



JANUARY

2015

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BULGARIA

1st of January

On the first day of the new year children "sourvakat" (hit on their backs with a cornel stick) their relatives wishing them health and prosperity.



Kukeri - The mummers dance in the streets to frighten evil spirits and to banish the cold. They dance for fertility and health and carry out ritual (symbolic) acts of plowing, sowing, and others.



6th of January - Epiphany

On this day, the ritual "Throwing of the cross" is performed by the local church anywhere there is a body of water. After the cross is taken from the water there is a liturgy in the church. It is believed that the one who pulled out the cross from the water will be healthy and happy.



GERMANY

1st of January



At midnight, friends and family toast to success and luck with a glass of champagne and on the streets fireworks are lit to chase away the bad spirits of the old year.



6th of January - Epiphany



Kids dress up as three Magi and go from door to door to carol sing and collect money.



ITALY

1st of January

In Italy, the first day of the year is celebrated in families with relatives and friends. It's a day of rest (after the night of partying!) dedicated to traditional Italian food. Families play traditional games of cards or Tombola (similar Bingo). The theaters organize concerts and choirs of classical repertory.

In San Cataldo, Cathedral organizes the procession of "Baby Jesus", accompanied by songs and traditional music. Infant Jesus is represented as holding in his hand a typical cookie - the "Buccellato" - stuffed with figs, jam, almonds, pistachios. While traveling the roads of the historical center, the statue, through a device, turns around itself, blessing the town.



6th of January - Befana

In addition to the traditions related to the Kings Magi, in Italy there is "Befana", a character of good old witch that comes riding her broom from the chimneys of the houses (as Santa Claus), to bring gifts to children. For good boys, gifts sweets and presents; for bad boys only coal. The city organizes many great parades of "Befana" jokingly announcing the Carnival to come.



PORTUGAL

1st of January



New Year's Eve celebration: friends and families gather at midnight to eat during, before and after the countdown for New Year.



Street parties have people singing, dancing, and cheering every moment of the passing Old Year. Many of such parties have Janeiras, or New Year's carolers, who sing traditional songs all through their procession, going through the Portugal streets, and wish everyone who passes by with the best New Year wishes.

One dish with the name of "Caldo Verde e Branco" or green broth and corn bread, is eaten as a part of traditional New Year celebrations.



ROMANIA

1st of January

At midnight, friends and family toast to success and luck with a glass of champagne and on the streets fireworks are lit to chase away the bad spirits of the old year.

St. Vasile's Day



6th of January - Theophany

From Greek - theophania, meaning "appearance of God". It is the feast which reveals the Most Holy Trinity to the world, through the Baptism of the Lord.



7th of January

St. John, a very popular saint in Orthodox Church.

24th of January - Unification Day

Unification Day - Political union of Moldavia and Wallachia in 1859.



SWITZERLAND

1st of January



People make the countdown for the New Year and at midnight friends and families toast to success and luck with a glass of champagne, dancing on the streets or in the houses.



6th of January - Epiphany

Kids hang socks on their chimney (or window if they don't have it) and during the night the Befana put inside candies and sweets if they have been good during the year, otherwise charcoal (rarely).



TURKEY

1st of January

New Year's Day is a public holiday and is generally a quiet day in Turkey.



People living in big cities in Turkey traditionally celebrate the New Year in city squares, from where they can watch fireworks at midnight between New Year's Eve and New Year's Day.



Small-town residents often try to come to bigger cities for the celebrations. In Istanbul, for example, many residents and visitors participate in festivities at Taksim Square.



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FEBRUARY

2015

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BULGARIA

14th of February - Tryphon Zarezan



On St. Tryphon day it is performed the ritual cutting of vines. Once at the vineyards, men look at the sun, make the christian cross three times and cut three different vine twigs from different vines. Then the cut places are washed with holy water, wine and ash taken from the burnt wood on Christmas Eve. During the ritual, men pray for good harvest, fruitfulness, and prosperity throughout the year. Cut twigs are then turned into wreaths, and put on their hats, or they take it back home, and put them in front of an icon.



