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The Kingdom of the Netherlands



Head of State: King Willem-Alexander van Oranje-Nassau (2013 - present).
(Demissionary) Prime Minister: Mark Rutte (2010 - present).
Capital: Amsterdam • **Population:** 18 million inhabitants.
King's Day: April 27 • **Currency:** EURO.

Although most people refer to the country as "Holland", the correct name is The Netherlands. If you want to be even more proper, just refer to it as the Kingdom of the Netherlands. Why? This Kingdom comprises four constituent countries: Aruba, Curacao, St. Maarten (all three located in the Caribbean), and the Netherlands. The Netherlands (located in northwestern Europe). In the Netherlands there is a separation between the [monarchy](#) and [the government](#). This constitutional arrangement involves having both a monarch and a prime minister. The capital is Amsterdam, yet the seat of government is The Hague. This is rooted in historical and practical considerations. Several royal residences are in or near The Hague. Amsterdam, for example, was historically associated with trade and commerce, while The Hague became a center for government and administration. Similarly, the Hague is known for its international institutions and diplomatic presence, it is home to the [International Court of Justice](#).

Did you know...

The Netherlands literally means "lower countries".

The Netherlands is known for its flat landscape. In fact, about 25% of the country is below sea level. Given its low-lying geography, innovative [water management](#) is crucial for the Netherlands, with 70% of its GNP being earned below sea level. Most importantly, the Dutch integration and inclusive water approach helps protect people and infrastructure from flooding, prevent water scarcity, and ensure supplies of clean water.

Nearly 80% of the world's flower bulbs come from the Netherlands.

The Netherlands is the world's leading exporter of flowers, namely tulips. Around two billion tulips leave the country each year and travel to different destinations around the world. The flowers are sold at the famous [Royal FloraHolland](#) auctions in Naaldwijk, Rijnsburg, and Aalsmeer, the world's largest trading center for plants and flowers. Thousands of visitors travel to the beautiful [Keukenhof Gardens](#) from March-May to view over 7 million tulip bulbs.

The Netherlands has more bikes than inhabitants.

There are over 22 million bicycles and 18 million residents in The Netherlands. The Dutch cycle an average of 1.80 miles (2.9km) per day and use bicycles for more than a quarter of all trips. The famously flat country boasts 12,427 miles (20,000km) of 'fietspaden' (bicycle paths) making cycling in the Netherlands an enjoyable and eco-friendly activity.

Soccer vs. American football.

Just like the Americans, the Dutch are huge sports fans. They love soccer, or football. The Netherlands has a tradition of producing exceptional soccer talent and it's known for its innovative and attacking style of play. This style is often referred to as "[Total Football](#)". Coined by Dutch soccer legend Johan Cruyff, this style became prominent in the 1970s and has had a lasting impact on the global soccer landscape. Despite the differences in how soccer and "American" football, are played, the shared element is fielding 11 players on each side of the field and amusement guaranteed.

The country turns orange on King's Day.

On [King's Day](#), which is celebrated on April 27th, the entire nation transforms into a sea of orange to celebrate the king's birthday: orange pennants, flags, clothes and accessories. Orange holds special significance as it is associated with the Dutch royal family, the House of Orange-Nassau. The tradition of wearing orange dates to the 16th century when William of Orange led the Dutch Revolt against Spanish rule. The use of orange became a symbol of national unity and pride, and it continues to be a central theme in the festive atmosphere of King's Day.

The Netherlands Consulate General, Miami, Florida provided the contents for this article.

[January](#) was named for the Roman god Janus, known as the protector of gates and doorways, who symbolize beginnings and endings. Janus is depicted with two faces, one looking into the past, the other with the ability to see into the future.

*Janus am I; oldest of potentates;
Forward I look, and backward, and below
I count, as god of avenues and gates,
The years that through my portals come and go.* – Henry Wadsworth Longfellow,
[American poet (1807–82).

The months of January and February were not originally in the ancient Roman calendar as the winter months were considered dormant, both in terms of agriculture and in terms of making war.

