holi is celebrated on the day after the full moon in the Hindu month of Phalguna (early March). At Holi Hindus celebrate spring and certain events in Hindu mythology. It's also known as the 'Festival of Colours' due to the practice of throwing and applying coloured water and powder on friends and family. This ritual is said to be based on the story of Krishna and Radha. Krishna would ask his mother why Radha was fair while he was dark, and she advised him to apply colour to Radha's face to see how her complexion changed. At Holi images of Krishna and Radha are carried through the streets.

19 March 2022

Hola Mahalla (Sikh)

Hola Mohalla is a festival celebrated by Sikhs in the city of Anandpur Sahib in the Punjab, which is known as 'the holy City of Bliss'. Hola Mohalla follows the Indian festival of Holi and celebrates Sikh martial skills with displays of horsemanship and mock battles. It was established by Guru Gobind Singh in 1701. The festivities are followed by music and poetry contests.

20 March 2022

International Day of Happiness

International Day of Happiness is a global event arranged by the United Nations annually on March 20. It serves to remind us that being happy is a human right and worth celebrating.

Spring Equinox (Pagan)

At Spring (Vernal) Equinox the days and nights are of equal length. The land begins to bloom, and Pagans celebrate the rebirth of spring. Spring Equinox is sometimes called Ostera (or Eostre) after the Anglo-Saxon goddess of fertility, whose symbols are the hare and the egg. To celebrate Spring Equinox some Pagan's carry out particular rituals. A man and woman are chosen to act out the roles of Spring God and Goddess, playing out courtship rituals and symbolically planting seeds. Egg races, egg hunts, and egg painting are also traditional activities at this time of year.

21 March 2022

Down Syndrome Awareness Week Begins

This day helps to raise awareness of what Down syndrome is, what it means to have the syndrome and how people with Down syndrome play a vital role in our lives and communities. This is an opportunity to advocate for the rights and inclusion of people with Down Syndrome, an initiative which is supported by the United Nations.

International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

The International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination is observed annually on 21 March. On that day, in 1960, police opened fire and killed 69 people at a peaceful demonstration against the apartheid pass laws in Sharpeville, South Africa. It encourages people to remember their obligation and determination to combat racial discrimination. The International Day to Eliminate Racial Discrimination is a chance for people to voice opinions promote equality across backgrounds and cultures.

Nowruz (Persian New Year)

Nowruz (literally "new day") is the name of the Iranian (or Persian) New Year, celebrated on the astronomical vernal equinox. Although having Iranian and religious Zoroastrian origins, Nowruz has been celebrated by people from diverse ethno-linguistic communities for over 3,000 years in Western Asia, Central Asia, the Caucasus, the Black Sea Basin, and the Balkans. It is a secular holiday for most celebrants that is enjoyed by people of several different faiths, but remains a holy day for Zoroastrians. Haft Seen also spelled as Haft Sin is a traditional table-top arrangement. The main items of a Haft Seen: 1. Somagh (sumac): symbolizes the colour of sunrise 2. Serkeh (vinegar): symbolizes age and patience 3. Senjed (dried fruit from lotus tree): symbolizes love 4. Samanoo (sweet pudding): symbolizes affluence 5. Sabzeh (sprouts): symbolizes rebirth 6. Sib (apple): symbolizes health and beauty 7. Sir (garlic): symbolizes medicine.

27 March 2022

Mother's Day (UK)

Mother's Day is a celebration honouring the mother of the family, as well as motherhood, maternal bonds, and the influence of mothers in society. It is celebrated on various days in many parts of the world, most commonly in the months of March or May. It complements similar celebrations honouring family members, such as Father's Day, Siblings Day, and Grandparents Day.

31 March 2022

International Transgender Day of Visibility

International Transgender Day of Visibility (TDOV) is an annual event, this year on January 31 dedicated to celebrating transgender people and raising awareness of discrimination faced by transgender people worldwide, as well as a celebration of their contributions to society. It is a time to celebrate the achievements made in the promotion and protection of trans rights and to raise awareness of the challenges trans people still face every day.

APRIL 2022

01 April 2022

Stress Awareness Month

Stress Awareness Month has been held every April, since 1992 to increase public awareness about both the causes and cures for our modern stress epidemic. Despite this running for 29 years we have got a long way to go. Research identified that 65% of people in the UK have felt more stressed since the COVID-19 restrictions began in March 2020. The three key causes for concern are feelings of disconnection, uncertainty, and a worrying loss of control.

02 April 2022

Ramadan Begins (Islam)

Ramadan is the ninth month in the Islamic calendar and is a time of fasting and spiritual renewal. According to the Quran, the Prophet Muhammad received the first revelations of the Quran during Ramadan. Therefore, Ramadan is considered the most sacred month of the Islamic calendar. Fasting during Ramadan was instituted early in Islamic history when the first Muslim community migrated from Mecca to Medina. Every day from sunrise to sunset, Muslims are required to refrain from consuming food and liquids, smoking, and engaging in sexual relations. Muslims give more to charity in the month of Ramadan.