After pruning is done, men get together and start to eat, drink, sing and dance. At the end of the day, they visit the so called "King's house" – the man who had the best harvest and made the best wine, last year. The tradition is that men must get drunk that evening, so the harvest be abundant at the end of the year.



GERMANY

14th of February - Valentine's Day

Although it is an US American import it is celebrated by many couples in Germany by giving presents, going out for dinner and cherishing their love.



16th of February - Rosenmontag

People dress up and celebrate on the street. There are parades of different coaches, which are representing one particular subject in a sarcastic and critical way.



17th of February - Fastnacht

Dressed up people celebrate carnival. Carnival ends at midnight the night before Ash Wednesday with all night parties, dancing, hugging and kissing everywhere and everyone.



ITALY

15th - 22nd of February - Carnival



Carnival was born in Italy from the characters/masks of the Comedy of Art exported all over Europe. Each region has its Mask character! It's easy to see how this festival is celebrated and loved by Italians.



Venice Carnival is the most ancient and elegant in the world. In Viareggio, Fan, Ivrea, Cento, Putignano, Acireale and Sciacca, there are magnificent parades of allegorical satiric carts, mocking personalities from the political and social customs.

The preparations of the carts (very high and complicated), for months, are made by organizations that compete for cash prizes for "The most beautiful Cart of Year." There are Carnivals historical traditions of all kinds. The Italian culinary traditions involving food, fried cakes, rivers of wine.



PORTUGAL

14th of February - Valentine's Day

Civil day - in nowadays with the big commercial sites as supermarkets of shopping malls, couples offer to each other presents to celebrate their starting day of relationships.



17th of February - Carnival

As in others places, Carnival has pagan influences. In Portuguese case, some people stats it as the day when employees dress up as employers to make fun in a way to decrease frustration.

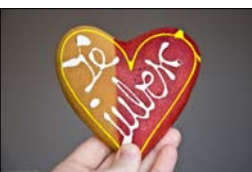


Carnival in Portugal is celebrated throughout the country. The Carnivals in Podence and Lazarim incorporate pagan traditions such as the careto, while the Torres Vedras celebration is probably the most typical Portuguese Carnival.



ROMANIA

14th of February - Valentine's Day



It's a US imported consumerist holiday, where lovers buy presents for one another and go out to dinner.

24th of February - Dragobetele

Traditional Romanian holiday originating from Dacian times. Dragobete was the son of Baba Dochia, which stands for the main character in the pagan myth related to spring arrival and the end of the harsh winter.



It is around this time that the birds begin to build their nests and mate. On this day, considered locally the first day of spring, boys and girls gather vernal flowers and sing together. Maidens in many villages used to collect the snow that lay on the ground and then melt it, using the water in magic potions throughout the rest of the year.



SWITZERLAND

14th of February - Valentine's Day



18th of February
Carnival - Ash Wednesday

It is a very important holiday in Switzerland. People dress up and celebrate on the streets. Many cities have a special day with parades and hangar with bars and music inside. Schools have 1 week holidays.



The largest Carnival in Switzerland is in Basel, with close to 20,000 participants. The "drey scheen-schte Dääg" (three best days), as the locals call them, begin on the Monday following Ash Wednesday and lasts 72 fun-filled hours.



TURKEY

14th of February - Valentine's Day



Some people take their loved ones for a romantic dinner at a restaurant while others may choose this day to propose or get married. Many people give greeting cards, chocolates, jewelry or flowers, particularly roses, to their partners or admirers on Valentine's Day.



Valentine's Day special programs in big hotels, special parties at nightclubs and dinners in famous restaurants with red roses, heart shaped cakes in pastry shops, various promotions in big stores and shopping malls are among the activities for Valentine's Day.

In short, red roses and red hearts will surround you during the first two weeks of February.



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MARCH

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BULGARIA

1st of March - Baba Marta

It is a mythical character in Bulgarian folklore. On the March 1st Bulgarians put martenitzas (red and white colored bands) on their clothes or wrists and wish health and happiness with the words "Happy Baba Marta".



3rd of March

Deliberation of Bulgaria from Ottoman Empire - national holiday



8th of March
International Women's day

It is still celebrated by the older women. This is one of the days during the year when one can see every man on the street holding flowers – for his mother, grandmother, wife or friends.