We are certain that you will enjoy our first featured article of the year about the Kingdom of the Netherlands. Thanks to the Netherlands consulate-general in Miami, Florida for providing the contents for the article. We take this opportunity to welcome the new deputy consuls general to South Florida and we salute the nations celebrating their Independence/National Day in January.

As we usher in 2024, a leap year, we want to acknowledge your outstanding support, partnership, and collaboration. May this year be filled with abundant opportunities, new milestones, growth, greater success, and newer frontiers.

As always, please be safe.

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DIPLOMATIC & CONSULAR RELATIONS

Meet the New Deputy Consul General, Consulate General of Mexico in Miami, Florida



Mr. Eliel Campuzano Mendiola is the new **Deputy Consul General, Consulate General of Mexico in Miami, Florida**. Prior to arriving in South Florida, Mr. Mendiola served in the following capacities:

- * Consul and Legal Adviser for Consular Services at General Consulate of Mexico in Atlanta, Georgia (2006-2009).
- * Consul, Consular Services at Consulate of Mexico in Albuquerque, New Mexico (2006-2016).
- * Deputy General Director at General Directorate of Consular Services, Mexican Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mexico City (2016-2022).
- * Advisor and Political Planning for Africa, Middle East, and Central Asia at the General Directorate of Political Planning and G20, Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs (2022-2024).

Mr. Mendiola obtained a bachelor's degree in international relations at the Autonomous National University of Mexico, and a master's degree on Middle East Affairs at the College of Mexico. He is fluent in English, French, Italian, and Arabic (basic).

Meet the New Consul/Deputy Consul General, Consulate General of Jamaica in Miami, Florida



Ms. Lottalee Paisley is currently the new **Consul/Deputy Consul General** serving at the Consulate General of Jamaica, Miami, Florida. Prior to this assignment, Ms. Lottalee served in different capacities within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Jamaica for over 16 years and most recently served as Vice Consul at the Consulate General of Jamaica, New York responding to the needs of Jamaican citizens abroad and serving the Diplomatic Mission of Jamaica.

Since joining the dynamic team of individuals at the Consulate, she has been a part of several ground-breaking initiatives working alongside with the Consul General to deepen and strengthen the linkages between the Government of Jamaica and the Jamaican Diaspora for national development. Ms. Lottalee is forward-thinking, dedicated to work and possesses great passion for her country.

Having also served in the Diaspora Affairs Department in the Ministry, Ms. Lottalee was also instrumental in the establishment of the Global Jamaica Diaspora Council and the Global Jamaica Diaspora Youth Council. She also provides expertise in the areas of Diaspora Engagement, Consular Diplomacy, as well as Passport, Citizenship, and Immigration Policy.

Ms. Lottalee has a passion for community service and youth and finds donating her time extremely beneficial. She is an avid music lover and when not working enjoys spending quality time with her family.

JOB OPENING

Position: Aviation Protocol Specialist

Protocol & International Affairs Division, Miami-Dade Aviation Department (MDAD)

Job ID #: **84160** • Location: Miami International Airport • **Closing Date: February 12, 2024**

Minimum Qualifications: Bachelor's degree in international relations, Hospitality, Travel and Tourism or related field. One year of experience in planning, organizing, and coordinating diplomatic and/or ceremonial arrangements for visiting dignitaries or other high level government officials is required. Additional related experience in planning, organizing, and coordinating diplomatic and/or ceremonial arrangements for visiting dignitaries or other high level government officials may substitute for the education on a year-for-year basis. Must be fluent in at least two major foreign languages. Must possess and maintain a valid Florida Driver's License. Applicants qualifying for employment with the Miami-Dade Aviation Department will be subject to extensive security screening, including but not limited to fingerprint checks, employment verification and such other procedures as may be mandated by federal law. The security clearance required by federal law is a continuing condition of employment.