World Autism Awareness Day

The United Nations World Autism Awareness Day aims to increase people's awareness about people, especially children, with autism. The day often features educational events for teachers, health care workers and parents, as well as exhibitions showcasing work created by children with autism. On the World Autism Awareness Day, there is a call for advancing the rights of individuals with autism and ensuring their full participation and inclusion as valued members of our diverse human family who can contribute to a future of dignity and opportunity for all.

05 April 2022

Qing Ming Day (Chinese)

Qing (pronounced ching) Ming (Tomb-Sweeping Day) falls on the first day of the fifth solar term of the traditional Chinese lunisolar calendar. Chinese families visit the tombs of their ancestors to clean the gravesites and make ritual offerings. Offerings would typically include traditional food dishes, and the burning of joss sticks and joss paper. In mainland China, the holiday is associated with the consumption of qingtuan, green dumplings made of glutinous rice and Chinese mugwort or barley grass. A similar confection called caozaiguo or shuchuguo, made with Jersey cudweed, is consumed in Taiwan.

07 April 2022

World Health Day

World Health Day is a global health awareness day celebrated every year on April 7, under the sponsorship of the World Health Organization, as well as other related organisations. The World Health Day is held to mark WHO's founding and is seen as an opportunity by the organization to draw worldwide attention to a subject of major importance to global health each

year. The WHO organises international, regional, and local events on the Day related to a particular theme. World Health Day is acknowledged by various governments and non-governmental organisations with interests in public health issues, who also organise activities and highlight their support in media reports, such as the Global Health Council.

08 April 2022

International Romani Day

The International Romani Day is a day to celebrate Romani culture and raise awareness of the issues facing Romani people, and was established in 1990. Romanichal and Kale Romani groups have lived in the UK since the 15th century. The first Roma from the new EU countries, particularly from the Czech Republic, Poland, Romania and Slovakia, came to the UK in the 1990s seeking asylum to escape persecution. It is not known how many Roma live in the UK. The best estimate is around 300,000. Many Roma avoid declaring their ethnicity and instead use their nationality.

10 April 2022

Rama Navami (Hindu)

At Rama Navami Hindus celebrate the birth of Lord Rama. It falls on the ninth day of Chaitra in the Hindu calendar (March/April). Rama Navami is one of the most important Hindu festivals. Lord Rama is an incarnation of the god Vishnu and the hero of the epic Ramayana, which is recited in its entirety in the week leading up to Rama Navama, and on the day itself.

13 April 2022

Vaisakhi (Sikh)

Vaisakhi, also known as Baisakhi, is a traditional harvest festival celebrated by Sikhs. While celebrations take place predominantly in northern India, the festival is also commemorated by Sikhs around the world. Vaisakhi is celebrated in a variety of different ways. However, many of these traditions have much of the same things in common. For instance, Gurdwaras are often elaborated decorated and the faithful goes inside them to pray. Also, many people take time out of the day to enjoy parades and music.

15 April 2022

Good Friday (Christian)

Good Friday is a Christian holiday commemorating the crucifixion of Jesus and his death at Calvary. It is observed during Holy Week as part of the Paschal Triduum on the Friday preceding Easter Sunday and may coincide with the Jewish observance of Passover. It is also known as Holy Friday and Great Friday.

Passover/ Pesach (Judaism)

Passover remembers the time the Jewish people left slavery behind them when they were led out of Egypt by Moses 3,000 years ago. It is celebrated for 7-8 days with the cleaning of houses to remove all crumbs of chametz (leaven) to remember the Jews who did not have time to let

their bread rise. The eve before Passover begins with a service called Seder over a meal with family and friends.

16 April 2022

Hanuman Jayanti (Hindu)

At Hanuman Jayanti, Hindus celebrate the birth of the god Hanuman. It falls in the month of Chaitra in the Hindu calendar (April). Hanuman is an ardent devotee of Lord Rama, and is revered for his dedication to him. As he is believed to have been born at sunrise, celebrations in his honour begin early in the morning. Devotees visit the temple and apply sindoor (red powder) to their foreheads, as Hanuman's image is always coloured red. Hanuman is the symbol of strength and energy and he can assume any form, a power which he uses to conquer evil.

17 April 2022

Easter Sunday (Christian & Orthodox)

Easter, also called Pascha or Resurrection Sunday, is a festival and holiday commemorating the resurrection of Jesus from the dead, described in the New Testament as having occurred on the third day after his burial following his crucifixion by the Romans at Calvary. It is the culmination of the Passion of Jesus, preceded by Lent, a 40-day period of fasting, prayer, and penance.

18 April 2022

Easter Monday

Easter, one of the oldest Christian traditions, is the celebration of the last week of Jesus' life, his death, and his resurrection. For Christians, Easter symbolises the dawn of a new life and the high point of the Christian calendar. While defined as a Christian holiday, Easter has many of its roots in the traditions and rituals of the pagan people who inhabited the United Kingdom before its wide spread conversion to the Christian faith. Scholars believe that Easter was named for "Eostre", the Anglo-Saxon goddess of the spring. Hot cross buns are traditionally eaten on Good Friday. Fish is the traditional food of choice for Good Friday suppers, while some devout Christians opt to fast instead in memory of the sacrifice given by Jesus Christ. One of the largest traditions during a UK Easter is the giving of Easter eggs. Chocolate eggs are given to children on Easter Sunday.