GERMANY



ITALY

19th of March
SAN GIUSEPPE - Father's Day

In the south we celebrate the Holy Family. In many countries of Sicily becomes "the table of San Giuseppe", a sumptuous banquet prepared to open to the poor families.



In Sicily, where St. Joseph is regarded by many as their Patron men, thanks are given to St. Joseph (San Giuseppe in Sicilian, "San Giuseppe" in Italian) for preventing a famine in Sicily during the Middle Ages. According to legend, there was a severe drought at the time, and the people prayed for their patron saint to bring them rain. They promised that if he answered their prayers, they would prepare a large feast to honor him.

The rain did come, and the people of Sicily prepared a large banquet for their patron saint. The fava bean was the crop which saved the population from starvation and is a traditional part of St. Joseph's Day altars and traditions.



PORTUGAL

19th of March - Father's Day

Children offer gifts to their fathers (post cards made in primary school etc.). Cakes are also baked for this occasion.



Father's Day is a celebration honoring fathers and celebrating fatherhood, paternal bonds, and the influence of fathers in society.



In the Roman Catholic tradition, Fathers are celebrated on Saint Joseph's Day, commonly called Feast of Saint Joseph, March 19, though in certain countries Father's Day has become a secular celebration. It is also common for Catholics to honor their "spiritual father," their parish priest, on Father's Day.



ROMANIA

1st of March - Martisor



Celebration of Spring's arrival. The name for the red and white string from which a small decoration is tied, and which is offered by people on the first day of March and which will be worn till the end of the month.



8th of March - Women day

All the women receive presents from families members and friends.

In Romania, International Women's Day was first celebrated in 1945, but with the arrival of Nicolae Ceausescu as a leader of Socialist Republic of Romania, the meaning of this day was replaced with Mother's Day.



SWITZERLAND

19th of March - Saint Joseph

It's a Catholic holiday and a non-working day. Schools have 1 week holidays.



29th of March - Palm Sunday



Palm Sunday commemorates Jesus Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem, according to Christian belief. It marks the beginning of Holy Week and always falls on the Sunday before Easter Sunday. Other names for this day include Passion Sunday, Fig Sunday, Willow Sunday, Branch Sunday, or Blossom Sunday.



TURKEY

21st of March - Nowruz



Marks the first day of spring. On Nevruz Day, people lay their tables with an assortment of foodstuffs, play games, hold festivities, eat painted eggs and prepare large fires.



Nevruz, which goes by various names such as Nevruz-i Sultan, Sultan Nevruz, Navruz and Mart dokuzu in Anatolia, is celebrated differently in different regions. It is also a ceremony for abundance in regions where people generally work in agriculture. It also has a faith-related significance in Alawite-Bektashi communities.

The word Nevruz is of Persian origin and is a combination of the words "nev" (new) and "ruz" (day), meaning new day. According to the old Persian calendar, it is the first day of the year.



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APRIL

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BULGARIA

3rd of April - Lazaruvane

Bulgarian ritual traditionally practiced during the Christian holiday Lazarus Saturday, before Palm Sunday. Major ceremony of the holiday is lazaruvene. It is practiced by girls over 16 years, called lazarki.



There are no elements of mystery. The girls go round the field and houses, play and sing songs about love and women, fertility, health and family welfare. Traditionally, the owner of the house accepted the girls, gives them money and small gifts, and eggs for the upcoming Easter holiday.



4th of April - Palm Sunday

10th of April - Good Friday

12th -13th of April - Easter



GERMANY

1st of April - Fool's Day



People make little jokes to fool each other.

3rd of April - Good Friday

Start of the Easter celebrations by coloring eggs and decorating shrubs of different plants



5th of April - Easter Sunday

Easter celebrations and gift exchange within families – mostly kids have to search for sweets, boiled colored eggs and little presents in the garden.

6th of April - Easter Monday

Easter celebrations and common family meals.



ITALY

1st April - HOLY WEDNESDAY

IN SAN CATALDO: "The trial and condemnation of Jesus Christ" that involves numerous costumed characters.