Recruitment Notes: This position coordinates the activities of the staff of Airport Protocol Officers and assists in the development of procedures for the handling of protocol expedite services at Miami International Airport. In addition, this position will coordinate programs for foreign trade delegations, research and provide reports on economic and political conditions in foreign nations, assist in developing protocol procedures for receiving VIPs at Miami International Airport, provide protocol training for foreign and domestic airport officials, and arrange for special handling of diplomatic pouches. It will also require assisting in the development of all port courtesies programs and initiatives offered to the Consular Corps of Miami, Florida, and representing the Division Director at official events and meetings with the Consular Corps, and local, state, and federal agencies, partners, and stakeholders (such as the U.S. State Department, U.S. Secret Service, TSA, CBP, etc.) and others to develop and update procedures for protocol projects/programs at Miami International Airport. Non-County employees or external users, please visit www.miamidade.gov/jobs to apply.



To apply please scan this QR code:



www.miamidade.gov/jobs

BRIEFS & NOTES

Kingdoms and Monarchs of the World

[Monarchies](#) used to rule the world. From the beginning of all human society in [Mesopotamia](#) 4,000 years ago, to the end of the [British Empire](#) in the mid-20th century, kings and queens controlled the most powerful countries on the globe. But in the 21st Century, monarchies have greatly diminished in both power and number. Where there were once over a hundred monarchies in the world, [now 43 remain](#) and only seven exist as absolute monarchies with bona fide power. In a monarchy, a country is ruled by a monarch who is the head of state and sole decision-maker over a country's affairs. Monarchs are appointed by a hereditary bloodline and not through an election, as would be the case in an elective democracy.

[Types of Monarchies](#)

The purest form of monarchy is an **absolute monarchy**. An absolute monarch has the final say in decision-making. They may delegate tasks or authority, but ultimately what the monarch says goes. This was common across ancient and medieval societies, existing as the default method of governance for centuries. The other common form of monarchy is a **constitutional monarchy**. In constitutional monarchies, the power of a monarch is prescribed by the constitution of the country they rule over. Decision-making is either shared with someone else, often an elected official, or removed from them almost entirely to a symbolic level. Multiple countries exist somewhere along this scale with the most famous being the [United Kingdom](#). In the UK, the monarchy technically still has the powers to overrule the government, but they are never used due to the principles of democracy. Other forms of monarchy exist but are far less common. A **federal monarchy** exists as a group of states, that have the same monarch as a head of the federation but are governed by a non-monarchical system such as a parliament. There are also **mixed monarchies** which are countries that have elements of a monarchy combined with multiple different forms of government.

[List of Current Monarchs](#)

As of [2024, there are 43 sovereign states in the world](#) with a monarch as head of state. There are **13** in Asia, **12** in Europe, **9** in the Americas, **6** in Oceania, and **3** in Africa.

The Commonwealth Realms. King Charles, III, is the monarch of fifteen Commonwealth realms (Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, The Bahamas, Belize, Canada, Grenada, Jamaica, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, and the United Kingdom). They evolved out of the British Empire into fully independent states within the Commonwealth of Nations that retain the same King as head of state, unlike other Commonwealth countries that are either dependencies, republics or have a different royal house. All fifteen realms are constitutional monarchies and full democracies, where the King (or his representative) legally possesses vast prerogatives, but fulfills a largely ceremonial role.

Other European constitutional monarchies. Andorra, Belgium, the Kingdom of Denmark, Luxembourg, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the Kingdom of Norway, Spain, and the Kingdom of Sweden are fully democratic states in which the monarch has a limited, largely, or entirely ceremonial role. Andorra is unique among all existing monarchies, as it is a diarchy, with the Co-Principship being shared by the President of France and the Bishop of Urgell.

European mixed monarchies. Liechtenstein and Monaco are constitutional monarchies in which the prince retains many powers of an absolute monarch.

Muslim monarchies. Absolute monarchs remain in Brunei, Oman, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates and are classified as mixed, meaning there are representative bodies of some kind, but the monarch retains most of his powers. Malaysia and Morocco are constitutional monarchies, but their monarchs still retain more substantial powers than in European equivalents.

East and Southeast Asian constitutional monarchies. Bhutan, Cambodia, Japan, and Thailand have constitutional monarchies where the monarch has a limited or ceremonial role.