22 April 2022

Earth Day

Earth Day is a celebration of the planet we live on as well as an opportunity to talk about climate change action. All around the world people take part in events to promote climate action and encourage others to protect the planet. The April 22 Earth Day is usually celebrated with outdoor performances, where individuals or groups perform acts of service to Earth. Typical ways of observing Earth Day include planting trees, picking up roadside rubbish, conducting various programs for recycling and conservation, and using recyclable containers for snacks and lunches.

23 April 2022***St George's Day***

St George's Day is celebrated by various Cristian Churches, kingdoms and countries of which St George is the Saint. The 23 April is traditionally accepted as the date of the saint's death. In England St George's Day used to be a national holiday on par with Christmas but in current times, remains a working day that is celebrated by flying the St George's Cross flag. In 2022 it will be celebrated on 25 April.

26 April 2022***Lesbian Visibility Day***

Lesbian Visibility Day showcases women-loving-women, providing a platform for lesbian role models to speak out on the issues facing female sexual minorities. Having initially started in the US, Lesbian Visibility Day is now celebrated internationally.

29 April 2022***Laylat-al-Qadr (Islam)***

Laylat Al Qadr is considered the holiest night of the year for Muslims and is traditionally celebrated on the 27th day of Ramadan. It is known as the Night of Power wherein Muslims will traditionally engage in worship and spiritual betterment practices all night.

MAY 2022

01 May 2022

International Family Equality Day

Rainbow families are growing, gaining visibility, and increasingly enjoying social and legal recognition, but their levels of recognition still differ widely around the globe. In some countries rainbow families enjoy equal rights and social recognition, while in others, for instance some Eastern European, Latin American, and most African and Asian countries, same-sex parents and their children have to live in hiding in order to avoid blatant discrimination, including the threat of violence. The International Family Equality Day is an official LGBT awareness day and takes place every year on the first Sunday in May to celebrate the Diversity of Families globally. The strategic importance of IFED derives from the fact that it provides LGBTIQ families and associations with the opportunity to come together, reflect and prepare for civic action; to strengthen the visibility of LGBTIQ families and the values they are supporting; to establish new alliances with institutions and various sectors of civil society, to learn from each other and to build partnerships across borders.

02 May 2022

May Day Bank Holiday

May Day is a public holiday in some regions, and is usually celebrated on the 1 May or the first Monday of May. It is an ancient festival marking the first day of summer, and a current traditional spring holiday in many European cultures. Dancing, singing and cake are usually part of the festivities.

Deaf Awareness Week

Deaf Awareness Week celebrates the collective achievements of organisations working with deaf people and recognises the positive steps taken by employers and services to make sure deaf and hard of hearing people are treated fairly and have equal access. Promoted by the UK Council on Deafness, Deaf Awareness Week is an opportunity to raise awareness that 1 in 6 people in the UK are deaf or hard of hearing.

Eid al-Fitr

Eid al-Fitr, (sometimes known as Eid ul-Fitr), also called the "Festival of Breaking the Fast", is a religious holiday celebrated by Muslims worldwide that marks the end of the month-long dawn to sunset fasting of Ramadan. This religious Eid is the only day in the month of Shawwal during which Muslims are not permitted to fast.

13 May 2022

Mental Health Awareness Week Begins

Mental health is just as important as physical health; this helps raise awareness of mental wellbeing, how it affects each of us and how we can support each other inside and outside the workplace. The aim of this week is to educate the public about mental health issues and to promote better mental health. This event is also a vehicle to raise funds for the Mental Health Foundation.

17 May 2022

International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia

Since 2005, May 17 has been dedicated to the International Day Against Homophobia, marking the day in 1990 when the World Health Organization removed homosexuality from its list of mental disorders. Transphobia was added to the day in 2009 and Biphobia in 2015. May 17 is now celebrated in more than 120 countries, with advocates staging hundreds of activities, events and actions all over the world. These mobilisations unite millions of people in support for the upholding of human rights for all, irrespective of sexual orientation or gender identity or expression.

20 May 2022

Dementia Action Week

This is the week where we ask everyone to put aside their differences and unite against dementia – to urgently find a cure, improve care and offer help and understanding.

26 May 2022

Ascension Day (Christian)

Ascension celebrates the day when Jesus Christ is said to have ascended bodily into heaven, in the presence of the apostles. The Ascension is believed to have occurred on the 40th day after Easter, and consequently falls on a Thursday. In recent times the Catholic Church has celebrated the Feast of the Ascension on the Sunday after Ascension Thursday.

JUNE 2022

01 June 2022

SANDS (Stillbirth & neonatal death charity) Awareness month begins

June is SANDS awareness month, a time dedicated to raising awareness of the facts and impacts relating to neonatal deaths and stillbirths. The loss of a child in pregnancy or childbirth affects parents for life, but the wider public are not always aware of the full impact of such a tragedy.

National Volunteers Week Begins

This week celebrates the contributions made by volunteers across the UK. Throughout the week blogs, stories and awards showcase the difference the volunteers make to charities and the UK society as a whole. If you are planning an event to celebrate, get in touch with NCVO and they may show case your event on their website.