2nd April - HOLY THURSDAY
Two statues representing "Our Lady of Sorrows and St. John" go in procession for town to the gates of each church doors searching Jesus, now arrested. Each door will be closed in the face with great pain interpreted by the musicians.

3rd April - HOLY FRIDAY

Since the first light of dawn, the Sorrows and St. John, that will now have found Jesus, follow him for the Way to Calvary together.

5th of April - EASTER

A joyful parade crosses the streets with bands accompanying "The Sanpaoloni" giant papier-mâché (1800 DC) representing the 11 Apostles (without Judas).

6th of April - MONDAY OF ANGEL

Day dedicated to rest and picnic family-based barbecue.

25th of April - "LIBERATION DAY"

Celebration civil dedicated to the liberation of Italy from fascist domination.



PORTUGAL

3rd of April - Good/Sacred Friday



Religious free day - it's the trial memorial, crucifixion, death and burial of Jesus Christ.



5th of April - Easter Sunday

Religious celebration – people celebrate Jesus is reborn.

25th of April - Liberty day

Political celebration – people celebrates the Coup d'etat on April 25, 1974 (Dictatorship ends).



ROMANIA

3rd of April - Good Friday

Start of the Easter celebrations by coloring eggs and decorating shrubs of different plants.

9th of April - Holy Thursday

Commemorating the Last Supper of Jesus.



10th of April - Good Friday

Commemorating the crucifixion and death of Jesus.

12th April - Resurrection Sunday

Religious holiday celebrating the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, described in the New Testament as having occurred three days after his crucifixion by Romans at Calvary.

13th April - Second Day of Easter
14th of April - Third Day of Easter

23th of April - St. Gheorghe Day.

All the people who have this name and similar names celebrate together with their family and friends.



SWITZERLAND

5th of April - Easter



Easter is celebrated mostly with families and going to church. Usually kids have to search for little chocolate eggs hidden in the gardens.



6th of April - Easter Monday



Easter celebrations and common family meals.



TURKEY

1st of April

People make pranks on each other.

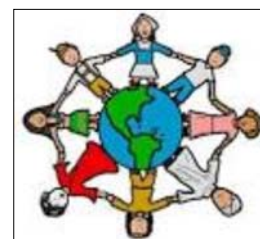
20th of April
Birth of Hz. Muhammed

Mosques are decorated. Some people donate food and other goods for charity on or around this day. However, many Muslims also do not participate in celebrations on this day. Instead, they may mark the occasion by spending more time to read the Koran.



23rd of April - National Sovereignty and Children's Day

It is an official holiday in Turkey. Government offices, schools and most businesses are closed on this day. Every year, the children in Turkey meet with their brothers and sister from all over the world to celebrate this 'Sovereignty and Children's Day' as an international holiday. Schools participate in week-long ceremonies marked by performances in all fields in large stadiums watched by the entire nation. Among the activities on this day, the children send their representatives to replace state officials and high ranking bureaucrats in their offices.



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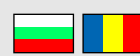


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BULGARIA

1st of May - Labor Day

6th of May - St. George's day

Possibly the most celebrated name day in the country, St George's Day (Gergyovden) is a public holiday that takes place on 6 May each year.

A common ritual is to prepare and eat a whole lamb. St George is the patron saint of shepherds. It is also believed to be a magical day when all evil spells can be broken. It was believed that the saint helps the crops to grow and blesses the morning dew, so early in the morning they walked in the pastures and meadows and collected dew, washed their face, hands and feet in it for good luck and even in some rural parts of Bulgaria it was a custom to roll in it naked. It is also the Day of the Bulgarian Army.



24th of May
Day of Bulgarian Education and Culture and Slavonic Literature

Bulgarian public holiday, celebrated on 24 May. On this day in Bulgaria is celebrated Bulgarian Education and Culture and the creation of the Glagolitic alphabet of Cyril and Methodius, also known as Thessalonica brothers.



GERMANY

1st of May - Labor Day



Trade unions organize manifestations; In some regions Male poles are put up and decorated.

In the night before the 1st of May the Walpurgisnacht is celebrated to banish the winter time.