Other sovereign monarchies. Five monarchies do not fit into one of the above groups by virtue of geography or class of monarchy: Tonga in Polynesia; Eswatini and Lesotho in Southern Africa; and the Sovereign Military Order of Malta (SMOM), and Vatican City in Europe. Of these, Lesotho and Tonga are constitutional monarchies, while Eswatini and Vatican City are absolute monarchies. **Non-sovereign monarchies.** A non-sovereign monarchy or subnational monarchy is one in which the head of the monarchical polity (whether a geographic territory or an ethnic group), and the polity itself, are subject to a sovereign state. The non-sovereign monarchies of Malaysia, emirates of the United Arab Emirates, the Sultanate of Sulu, and kingdoms of Uganda are examples of these.

BRIEFS & NOTES

2024 Most Powerful National Passports



The [Henley Passport Index](#) is the original, authoritative ranking of all the world's passports according to the number of destinations their holders can access without a prior visa. The index is based on exclusive data from the [International Air Transport Association \(IATA\)](#) – the largest, most accurate travel information database – and enhanced by Henley & Partners' research team. Expert insights regarding the latest ranking are available in the [Global Mobility Report 2024](#).

Global Passport Ranking

With historical data spanning 19 years, the Henley Passport Index is the only one of its kind based on exclusive data from the International Air Transport Authority (IATA). The index includes 199 different passports and 227 different travel destinations. Updated monthly, the Henley Passport Index is considered the standard reference tool for global citizens

and sovereign states when assessing where a passport ranks on the global mobility spectrum.

The 10 countries leading the ranking are France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Singapore, Spain, Finland, South Korea, Sweden, and Austria — meaning citizens from all these countries can visit 194 destinations around the world either visa-free or by obtaining a visa-on-arrival. [Click here to view The Henley Passport Index 2024 Global Passport Ranking.](#)

Respect: The Cornerstone of Cross-Cultural Interactions

Genuine cultural respect involves acknowledging and appreciating the inherent worth of different traditions, practices, and perspectives. It's about understanding that there are multiple ways of being and knowing, and that our own cultural lens is not the only valid one.

Respectful interactions are built on a foundation of the following: Openness and curiosity: Approaching new cultures with a genuine desire to learn and understand, rather than with preconceived notions or judgment.

Humility: Recognizing the limitations of our own knowledge and experience and being willing to step outside our comfort zone.

Active listening: Paying close attention to verbal and nonverbal cues and seeking to understand the deeper meaning behind words and actions.

Empathy: Trying to see things from the other person's perspective, and to understand how their cultural background shapes their worldview.

Remember, cultural respect is not about passive acceptance or blind obedience. It's about active engagement, understanding, and finding ways to coexist peacefully and productively in a diverse world. By approaching intercultural interactions with an open mind, a willingness to learn, and a commitment to our own values, we can build bridges of understanding and create a more just and equitable world for all.

Additional Tips for Navigating Cultural Differences:

Do your research: Before interacting with someone from a different culture, take some time to learn about their customs and traditions. This will help you avoid unintentional faux pas.

Be patient: Building trust and understanding takes time. Don't expect to become best friends with someone from a different culture overnight.

Celebrate diversity: View cultural differences as an opportunity to learn and grow, rather than something to be afraid of.

Lead by example: Be the kind of person you want to see in the world. Show respect for others, regardless of their cultural background.

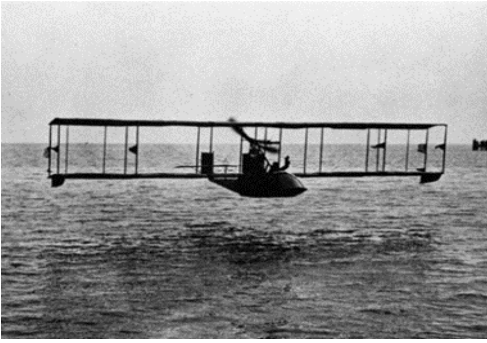
Sources:

["Cultural Respect: A Framework for Understanding Cross-Cultural Communication" by Milton J. Bennett \(2013\)](#)

["How to Build Cultural Respect in the Workplace" by Harvard Business Review \(2020\)](#)

BRIEFS & NOTES

First Commercial Flight



“What was impossible yesterday is an accomplishment of today, while tomorrow heralds the unbelievable” – P.E. Fansler, January 1, 1914. After the Wright Brothers demonstrated that controlled flight in a heavier-than-air machine was possible, countless flights had been made. Most of the time, these newfangled flying machines were flown by one or two pilots, and the public perceived flying as a curiosity, best left to daredevils and adventurers. But a 23-minute flight on [January 1, 1914](#), heralded the beginning of a new era and introduced the idea of air travel.