Pride Month Begins

June is the month to celebrate as it was the month of Stonewall riots, the protests that changed gay rights for a lot of people in America and beyond. It is about people coming together in love and friendship, to show how far gay rights have come, even if in some places there is still some work to be done. Pride month is about teaching tolerance, education in pride history and continuing to move forward in equality. It calls for people to remember how damaging homophobia was and still can be.

02 June 2022

Spring Bank Holiday

The Spring Bank Holiday will be moved to Thursday 2 June in order to see a four-day weekend to celebrate Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

03 June 2022

Queen's Platinum Jubilee Bank Holiday

This historic event will reflect on Her Majesty The Queen's 70th anniversary as monarch, and will reflect on her impact on the UK and the world since 1952. – the first time any British monarch has reached this historic milestone.

Duan Wu/Dragon Boat Festival (Chinese)

The renowned Dragon Boat Festival, also known as Tuen Ng, falls on the fifth day of the fifth lunar month. It commemorates the death of Qu Yuan, a Chinese poet and minister known for his patriotism and contributions to classical poetry and who eventually became a national hero.

05 June 2022

World Environment Day

Held annually on 5 June. This is an environmental awareness day, run by the UN, to raise awareness of the environment and specific environmental issues.

Pentecost

The Christian holiday of Pentecost, which is celebrated the 50th day (the seventh Sunday) after Easter Sunday, commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and other followers of Jesus Christ while they were in Jerusalem celebrating the Feast of Weeks, as described in the Acts of the Apostles.

Shavuot begins (Judaism)

Shavuot, Yiddish Shovues in Ashkenazi usage, is known as the Feast of Weeks or Pentecost in English. It is a Jewish holiday that occurs on the sixth day of the Hebrew month of Sivan. One of the biblically ordained Three Pilgrimage Festivals, Shavuot is traditionally celebrated in the Land of Israel for one day and for two days in the Diaspora. While there is more awareness of the festival in Israel among secular Jews, generally Shavuot is widely ignored by non-practising Jews.

07 June 2022

Carers Week Begins

Carers week is an opportunity to recognise how carers support families and communities in the UK. Activities, story sharing, and blogs are a great way to ensure carers have the opportunity to be heard on this week each year.

19 June 2022

Father's Day

Father's Day is a chance to celebrate fathers and grandfathers across the UK. It has been celebrated since the middle ages and is celebrated across the world and UK communities.

20 June 2022

Refugee Day

Refugee Day falls annually on 20 June and World Refugee Week is held every year around this date. It is a UK-wide festival celebrating the contributions, creativity and resilience of refugees and people seeking sanctuary. Founded in 1998 and held every year around World Refugee Day on the 20 June, Refugee Week is also a growing global movement. Through a programme of arts, cultural, sports and educational events alongside media and creative campaigns, Refugee Week enables people from different backgrounds to connect beyond labels, as well as encouraging understanding of why people are displaced, and the challenges they face when seeking safety. Refugee Week is a platform for people who have sought safety in the UK to share their experiences, perspectives and creative work on their own terms. Refugee Week's vision is for refugees and asylum seekers to be able to live safely within inclusive and resilient communities, where they can continue to make a valuable contribution.

21 June 2022

Summer Solstice

At Summer Solstice Pagans celebrate Midsummer or Litha, which means 'standing still of the sun'. It is the longest day of the year. Pagans are in awe of the sun and its creative power. For some Pagans the Summer Solstice marked the marriage of the God and Goddess whose union creates the harvest's fruits. It is a time to celebrate growth and life, but also to acknowledge the Wheel of Life and that the sun will now begin to decline once more towards winter. In England many Pagans and non-Pagans visit ancient religious sites like Stonehenge and Avebury to see the sunrise at Summer Solstice.

22 June 2022

National Windrush Day

This is the 74th anniversary of the Windrush Migration to commemorate the five hundred passengers who stepped off the SS Empire Windrush as the first of the Windrush Generation, who travelled from the Caribbean to work and settle in the UK between 1948 and 1971.

30 June 2022

Ratha Yatra (Hindu)

This festival is also referred to as Rathjatra or Chariot festival. It involves a public procession with a chariot of deities Jagannath, Balabhadra, Subhadra and Sudarshana. The day is celebrated by over a million Hindu pilgrims a year and is celebrated across cities in the UK.

JULY 2022

09 July 2022

Day of Arafah Hajj Day (Islam)

The Day of Arafah (or Arafat) is one of the most revered and auspicious days in the Islamic calendar. The ninth day of the month of Dhul Hijjah, it is the day on which pilgrims during Hajj gather on the mountain plain of Arafah, just outside Mecca, to pray and seek forgiveness from their Lord. The Day of Arafah is the second day of Hajj, with Eid-ul-Adha and Qurbani commencing the following day. It is regarded as one of the most blessed and precious days for Muslims around the world for many reasons.

10 July 2022

Eid Al-Adha Begins (Islam)

Commemorates Ibrahim's (Abraham's) willingness to sacrifice his son to God. According to Islamic tradition, God ordered Ibrahim to sacrifice his son, Ishmael, as a test of his faith. However, just as Ibrahim was about to kill Ishmael, God instructed him to sacrifice a ram in his place. At Eid al-Adha Muslims celebrate Ibrahim's obedience to God and vow to be like him. Eid al-Adha also marks the end of Hajj, the annual pilgrimage to Mecca which ends 21 September.