14th of May - Ascension Day

It is celebrated as a day of the men.

Male friends meet up and walk or bike through the streets and parks to celebrate.

Many times a handcart filled with drinks and snacks is involved.



ITALY

1st of May - Labor Day

Day of rest, picnic, pop concerts in major Italian cities



10th of May - Feast of the Patron - saint "San Cataldo"

Procession with the statue, fireworks and fair.



15th of May

SICILIAN AUTONOMY day



PORTUGAL

1st of May - Labor Day

Workers' day: Political free day - trade unions organize events and/or talks to discuss about work and workers issues.



10th of May - Mothers Day



Civil celebration - children offer gifts to mothers.



ROMANIA

1st of May - Labor Day

The people go in short vacations.



21st of may - Sts. Constantin and Elena Day



All the people who have these names and similar names celebrate together with their family and friends.

31st of May - Pentecost



SWITZERLAND

1st of May - Labor Day

It's the non-working day for excellence.

10th of May - Mother's Day

Mothers are celebrated, kids prepare a present (normally handmade) for them.



14th of May - Ascension Day

Non-working day.

24th of May - Whitsun

Penetcost Celebrations.

25th of May - Whit Monday

Penetcost Celebrations.



TURKEY

1st May - Labor and Solidarity Day

Labor and Solidarity Day, observed on May 1, is an official holiday in Turkey. Administration buildings, schools and post offices are usually closed on this day. However, many businesses remain open.

6th of May - Hidirlelez

One of Turkey's seasonal festivals. Hidirlelez is celebrated as the day on which the prophets Hızır (Al-Khidr) and İlyas (Elijah) met on the earth. It is believed that all the wishes and prayers come true on the eve and the very day of Hidirlelez. If one wishes to have more properties, s/he makes a small rough model of it onto the ground in the garden and Hidirlik. Occasionally, the wishes or prayers are written on a piece of paper and thrown at a river or sea nearby.

10th of May - Mother's Day

Is moving celebration and is always celebrated on Sunday which seems as a pretty good idea so that children, those small and big ones can enjoy and spend the whole day with their beloved mothers.

19th of May - Commemoration of Atatürk, Youth and Sports Day

The Commemoration of Atatürk, Youth and Sports Day is an official holiday in Turkey. Various sports events take place on May 19 throughout Turkey. Many people celebrate this day by watching athletes perform at their local stadiums or by participating in sports events that are open to the public, such as half-marathons. University students usually prepare special programs for their teachers and parents on this day.



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PORTUGAL



ROMANIA



SWITZERLAND



TURKEY



2nd of June
ITALIAN REPUBLIC DAY



In Rome military parades and in the sky "The Frece Tricolori" perform, aerial teams that paint the sky.

10th of June - Portugal Day

Political – to honor Portugal, Camões (most known portuguese poet) and the Portuguese Communities.



1st of June
International Child's Day.



29th June - St. Petru and Pavel Day.

All the people who have these names and similar names celebrate together with their family and friends.

4th of June - Corpus Christi
Celebrations, non-working day.

7th of June - Father's Day
Fathers are celebrated, kids prepare a present (normally handmade) for them.

29th of June - Sts Peter and Paul
Non-working day.



21st of June - Father's Day



It is a celebration honoring fathers and celebrating fatherhood, paternal bonds, and the influence of fathers in society.



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JULY

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PORTUGAL



ROMANIA



SWITZERLAND



TURKEY



16th of July - Ramadan Feast Eve

17th of July - Ramadan Feast

Many people wake up early on the first day of the Ramadan Feast.

They put on their best clothes, called bayramlik, which they often buy specifically for the occasion, and have a large breakfast. This symbolizes the end of the fasting period, which many Muslims observe during the preceding month of Ramadan.



18th of July - Ramadan Feast

The Ramadan Feast has an alternative name in Turkey, the Sugar Feast (Şeker Bayramı), because people treat their guests to sweets and traditional desserts during the festival.

It is customary to visit one's relatives, especially older ones, and kiss their hand as a sign of respect.

Children may go door-to-door, kissing hands of the grown-ups and receiving sweets and small amounts of money in return.