The historic flight took off from St. Petersburg, FL, and landed in Tampa. It covered roughly 21 miles (33 kilometers), lasted 23 minutes, and flew at an altitude of 50 feet (15 meters) across Tampa Bay. To pique the public’s interest, an auction was held for the passenger seat. It is estimated that 2,000 people watched Abram C. Pheil place the winning bet of \$400 (\$12, 667 in today’s currency). With his winning bet, Mr. Pheil, a

former mayor of St. Petersburg, became the first passenger on a commercial flight.

The plane, known as the Lark of Duluth, a Benoist XIV two-seater flying boat, was piloted by Tony Jannus. A popular figure in aviation, Jannus was rather debonair and a fearless flyer. He flew exhibitions, tested military planes, and on March 1, 1912, carried Capt. Albert Berry aloft to make the first parachute jump from a plane. During World War I, Jannus was killed when his plane plunged into the Black Sea on October 12, 1916.

Thomas Benoist, an aviation entrepreneur from St. Louis, designed the aircraft. Floridian P.E. Fansler was fascinated by Benoist’s flying boats. He started corresponding with him and eventually proposed that they should start an airline to fly from “somewhere to somewhere else”. He then proposed flights between St. Petersburg and Tampa, two cities on opposite sides of Tampa Bay. In the early 1900’s, it took 2 hours to cross the Bay by steamship, up to 12 hours to complete the trip by rail, and roughly 20 hours to drive the distance in an automobile.

A cheering crowd of about 3,500 met Jannus and Pheil when they landed on the Hillsborough River near downtown Tampa. At 11 a.m., Jannus and Pheil flew back to St. Petersburg, completing the roundtrip in less than 90 minutes. The [St. Petersburg–Tampa Airboat Line](#) operated for 4 months, carrying a total of 1,205 passengers. The regular fare was \$5 (\$131 in today’s currency) per person and \$5 per 100 pounds of freight. Since tickets sold out 16 weeks in advance, a second plane was added. Roger Jannus joined his brother Tony as the second pilot. Additional flights to Sarasota, Bradenton and Manatee were also offered. Once Florida’s winter residents started heading back north in late March, interest declined rapidly, and the airline ceased operations on April 27, 1914.

Although it was a short-lived endeavor, the [St. Petersburg-Tampa Airboat Line](#) piqued the public’s interest in air travel. Shortly before the Lark of Duluth took-off, P.E. Fansler spoke to the assembled crowd, foreshadowing the future of commercial aviation: “The Airboat Line to Tampa will be only a forerunner of great activity along these lines in the near future...what was impossible yesterday is an accomplishment of today, while tomorrow heralds the unbelievable.”

First Presidential Flight



On January 14, 1943, [Franklin D. Roosevelt](#) (FDR), the 32nd President of the United States, becomes [the first president to travel on official business by airplane](#). Crossing the Atlantic by air, Roosevelt flew in a Boeing 314 Flying Boat dubbed the Dixie Clipper to a World War II strategy meeting with Winston Churchill at Casablanca in North Africa.

With German U-boats taking a heavy toll on American marine traffic in the Atlantic, Roosevelt’s advisors reluctantly agreed to send him via airplane. Roosevelt, at a frail 60 years old, gamely made the arduous 17,000-mile round trip.

The secret and circuitous journey began on January 11, with the plane stopping several times over four days to refuel and for its passengers to rest. Roosevelt and his entourage left Florida, touched down in the Caribbean, continued down the southern coast of South America to Brazil and then flew across the Atlantic to The Gambia.