14 July 2022

Disability Awareness Day

The 12th of July annually is set aside as the disability awareness day. It is a day meant to look into all issues that pertain to disability challenges and their symptoms. It is a day on which people are educated and inspired to:

- Highlight all the services which are available for people with disabilities to overcome the symptoms and become self sufficient
- Campaign for aides and equipment that can improve or maintain such self sufficiency

International Non-Binary People's Day

International Non-Binary People's Day is observed each year on 14 July and is aimed at raising awareness and organising around the issues faced by non-binary people around the world. The day was first celebrated in 2012. The date was chosen for being precisely between International Men's Day and International Women's Day. Most countries in the world do not recognize non-binary as a legal gender, meaning most non-binary people still have a gendered passport and official identification. Australia, Bangladesh, Canada, Denmark, Germany, India, the Netherlands and New Zealand include non-binary gender options on passports, and 18 US states allow residents to mark their gender as 'X' on their driving licence. This is a LGBTQ+ awareness period dedicated to those who do not fit within the traditional gender binary, i.e. those who do not exclusively identify as a man or a woman, or who may identify as both a man and a woman, or may fall outside of these categories altogether.

18 July 2022

South Asian Heritage Month Begins

South Asian Heritage Month runs from 18 July to 17 August every year. It seeks to raise the profile of British South Asian heritage and history in the UK through education, arts, culture and commemoration, with the goal of helping people to better understand the diversity of present-day Britain and improve social cohesion across the country.

South Asian Heritage Month is about reclaiming the history and identity of British South Asians. People need to be able to tell their own stories, and this is an opportunity to show what it means to be South Asian in the 21st century, as well as look to the past to see how Britain became the diverse country it is today. South Asian influences can be found everywhere in Britain, from our food and clothes to our music and even our words. The streets of our towns and cities are rich with the colours, sights and sounds of proud South Asian identity. Its culture permeates all parts of British life and adds to the diversity of the nation.

Nelson Mandela Day

Nelson Mandela International Day was launched in recognition of Nelson Mandela's birthday on 18 July. The day was created in 2009 via unanimous decision of the UN General Assembly. It was inspired by a call Nelson Mandela made a year earlier, for the next generation to take on the burden of leadership in addressing the world's social injustices when he said, "it is in your hands now".

30 July 2022

International Day of Friendship

Since 2011, every 30 July has been a UN observance called "International Day of Friendship." The purpose of this observance is to encourage the formation of bonds of friendship between people of different cultures, countries, and backgrounds. It is a day for "human solidarity", meant to undermine the root causes of violence and division in our world.

Islamic New Year

The Islamic New Year, also called the Hijri New Year or Arabic New Year, is the day that marks the beginning of a new Hijri year, and is the day on which the year count is incremented. The first day of the Islamic year is observed by Muslims on the first day of the month of Muharram. The epoch of the Islamic era was set as 622 Common Era, the year of the emigration of Muhammad and his followers from Mecca to Medina, known as the Hijra. All religious duties, such as prayer, fasting in the month of Ramadan, and pilgrimage, and the dates of significant events, such as celebration of holy nights and festivals, are calculated according to the Islamic calendar.

AUGUST 2022

11 August 2022

Raksha Bandan (Hindu)

Raksha Bandhan, also Rakshabandhan, is a popular, traditionally Hindu, annual rite, or ceremony, which is central to a festival of the same name, celebrated in South Asia, and among people around the world influenced by Hindu culture. On this day, sisters of all ages tie a talisman, or amulet, called the rakhi, around the wrists of their brothers, symbolically protecting them, receiving a gift in return, and traditionally investing the brothers with a share of the responsibility of their potential care.

12 August 2022

International Youth Day

International Youth Day is an awareness day designated by the United Nations. The purpose of the day is to draw attention to a given set of cultural and legal issues surrounding youth and highlighting the roles they play in modern society.

18 August 2022

Krishna Janmashtami (Hindu)

At Janmashtami Hindus celebrate the birth of Lord Krishna. It takes place during the Hindu month of Shravan (August-September). Krishna is one of the most powerful incarnations of Lord Vishnu and Hindus believe he came to free the Earth from evil.

22 August 2022

International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief

International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief is a United Nations-sponsored annual awareness day that takes place on August 22 as part of the UN's efforts to support Human Rights Related to Freedom of Religion or Belief.

23 August 2022

International Day for the Remembrance of Slave Trade and its Abolition

The night of 22 to 23 August 1791, in Santo Domingo (today Haiti and the Dominican Republic) saw the beginning of the uprising that would play a crucial role in the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade. It is against this background that the International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition is commemorated on 23 August each year. This International Day is intended to inscribe the tragedy of the slave trade in the memory of all peoples. In accordance with the goals of the intercultural project "The Slave Route", it should offer an opportunity for collective consideration of the historic causes, the methods, and the consequences of this tragedy, and for an analysis of the interactions to which it has given rise between Africa, Europe, the Americas, and the Caribbean.