19th of July - Ramadan Feast



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AUGUST

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PORTUGAL



ROMANIA



SWITZERLAND



TURKEY



15th of August - Feast of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary.

It connotated as civic holiday but its roots are Catholic, therefore, in the south following the rituals of religious feast. Processions, music, fairs.

Among the many festivities we mention the grand procession held in Messina or in many seaside places where there are processions of boats.

Statues and icons of the Virgin Mary are brought out for display and carried out in street processions on Assumption Day in Italy.

15th of August - Virgin Mary day

Religious free day - christians believe that was the day when the Virgin Mary went (body and soul) to heaven.



15th of August - St. Maria's Day

People with the name Maria and similar names celebrate together with family and friends. Large crowds gather in processions and pilgrimages involving thousands of Romanians occur at Moisei in Maramureş, Nicula in Transylvania and Putna in Moldavia. St Mary is the patron saint of the Navy, so the holiday corresponds with the Day of the Romanian Naval Forces, also known as Navy Day.

29th of August - St. Teodora's Day

The people with the name Teodora and similar names celebrate.

1st of August - The National Day

It is celebrated with fireworks on the lake that least 30 minutes.



15th of August - Assumption Day

30th of August - Victory Day

National public holiday in Turkey on August 30. Administration buildings and schools are closed on this day. Workers in private companies may have a day off or work until noon, but most large supermarkets and shops stay open. Public transport routes may vary in the event of street parades. Many people in Turkey celebrate Victory Day by attending military parades, which take place in many big cities throughout the country. Air forces celebrate the day with demonstration flights. The jets involved in such flights usually leave a red-and-white trail, symbolizing the Turkish flag.



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SEPTEMBER

2015

СЕНТЕМВРИ

SEPTEMBER

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SEPTEMBRE

EYLÜL



BULGARIA

6th of September
The Unification of Bulgaria

Was the act of unification of the Principality of Bulgaria and the then-Ottoman province of Eastern Rumelia in the autumn of 1885.

22nd of September
The Independence of Bulgaria



GERMANY



ITALY



PORTUGAL



ROMANIA

8th of September - St Maria's Day
Religious celebrations. People with the name Maria and similar names celebrate together with family and friends.



SWITZERLAND

20th of September

Federal Prayday is the Federal Day of Thanksgiving.



TURKEY

22nd of September
Sacrifice Feast Eve

23rd of September
Sacrifice Feast

Traditionally, on the first day of the Sacrifice Feast in Turkey, men of each family go to a mosque for a special morning prayer. Then the sacrifice ritual begins.

In some regions in Turkey, people paint the sacrificial animal with henna and adorn it with ribbons. The butcher reads a prayer before slaughtering the animal.



Families share about two-thirds of the animal's meat with relatives and neighbors, and they traditionally give about one-third to the poor.

People usually wear their best clothes during the Sacrifice Feast. They welcome guests to their homes or visit relatives or friends during the holiday.

24th of September
Sacrifice Feast

25th of September
Sacrifice Feast



MONDAY

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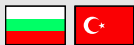
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OCTOBER

2015

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OKTOBER

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OCTOBRE

EKIM



BULGARIA



GERMANY

3rd of October - Anniversary of German Unification
Celebrations, Concerts and speeches by politicians.
31st of October - Halloween
Although it is an US American import it is celebrated in Germany as well. Kids dress up as scary creatures and go from door to door to gather candy; Halloween parties are popular for adults too.



ITALY



PORTUGAL

5th of October - Republic day
Political day – winning day when republican movement defeat monarchs.



ROMANIA

14th of October - St. Parascheva's Day.
It's a very important religious day- the people think that St. Parascheva's relics make wonders and healings. The people with the name Parascheva are celebrated.
31st of October - Halloween
Although it is an US American import it is celebrated in Romania as well. Kids dress up as scary creatures and go to parties.



SWITZERLAND

31st of October - Halloween
Since few years, in Switzerland part of the population celebrate this American holiday. Kids dress up as scary creatures and go from door to door to gather candy (but few) and young participate to Halloween parties.



