Celebrations, Holidays, & Traditions for January 2009

January 1:

**New Year’s Day:** 1st day of the year celebrated by the United States (US) and many countries around the world (Public Holiday)

**Liberation Day:** (Cuba)- Cuba’s commemoration of the revolution of 1959, led by Fidel Castro

**Republic Day:** (Taiwan)- Taiwan’s official “birthday” of Asia’s 1st democratic republic, The Republic of China

**Independence Day:** (Haiti)- Haiti gained its independence from France and made history by being the first Black Country to gain its independence on January 1, 1804

**Independence Day:** (Sudan & Egypt)- On January 1, 1956, Egypt and Britain signed a treaty guaranteeing Sudanese independence

January 2:

**Founder’s Day**- (Haiti)

**Saint Berchtolds’ Day**- (Liechtenstein, Switzerland)

January 4:

**Martyr’s Day:** (Angola, Congo (Dem. Rep.)- Commemoration of Martyrs of Independence

**Independence Day:** (Myanmar)- commemorates the day in 1810 when Miguel Hidalgo, a parish priest, issued a declaration of Mexico's freedom from the rule of Spain. It is a national holiday and is celebrated with parades, feasting, fireworks, and dancing
January 6:

**Epiphany:** (Andorra, Austria, Finland, Germany, Greece, Italy, Puerto Rico, Spain, Sweden, Uruguay, Venezuela, and many others)- Christian feast day which celebrates the "shining forth" or revelation of God in human form in the person of Jesus Christ

**Armenia Christmas:** (Armenia)- the Armenian church remained outside of the Roman Empire's influence and to this day maintains its ancient tradition of celebrating both the birth and baptism of Christ on Jan. 6

**Dia de los Reyes:** (Hispanic Christian)- In Mexico and other Spanish-speaking countries, children receive Christmas gifts from los reyes magos - the three wise men

January 7:

**Orthodox Christmas:** (Belarus, Bosnia, and Herzegovina, Georgia, Moldova, Montenegro, Russia, Ukraine, West Bank)- Christmas, along with other religious celebrations, was banned throughout Russia after the 1917 Revolution. In 1992, some 75 years later, Christmas could once again be openly observed

**Coptic Christmas:** (Egypt, Sudan)- Coptic Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ on January 7th, a date equivalent to the 29th day of the Coptic month of "kiohk”

**Victory Day:** (Cambodia)- celebration of the 1979 invasion and occupation of Cambodia by Vietnam

**Epiphany (Dia de los Reyes Magos-Three Kings Day):** (Colombia)- A Christian feast twelve days after Christmas; celebrating the visit of the three wise men to the baby Jesus

**Feast of the Nativity:** (Orthodox Christian)- a feast commemorating the Baptism of Our Lord in the Jordan River
January 8:

**Orthodox Christmas:** (Bosnia, Herzegovina, and Moldova)- the day of honoring and celebrating the birth of Jesus of Nazareth

**Ethiopian Christmas (Ganna):** (Ethiopia)- celebrates the birth of Jesus in ancient and modern churches designed in three concentric circles; males sit separately from the females during the ceremony and celebration

**Kayin New Year:** (Myanmar)- a national holiday celebrated with religious and traditional festivals

**New Year’s Holiday:** (Russia)- a public holiday celebrated with large meals and elaborate festivities

January 9:

**Republic Day:** (Bosnia and Herzegovina)- On January 9, 1992, Bosnian Serb authorities declared creation of Serbian Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina

**Martyr’s Day:** (Panama)- commemorates the January 9, 1964 riots over sovereignty of the Panama Canal. The riot started after a Panamanian flag was torn during conflict between Panamanian students and Canal Zone Police officers, over the right of the Panamanian flag to be flown alongside the U.S. Flag

January 10:

**Islamic New Year (Muharram):** (Algeria, Argentina, Bahrain, Bosnia, Herzegovina, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Niger, Oman, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, West Bank, Western Sahara, Yemen)- cultural event which Muslims partake on the first day of Muharram, the first month in the Islamic calendar. Many Muslims use the day to remember the significance of this month, and the Hijra, or emigration, Prophet Muhammad made to the city now known as Medina
January 11:

*Independence Manifesto Day:* (Morocco, Western Sahara) - celebrates the declaration of independence from France in 1944

January 13:

*Democracy Day:* (Cape Verde) - In 1991, Cape Verde became a democratic state

*Liberation Day:* (Togo) - marks the liberation of Togo

*Baptism of the Lord Jesus:* (Christian) - commemorates the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River by John the Baptist

January 14:

*Orthodox New Year’s Day:* (Georgia, Russia, Ukraine) - celebrated on January 13/14 in the 20th and 21st centuries

*Makara Sankranti:* (India) - celebrated to mark the beginning of the harvesting season in India. Celebrated for three days. During this time, the cultural supremacy of the state comes to the forefront as every place is Andhra Pradesh reflects the festive spirit

*De Hostos Day:* (Puerto Rico) - Commonwealth of Puerto Rico official holiday. In recent years it is celebrated on the 2nd Monday of January. Eugenio de María de Hostos (1839-1903) was a writer and statesman who struggled for Puerto Rican independence and the end to slavery in the late 19th century

January 16:

*Hero’s Day:* (Congo (Dem. Rep.))

*La Paz Day:* (El Salvador)
January 18:

**Tassua:** (Iran)

*Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (January 18-15):* (Christian)- during this week Christians pray for the restoration of unity between churches of the Christian faith

January 19:

**Ashura:** (Afghanistan, Algeria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Gambia, Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Senegal)- the day of Ashura or the tenth day of the first Islamic month is observed by Muslims as a whole. Shia Muslims observe Ashura to mark the martyrdom of Hussain. This day also commemorates the day when Noah left the ark, and when Moses was saved from the Egyptians by God

January 21:

**Martin Luther King Day:** (American Samoa, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, United States, Virgin Islands)- commemorates the birth of Martin Luther King Jr. who was born on January 15, 1929. One of the world’s best known advocates of non-violent social change, King was the recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize in December of 1964. He was assassinated on April 4, 1968, and remains a symbol of struggle for civil rights

**Lady of Altagracia Day:** (Dominican Republic)- celebrates the Most Blessed Virgin

January 22:

**Unification Day:** (Ukraine)- On January 22, 1919, the union of the Ukrainian People and the West Ukrainian People Republics became a single Ukrainian unified state
January 26:

**Australia Day**: (Australia, Norfolk Island)- biggest day of celebration in the country and is observed as a public holiday in all states and territories. The nation celebrates the great things about Australia and being Australian

**Republic Day**: (India)- the constitution of India came into force and India became a truly sovereign state. In this day India became a totally republican unit. The country finally realized the dream of Mahatma Gandhi and the numerous freedom fighters who, fought for and sacrificed their lives for the Independence of their country. So, the 26th of January was decreed a national holiday and has been recognized and celebrated as the Republic Day of India

**Umuganda Day**: (Rwanda)- a nation wide community program implemented by local government ministry, to keep the capital Kigali and its vicinity clean

**Liberation Day**: (Uganda)-

January 27:

**Saint Sava’s Day**: (Bosnia and Herzegovina)- Saint Sava is considered the founder of the independent Serbian Orthodox Church and Serbian Orthodox Christians celebrate him as patron saint of education and medicine. He is commemorated on January 27 according to the Julian calendar and on January 14 according to the Gregorian calendar

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January 30:

**Sahid Diwash (Martyr’s Day)**: (Nepal)- commemorating those immortal heroes who sacrificed their lives for the sake of freedom and democracy in the country

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January 31:

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