30 August 2022

Grief Awareness Day

National Grief Awareness Day is observed on August 30th every year and is a day designed to raise awareness about the grieving process and the time it takes for a person to heal from a tragic loss. It's a day on which people can reach out to someone who is experiencing grief or just take the time to learn more about the grieving process. Grief is an emotion that affects us all at one point or another, so this is an important day for people to help those in need.

Ganesh Chaturthi (Hindu)

Ganesh Chaturthi for the year 2022 is celebrated/ observed on Tuesday, August 30. Ganesh Chaturthi or Vinayaka Chaturthi is the Hindu celebration of the birth of Lord Ganesh. His life represents prosperity, wisdom, and good fortune. The festival falls in August/September which is in the month of Bhadra on Shukla Chaturthi in the Hindu calendar.

SEPTEMBER 2022

01 September 2022

World Alzheimer's Month begins

World Alzheimer's Month is the international campaign by Alzheimer's Disease International (ADI) every September to raise awareness and challenge the stigma that surrounds dementia. World Alzheimer's Month was launched in 2012. World Alzheimer's Day is on 21 September each year. Two out of every three people globally believe there is little or no understanding of dementia in their countries. The impact of World Alzheimer's Month is growing, but the stigmatisation and misinformation that surrounds dementia remains a global problem that requires global action.

05 September 2022

International Day of Charity

The United Nations created this day to focus on the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable. Charities have the potential to transfer lives by providing the framework for people all over the world to contribute and support an array of causes – include creating a world without dementia.

10 September 2022

World Suicide Prevention Day

World Suicide Prevention Day is an awareness day observed on 10 September every year, in order to provide worldwide commitment and action to prevent suicides, with various activities around the world since 2003.

21 September 2022

World Alzheimer's Day

World Alzheimer's Day is observed annually on 21 September, with the primary aim to raise awareness and challenge the common stigma that surrounds Alzheimer related Dementia.

International Day of Peace

The International Day of Peace, sometimes officially known as World Peace Day, is a United Nations sanctioned holiday observed annually on 21 September. It is dedicated to world peace, and specifically the absence of war and violence, such as might be occasioned by a temporary ceasefire in a combat zone for humanitarian aid access. The day was first celebrated in 1981, and is kept by many nations, political groups, military groups, and people.

23 September 2022

Bi Visibility Day

Marked each year since 1999, Bi Visibility Day raises bi awareness and challenges bisexual & biromantic erasure. 2021 will be the 23rd year that we have celebrated bisexual life on 23 September.

25 September 2022

Jewish New Year/ Rosh Hashanah

Rosh Hashanah, literally meaning "head the year", is the Jewish New Year. The biblical name for this holiday is Yom Teruah, literally "day of shouting or blasting", and is also more commonly known in English as the Feast of Trumpets. It is the first of the Jewish High Holy Days specified by Leviticus 23:23–32 that occur in the early autumn of the Northern Hemisphere.

26 September 2022

Navaratri Begins (Hindu)

Navaratri is a Hindu festival that spans nine nights and is celebrated every year in the autumn. It is observed for different reasons and celebrated differently in various parts of the Indian cultural sphere. Theoretically, there are four seasonal Navaratri. However, in practice, it is the post-monsoon autumn festival called Sharada Navaratri that is the most observed in the honour of the divine feminine Devi. The festival is celebrated in the bright half of the Hindu calendar month Ashvin, which typically falls in the Gregorian months of September and October.

27 September 2022

National Inclusion Week Begins

National Inclusion Week is an annual campaign run by Inclusive Employers to raise awareness of the importance of inclusion in the workplace and the business benefits to having a diverse and included workforce. Inclusion is about making sure that people feel valued, respected, listened to and able to challenge. It's about recognising and valuing the differences we each bring to the workplace and creating an environment where everyone has equal access to opportunities and resources and can contribute to the organisation's success.

OCTOBER 2022

01 October 2022

Black History Month Begins

Black History Month UK - an International annual month, recognising and valuing the inspirational individuals and events that have shaped the black generation. During Black History Month, we remember and celebrate the important people from the past and also who contribute to and help our society today. First celebrated in the UK in 1987, Black History Month in the UK is marked annually during the month of October and in the USA during the month of February, with important reference to the black society.

International Day of Older Persons

The United Nations (UN) International Day of Older Persons is celebrated annually on 1 October to recognize the contributions of older persons and to examine issues that affect their lives. The International Day of Older Persons is a special day for senior citizens worldwide.

02 October 2022

International Day of Non-Violence

The International Day of Non-Violence is observed on 2 October, the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi, leader of the Indian independence movement and pioneer of the philosophy and strategy of non-violence. According to General Assembly resolution of 15 June 2007, which established the commemoration, the International Day is an occasion to "disseminate the message of non-violence, through education and public awareness". The resolution reaffirms "the universal relevance of the principle of non-violence" and the desire "to secure a culture of peace, tolerance, understanding and non-violence".

05 October 2022

Yom Kippur (Judaism)

Yom Kippur, also known as the Day of Atonement, is the holiest day of the year in Judaism. Its central themes are atonement and repentance. Jews traditionally observe this holy day with a day-long fast and intensive prayer, often spending most of the day in synagogue services.