TURKEY

23rd of October - Day of Ashure
Ashure[1] (in Turkish: Aşure) or Noah's Pudding is a Turkish dessert dish that is made of a mixture consisting of grains, fruits and nuts. In Turkey it is served during the first month of the Islamic calendar, Muharram, on the Tenth of Muharram, or the Day of Ashure.



29th of October - Republic Day
It is an official national holiday in Turkey. Public administration buildings, schools, post offices and many small businesses are usually closed on this day. Public transport schedules may vary. Public transport routes may change in the event of street performances and processions.

The afternoon of the previous day, October 28, is also an official holiday. Many people go to local stadiums on October 29 to watch performances dedicated to Republic Day in Turkey. Such performances usually consist of theater sketches, poetry readings and traditional Turkish dances.

Many school children participate in school performances for parents and teachers. Parades may take place in some cities and politicians may give public speeches on this day



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NOVEMBER

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KASIM



BULGARIA



GERMANY



ITALY



PORTUGAL



ROMANIA



SWITZERLAND



TURKEY



22nd of November
Day to memorize the dead
People visit their gone relatives at the cemetery and put down flowers at their graves.

29th of November - 1. Advent
Start of the Advent season - Preparation for Christmas celebrations. 1st of 4 candles is lit on the advent wreath made out of pine trees; House is decorated.

1st of November - All Saints Day
2nd of November - Dead Day
In Sicily, as well as the visit to the cemeteries, there is a tradition to give gifts to children, the so-called "Gift of the Dead": games, marzipan fruits finely decorated, puppets sugar, to educate children to remember their ancestors.

8th of November
Sts. Mihail and Gabriel Day.
People with the name Mihai, Mihail, Gabriel, Gabi, Gabriela, Mihaela are celebrated.
30th November - St. Andrei's Day
Patron of Romania. People with the name Andrei and Andreea are celebrated.

1st of November - All Saints Day
Schools have 1 week holidays.
2nd of November - All Souls Day
People go visit their relatives to the cemetery.
29th of November - 1. Advent
Start of the Advent season: preparation of the first of 4 candles of the advent wreath (originally made out of pine trees).

10th of November
Atatürk Memorial Day
Turkish citizens pay tribute to their savior and leader Mustafa Kemal Atatürk on the day of his loss in November the 10th 1938 at 09:05, the minute he closed his eyes to this world, since then on every 10th of November, nationwide, life stops for this minute...

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DECEMBER

2015

ДЕКЕМБРИ

DEZEMBER

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DÉCEMBRE

ARALIK



BULGARIA

6th of December - St. Nicolas Day

The day is a national holiday and is celebrated in all families. In the tradition on the festive table are served fish dishes, most often - carp stuffed with walnuts.

24th of December - Christmas Eve

Is one of the most important family holidays.

25th of December - Christmas

On the table there should be 7, 9 or 12 dishes. Dishes are vegetarian. Must be prepared stuffed cabbage leaves, stuffed peppers and dried fruit compote.

31st of December - New Year's Eve



GERMANY

6th of December
2. Advent and St. Nicolas Day

2nd of 4 candles is lit on the advent wreath, Christmas Music and typical drinks and food.



Kids put out their cleaned shoes which are filled in the night with either a little present or a branch depending on their behavior during the year.

13th of December - 3. Advent

3rd of 4 candles is lit on the advent wreath; Christmas Music and typical drinks and food

20th of December - 4. Advent

4th of 4 candles is lit on the advent wreath; Christmas Music and typical drinks and food

24th of December
Holy Night / Christmas Eve

Christmas tree is put up and decorated; Christmas music; presents are exchanged in the afternoon or evening – the small kids are given their present by Santa Clause; Christmas worship in church

25-26th of December - Christmas

Family comes together to have a big and special Christmas Meal

31st of December - New Year's Eve

Friends and/or Family comes together to celebrate the end of the old year by playing games, dancing, lighting inside fireworks and "melting lead" to see their fortune for the coming year.



ITALY

8th of December

Celebration dedicated to Mary Immaculate. It marks the beginning of the Christmas traditions and their local preparations: Crib, Christmas trees, lights, presents, artisan and industrial pastry as Panettone, chocolates, torrone...