They reached Casablanca on January 14. After a successful meeting with Churchill, as well as some sightseeing and visits to the troops, Roosevelt retraced the route back to the United States, celebrating his 61st birthday somewhere over Haiti.

[Source: HISTORY - This Day in History.](#)

BRIEFS & NOTES

Culture, Etiquette, and Protocol

WHEN DOES IT BECOME SOCIALLY UNACCEPTABLE TO WISH SOMEONE A HAPPY NEW YEAR? ETIQUETTE EXPERTS WEIGH IN

By Tara De Boer CTVNews.ca Published Jan. 5, 2023

It may take a few weeks to mentally adjust to the new calendar year, but at what point does the saying “Happy New Year!” lose its shine? To help navigate the social uncertainty of wishing people a happy new year, etiquette experts weigh in on the best time to move on from the phrase and give their thoughts on the way forward in 2023. “There is no set expiry date for the well wish,” said Ann Elizabeth Burnett, Etiquette Consultant, and founder of Elizabeth Etiquette, who goes by her business’ name. “But by the end of the first week, the greeting has sort of waned.”

Whether you’re greeting a colleague, a loved one, or a stranger, context is important, according to Etiquette. “I think you have to look at it in the context of your meeting and your conversation,” she said. “Certainly, you wouldn’t keep saying ‘Happy New Year,’ throughout the whole January and February - too late. But if you meet someone, and they’ve just been offered a new job, for example, then it is certainly great to bring up “what a great start to the new year, wishing you all the best.”

As the three-year mark following the pandemic approaches in March, and with a potential recession on the horizon for 2023, Etiquette says that patience and empathy are the way forward in a world of uncertainty and stress. “The shops, healthcare organizations... they’re all stretched to the limit.” she said. “I think that if we can just take a step back and exercise a little more of that patience and empathy for those around us, I think it will be one of the best things that any of us can do as we move into this year of uncertainty.”

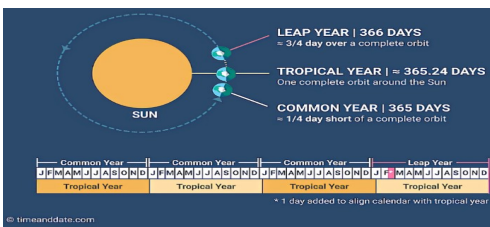
For Suzy Fossati, founder of Avignone Etiquette in Toronto, there is a fluid timeline for the greeting depending on which setting someone finds themselves in, especially as the first day back at work this year for some will be as late as Jan. 9. “For most people, the celebrations end on January 6, with the epiphany. So, I kind of like to use that as my time frame,” said Fossati. “But people are going back to the office I think on Monday the ninth, so that would be the first day they’re back, and the first opportunity they have to see clients or colleagues.”

“Whether we’re talking socially, which I’d say is probably within the first couple of days, after New Year’s Day, after that, we’d want to stop. Whereas business wise, or for an older group of people, it might last a couple of days longer than that.”

For Fossati, as Canadians embark on 2024, remembering what it means to be a kind human following years of isolation is top of mind. “Whether that means spending that little bit of extra time to remember those kind, considerate respectful acts that we can do for other people,” she said. “Sending thank you cards, or gestures, or simply just as far as being able to give people the benefit of the doubt.”

As for Louise Fox, owner of Etiquette Ladies, the colder months following Christmas are a particularly important time of year to be mindful of others --- especially as the winter blues can set in for some. “Going forward this year I would remind people this time of year is difficult for many, including the after-Christmas winter blues. You don’t know the challenges others may be facing in their life,” Fox told CTVNews.ca in an email. “I hope that people will try to be more patient and less judgmental of others and err on the side of kindness.”