06 October 2022

Dyspraxia Awareness Week Begins

Dyspraxia (or Developmental Co-ordination Disorder) is a complex neurological condition, which affects muscle co-ordination and perception. Perception includes vision, hearing and proprioception, or the awareness of where your limbs are in space. There may be developmental delays in some areas but heightened sensitivities or abilities in others. Dyspraxia exists as a condition on its own but is often found together with hyper mobile joints, Dyslexia, Dyscalculia, ADHD or Asperger's Syndrome.

07 October 2022

Dyslexia Awareness Week Begins

Dyslexia affects approximately 1 in 10 people in the UK and is the most common disability. People with dyslexia all experience it differently and have different coping mechanisms. This day seeks to raise awareness of those experiences, how dyslexia can be identified and how it can be supported. World Dyslexia Day occurs annually on 10 October.

09 October 2022

Week of Sukkot Begins (Judaism)

At Sukkot, Jews remember the Israelites' 40 years of exile in the desert, living in makeshift dwellings, before they reached the promised land. For the duration of the festival Jewish families live in temporary huts called sukkot (singular: sukkah) which they build out of branches and leaves. Each day they hold celebrations with four types of symbolic plants: palm, myrtle, willow and a special citrus fruit called an etrog. Sukkot is intended to be a joyful festival that lets Jews live close to nature and know that God is taking care of them.

10 October 2022

World Mental Health Day

This day is recognised annually on 10 October and is dedicated to promoting the understanding of mental health education, awareness, and advocacy. It is important to raise awareness to the public and ensure communities recognise the part each person has to play in creating a mentally healthy society. It's true that most people who are affected by mental health issues simply want to lead independent lives while contributing to their community and families. With the right support, we can help people live lives of fulfilment and free of stigma.

11 October 2022

National Coming Out Day

National Coming Out Day is an annual LGBT awareness day observed on 11 October, to support lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, pansexual, and more people to "come out of the closet". First celebrated in the United States in 1988, the initial idea was grounded in the feminist and gay liberation spirit of the personal being political, and the emphasis on the most basic form of activism being coming out to family, friends, and colleagues, and living life as an openly lesbian or gay person. The foundational belief is that homophobia thrives in an atmosphere of silence and ignorance, and that once people know that they have loved ones who are lesbian or gay, they are far less likely to maintain homophobic or oppressive views.

15 October 2022

World Values Day

Individuals, organisations, and cultures hold values that make us who we are. This is an opportunity to share how you live our values and behaviours.

24 October 2022

Diwali (Hindu, Sikh, Jains, Newar Buddhists)

Diwali is a festival of lights and one of the major festivals celebrated by Hindus, Jains, Sikhs and some Buddhist, notably Newar Buddhist. The festival usually lasts five days and is celebrated during the Hindu lunisolar month Kartika. One of the most popular festivals of Hinduism, Diwali symbolizes the spiritual "victory of light over darkness, good over evil, and knowledge over ignorance". The festival is widely associated with Lakshmi, goddess of prosperity, with many other regional traditions connecting the holiday to Sita and Rama, Vishnu, Krishna, Yama, Yami, Durga, Kali, Hanuman, Ganesha, Kubera, Dhanvantari, or Vishvakarman. Furthermore, it is, in some regions, a celebration of the day Lord Rama returned to his kingdom Ayodhya with his wife Sita and his brother Lakshmana after defeating Ravana in Lanka and serving 14 years of exile.

26 October 2022

Intersex Awareness Day

Intersex Awareness Day is an international observance designated to raise public awareness of intersex people and to highlight the problems they face every day.

31 October 2022

Halloween

Halloween or Hallowe'en, also known as Allhalloween, All Hallows' Eve, or All Saints' Eve, is a celebration observed in many countries on 31 October, the eve of the Western Christian feast of All Hallows' Day. It begins the observance of Allhallowtide, the time in the liturgical year dedicated to remembering the dead, including saints, martyrs, and all the faithful departed.

NOVEMBER 2022

01 November 2022

National Islamophobia Awareness Month

November is Islamophobia Awareness Month in the UK, which is all about making people aware of the discrimination against people of the Islamic faith. The aim is to challenge some of the stereotypes that people might have about Islam and Muslims, and to highlight the positive contributions that British Muslims make to our society.

08 November 2022

Birth of Guru Nanak (Sikh)

One of the most sacred ceremonies in Sikhism is Guru Nanak Gurpurab, which commemorates the birth of Guru Nanak, the founder of Sikhism and the first Sikh Guru. Generally, the ceremonies in the Sikh religion are dedicated to the celebration of the birth of the ten Sikh Gurus.

Interfaith Week Begins

This aims to strengthen good inter faith relations at all level; increase awareness of the different and distinct faith communities in the UK, in particular celebrating and building on the contribution which their members make to their neighbourhoods and to wider society and increase understanding between people of religious and non-religious beliefs.

11 November 2022

Remembrance Day

Remembrance Day is a day for us to remember those who sacrificed their lives in the first and second world wars. A two-minute silence is held on the 11 November, as well as Remembrance Sunday, the Sunday closest to Armistice Day, which is the anniversary of the end of hostilities in the First World War.

13 November 2022

Remembrance Sunday

Remembrance Sunday is held in the United Kingdom as a day to commemorate the contribution of British and Commonwealth military and civilian servicemen and women in the two World Wars and later conflicts. It is held at 11am on the second Sunday in November. Remembrance Sunday, within the Church of England, falls in the liturgical period of Allsaintstide.