25th of December - CHRISTMAS:
The Italian Christmas tradition has its heart in the nativity of St. Francis. In every house, city, village, church, under sea... organize nativity statues with all form of materials, that are reminiscent of the Nativity, often linked to real race of the most "beautiful crib." The ancient pottery traditions schools is still producing masterpieces linked to the crib. In Naples there is a way of artisans of the crib. Among the classic characters of the nativity scene, you can also be found statues of personalities related to art, culture, sports, politics. Also it exist "live Nativity Scenery" with locations related to ethno-anthropological traditions disappeared.

In San Cataldo, nine days before Christmas, all churches, associations..., are full of people who are praying, singing, playing instruments (tambourines) with the singing of traditional dialect. For the streets small groups of musicians stop at the "Figuredde" (small icons carved on the outer walls of the houses where they are placed figures of the Holy Infant Jesus or the Virgin Mary decorated with lights, oranges, bay leaves and myrtle), playing happily.

The Italian regional traditions are innumerable, as well as food and delicacies related to the Christmas traditions.

26th December - SAINT STEPHEN
Day dedicated to rest and to family

31st of December - New Year's Eve
Families, associations, clubs, town squares organize a night of music, dancing, banquets, games, fireworks waiting for midnight to drink toast with friends and strangers the New Year arrives.



PORTUGAL

24th of December - Christmas Eve
Religious free day – Families gathering eating all night long.

25th of December - Christmas Day

Religious free day – Families gather for lunch

31st of December - New Year's Eve

Civil free day – Friends gathering to celebrate the passage to next year while drink all night long.



ROMANIA

1st of December
Romanian National Day

On this day it is celebrated the union of all Romanian in one state.

6th of December - St. Nicolas Day

St. Nicolas Day. Kids put out their cleaned shoes which are filled in the night with either a little present or a branch depending on their behavior during the year. People with the name Nicolae and similar names are celebrated.

24th of December
Holy Night / Christmas Eve

The day of born of Jesus- the most important ortodox day. Christmas tree is put up and decorated; Christmas music; presents are exchanged in the afternoon or evening – the small kids are given their present by Santa Clause; Christmas worship in church.

25-26th of December - Christmas

Family comes together to have a big and special Christmas Meal

31st of December - New Year's Eve

Friends and/or Family comes together to celebrate the end of the old year by playing games, dancing, lighting inside fireworks and "melting lead" to see their fortune for the coming year.



SWITZERLAND

6th of December
2. Advent and St. Nicolas Day

Second of 4 candles is lit on the advent wreath. Kids often meet San Nicolao, who gives them a little present (peanuts, candies and tangerines) and ask them what they would like as a present from Santa Claus.

8th of December
Immaculate Conception
Non-working day.

13th of December - 3. Advent
Third of 4 candles is lit on the advent wreath.

20th of December - 4. Advent
Fourth of 4 candles is lit on the advent wreath.

24th of December
Holy Night / Christmas Eve
Schools have 2 weeks holidays. Christmas tree is put up and decorated; Christmas music; presents are exchanged in the night between 24th and 25th – the small kids are given their present by Santa Clause. Christmas worship in church at midnight.



25th of December - Christmas
Family comes together to have a big and special Christmas Meal.

26th of December
St. Stephen's Day
Family comes together to have a big and special Christmas Meal.

31st of December - New Year's Eve
People make the countdown for the New Year, and at midnight friends and families toast to success and luck with a glass of champagne, dancing on the streets or in the houses.



TURKEY

31st of December - New Year's Eve

Many people in Turkey start celebrating New Year's Eve with a large family dinner. The main course is traditionally a roasted turkey. Variety shows on television begin in late afternoon and continue until early morning of the next day. Many people play games while waiting for the clock to strike midnight. State TV channels announce the winning numbers of a New Year's national lottery just before midnight. Many people in Turkey try to buy a New Year's lottery ticket because it promises a large sum of money to the winner. Many people also congratulate each other, toast to a New Year and exchange small gifts at midnight between New Year's Eve and New Year's Day.



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SATURDAY

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