2024 Leap Year



2024 is a leap year, also referred to as a [bissextile year](#) or [intercalary year](#). Leap years are years where an extra day is added to the end of the shortest month, February. This so-called intercalary day, February 29, is commonly referred to as leap day. Every four years, the Gregorian calendar adjusts itself to accommodate for the slight discrepancy between our earthly patterns and the cycle of celestial events. The Egyptians first introduced the concept of a leap year over 4,000 years ago, but it was the Romans who officially adopted the idea in 45 BCE. Leap years are necessary because the Earth’s orbit around the Sun is not precisely 365 days. Instead, it takes Earth approximately

365.242189 days, or 365 days, 5 hours, 48 minutes, and 45 seconds, to circle once around the Sun. This is called a tropical year, and it starts on the [March equinox](#). We use leap years to keep our calendar in sync with the seasons. The Gregorian calendar has only 365 days in a year. If we didn’t add a leap day on February 29 almost every four years, each calendar year would begin about 6 hours earlier in relation to Earth’s revolution around the Sun.

Therefore, our time reckoning would slowly drift apart from the tropical year and get increasingly out of sync with the seasons. With a deviation of approximately 6 hours per year, the seasons would shift by about 24 calendar days within 100 years. Leap days fix that error by giving Earth the additional time it needs to complete a full circle around the Sun. Leap years also happen to coincide with two important events. One is the Summer Olympics and Paralympic Games, held this year in Paris. The other is the US Presidential election.

Also, parts of Mexico, the United States and Canada will be treated to a total solar eclipse on April 8. Total solar eclipses occur when the moon passes between Earth and the sun, completely blocking the sun’s face. Sky gazers outside of the eclipse’s direct path will be able to see a partial solar eclipse, which is still very cool. This will mark the last time the path of a total solar eclipse crosses over the U.S. until 2044.

INDEPENDENCE AND NATIONAL DAYS (JANUARY)

January 1, 1804 – Haiti: Two months after beating the French forces, Jean-Jacques Dessalines proclaimed the independence of Saint-Domingue. He renamed it Haiti after the original Taíno-Arawak name for the entire island of Hispaniola, which they called Ay-ti 'land of mountains'.

January 1, 1956 – Sudan: On this date, Sudan gained independence from Egypt and Great Britain.

January 1, 1960 – Cameroon: In 1960, French Cameroun gained independence from France, and the Republic of Cameroon was proclaimed. After an UN-supervised plebiscite on February 11, 1961, in British Cameroons, the south decided to join Cameroon, creating the Federal Republic of Cameroon, while the north joined the Federation of Nigeria.

January 1, 1962 – Samoa: On this date, Samoa gained full independence from New Zealand, becoming the first Pacific nation to gain independence. The date of the holiday was moved to June 1 so that it would not conflict with New Year's Day.

January 1, 1984 – Brunei Darussalam: Brunei Darussalam had been a British protectorate since 1888 and gained full independence from the United Kingdom on January 1, 1984.

January 4, 1948 – Myanmar: Burma declared independence from British rule on January 4, 1948. In 1989, the military controlled government renamed the country Myanmar. This name originated from "Mranma"; the name of the Bamar people who first started migrating from China to the Irrawaddy River during the 7th century.

January 22, 1918 – Ukraine: On this day in 1918, the Ukrainian People's Republic declared its independence from Soviet Russia, and on January 22, 1919, the Act of Unity briefly united the Western and Greater (Eastern) Ukrainian Republics. In 1922, the new Union of Soviet Socialist Republics reconquered the Ukraine, and the country became one of the original republics of the USSR. On August 24, 1991, Ukraine regained its independence. January 22 remains an important day for Ukrainians and is celebrated as Unity Day.

January 26, 1788 – Australia: Australia Day commemorates the landing of the First Fleet in Port Jackson, New South Wales, on Jan 26, 1788. On this day, the British flag was raised for the first time, signaling both the beginning of the colony and the founding of Australia.

January 31, 1968 – Nauru: A 1919 agreement placed the island under joint British-Australian-New Zealand rule. Nauru was granted self-rule in 1966 and achieved full independence in 1968, making it the smallest island country on Earth, and third smallest in landmass behind only Vatican City and Monaco.

ABOUT US

The core mission of MDAD's Protocol and International Affairs Division is -

To facilitate the movement of official guests, delegations, dignitaries and VIPs through MIA and support the airport's international programs and initiatives.

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