19 November 2022

International Men's Day

International Men's Day (IMD) is an occasion for men to celebrate their achievements and contributions, in particular their contributions to community, family, marriage, and child care

while highlighting the discrimination against them. Objectives of International Men's Day include a focus on men's and boy's health, improving gender relations, promoting gender equality, and highlighting positive male role models. The November IMD is a significant date as it coincides the popular 'Movember' charity event.

20 November 2022

Transgender Day of Remembrance International

All over the world people use this day to remember and commemorate transgender people who have faced discrimination. Whilst originally created to remember those who lost their lives, it has now expanded to celebrate historic trans figures and call for greater rights and inclusion worldwide.

25 November 2022

International Day for Elimination of Violence Towards Women

The United Nations General Assembly has designated 25 November as the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. The premise of the day is to raise awareness of the fact that women around the world are subject to rape, domestic violence and other forms of violence; furthermore, one of the aims of the day is to highlight that the scale and true nature of the issue is often hidden.

26 November 2022

Carers Rights Day

Carers are vital to our communities and society but not all carers know their rights. This day helps raise awareness of carers rights and the support available. Charities often use this day to communicate with carers on the supporting materials available to them.

27 November 2022

Advent Sunday

Advent is the four-week period before Christmas when Christians prepare for the coming of Christ. The word Advent means 'coming' or 'arrival'. Advent begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas, which also marks the beginning of the liturgical year for Western Churches.

DECEMBER 2022

01 December 2022

World Aids Day

World Aids Day is an opportunity to show support for the people living with HIV and AIDS around the world. There have been scientific advances in HIV treatment, laws to protect people living with HIV but there is lots more to do. Alzheimer's Society is contributing to this with our work in supporting HIV related cognitive impairments.

03 December 2022

International Day of Persons with Disabilities

International Day of Persons with Disabilities falls on the 3 December each year, with the aim of promoting empowerment, and helping to create real opportunities for people with disabilities. This enhances their own capacities and supports them in setting their own priorities. Empowerment involves investing in people in jobs, health, nutrition, education, and social protection. When people are empowered, they are better prepared to take advantage of opportunities, they become agents of change and can more readily embrace their civic responsibilities.

05 December 2022

International Volunteer Day

The International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development, more commonly referred to as International Volunteer Day, is an international observance mandated by the UN General Assembly in 1985. It offers an opportunity for volunteer-involving organizations and individual volunteers to promote volunteerism, encourage governments to support volunteer efforts and recognize volunteer contributions to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals at local, national, and international levels.

10 December 2022

Human Rights Day

Observed annually on 10 December, Human Rights Day is a day in which the world recommit itself to protecting the fundamental human rights of all people, as well as their basic human freedoms. This observance day is almost always observed by the many participating governments by holding political conferences and exhibitions that relate to various human rights issues of the day. It is also the day in which the UN Human Rights Prize is awarded, as well as the Nobel Peace Prize.

18 December 2022

Chanukkah Begins (28th-6th)

Hanukkah is a Jewish festival commemorating the recovery of Jerusalem and subsequent rededication of the Second Temple at the beginning of the Maccabean revolt against the

Seleucid Empire in the 2nd century BC. It is also known as the Festival of Lights Hanukkah is observed for eight nights and days, starting on the 25th day of Kislev according to the Hebrew calendar, which may occur at any time from late November to late December in the Gregorian calendar.

24 December 2022

Christmas Eve

Christmas Eve is the evening or entire day before Christmas Day, the festival commemorating the birth of Jesus. Christmas Day is observed around the world, and Christmas Eve is widely observed as a full or partial holiday in anticipation of Christmas Day. Together, both days are considered one of the most culturally significant celebrations in Christendom and Western society.

25 December 2022

Christmas Day

Christmas is an annual festival commemorating the birth of Jesus Christ, observed primarily on 25 December as a religious and cultural celebration among billions of people around the world. A feast central to the Christian liturgical year, it is preceded by the season of Advent or the Nativity Fast and initiates the season of Christmastide, which historically in the West lasts twelve days and culminates on Twelfth Night; in some traditions, Christmastide includes an octave. Christmas Day is a public holiday in many of the world's nations, is celebrated religiously by a majority of Christians, as well as culturally by many non-Christians, and forms an integral part of the holiday season centred around it.

26 December 2022

Boxing Day

Boxing Day is a holiday celebrated the day after Christmas Day, occurring on the second day of Christmastide which originated as a holiday to give gifts to the poor.

31 December 2022

New Year's Eve

In the Gregorian calendar, New Year's Eve (also known as Old Year's Day or Saint Sylvester's Day in many countries) is the last day of the year, on 31 December. In many countries, New Year's Eve is celebrated at evening parties, where many people dance, eat, drink, and watch or light fireworks. Some Christians attend a watchnight service. The celebrations generally go on past midnight into New Year's Day, 1 January.

The Line Islands (part of Kiribati) and Tonga are examples of the first places to welcome the New Year, while Baker Island (an uninhabited atoll part of the United States Minor Outlying Islands) and American Samoa are among the last.