

Weirdest Holidays Worldwide



Splattered Ice Cream (Switzerland) – January 1

5/10

In Switzerland, New Year's Day is marked by dropping ice cream on the ground. What is usually a moment of sadness becomes a lucky ritual, symbolizing leaving misfortune behind and welcoming happiness in the coming year.



La Befana (Italy) – January 5

5/10

On Epiphany Eve, the good witch Befana flies down chimneys to fill children's stockings with sweets or coal. Blending pagan and Christian traditions, she is a symbol of warmth, generosity, and the closing of Italy's holiday season.

video



Burns Night (Scotland) – January 25

5/10

Scots honor poet Robert Burns with traditional "Burns Suppers." The highlight is the bagpipe-led entrance of the haggis, addressed with poetry, toasted with whisky, and shared with neeps and tatties in a lively tribute to Scottish culture.



National Man Watcher's Day (USA) – January 8

6/10

A playful holiday inviting women (and anyone else) to openly or subtly observe men at work, home, or the gym. It humorously flips the social norm, making men the ones under scrutiny for a day.



National Nothing Day (USA) – January 16

5/10

Since 1973, Americans celebrate doing absolutely nothing on this day. With no obligations or rituals, it offers a rare guilt-free pause — a moment to relax and embrace simplicity in the middle of busy life.



Brew a Potion Day (USA) – January 19

7/10

A fun holiday that lets people channel their inner wizard. Inspired by folklore, Harry Potter, and video games, it's a day to experiment with concoctions — from herbal teas to whimsical brews symbolizing magic and healing.



Bean Throwing Day (Japan) – February 3

6/10

Known as Setsubun, families welcome spring by throwing roasted soybeans to chase away evil spirits. A senior often plays the demon, making the ritual lively. The beans are believed to drive out misfortune and invite good luck.



Weirdest Holidays Worldwide



Cow Milked in an Airplane Day (USA) – February 18

8/10

This day recalls the 1930 flight of Elm Farm Ollie, the first cow milked midair. Milk was parachuted to spectators as part of a publicity stunt and scientific study, highlighting aviation's potential and rural innovation.



Galactic Tick Day (Int.) – March 1 (every 1.7 years)

6/10

Created in 2016, this holiday celebrates the solar system's journey around the Milky Way. Since one full orbit takes 225 million years, people mark a tiny fraction of it — the "Galactic Tick" — to feel connected to cosmic time.



White Day & Black Day (S.Korea) – March 14 & April 14

5/10

After Valentine's Day, men return gifts on White Day with candies and sweets. Singles left out gather on April 14, Black Day, wearing black and eating jajangmyeon noodles — often joking about romance and seeking new partners.



International Tom Hanks Day (USA) – Saturday near April 1

5/10

Started by students, this day grew into global fan events where people watch Tom Hanks movies, raise funds for his charities, and celebrate the beloved actor. Even Hanks himself has endorsed the quirky holiday.



Vappu (Finland) – April 30–May 1

4/10

Vappu blends Walpurgis Night, May Day, and student traditions into one of Finland's biggest festivals. People wear student caps, picnic outdoors, attend marches, and party all night — symbolizing renewal and community spirit.

video



Easter Whipping of Girls (Czechia & Slovakia) – Easter Monday

7/10

Boys craft willow whips and visit girls' homes to playfully tap them, a ritual symbolizing health and fertility. Girls reward them with decorated eggs, sweets, or drinks. If boys come after noon, girls may drench them with water instead.



World Naked Gardening Day (Int.) – First Saturday in May

9/10

A playful celebration of freedom and nature. Participants garden in the nude to express body positivity, connect with the earth, and promote environmental awareness in a lighthearted way.



Weirdest Holidays Worldwide



Put a Pillow on Your Fridge Day (International) – May 29

7/10

An odd tradition rooted in old English customs. Placing a pillow on top of the fridge is believed to bring prosperity and luck to the household, updating the ancient practice of storing linens in pantries.



Hug Your Cat Day (International) – June 4

4/10

A simple but beloved day for cat owners. People are encouraged to show affection to their feline companions with hugs, highlighting the bond between humans and pets while raising awareness of animal care.



National Sleepyhead Day (Finland) – July 27

6/10

In Finnish homes, the last person asleep is woken by water. In Naantali, a “celebrity Sleepyhead” is tossed into the sea. This humorous tradition reminds everyone not to oversleep life’s opportunities.



National Rat Catcher’s Day (Germany) – July 22

5/10

Inspired by the Pied Piper of Hamelin, this day honors the folklore of the mysterious piper who rid the town of rats and, later, its children. The tale is remembered in plays and parades, mixing history, myth, and cautionary storytelling.



Christmas in August (USA, Yellowstone) – August 25

5/10

Since the 1930s, Yellowstone has hosted summer Christmas festivities. Seasonal workers and visitors decorate trees, sing carols, and welcome Santa, carrying on a quirky tradition of celebrating early.



International Talk Like a Pirate Day (Worldwide) – September 19

6/10

Created in the USA, this day invites people to drop modern worries and speak like pirates. “Ahoy, matey!” events, costumes, and pirate slang turn an ordinary day into playful escapism worldwide.



Devil’s Spit Day / Michaelmas (UK) – September 29

8/10

Linked to Archangel Michael’s victory over Lucifer, who fell into blackberry bushes and cursed the fruit. Traditionally, it also marked harvest’s end, rent payments, and hiring fairs — a time of reckoning and renewal.



Weirdest Holidays Worldwide



Count Your Buttons Day (USA) – October 21

6/10

A whimsical holiday encouraging people to count, collect, or craft with buttons. It celebrates small, often overlooked details of daily life, reminding us how even tiny things can add character and creativity.



Día de los Muertos (Mexico) – November 1–2

8/10

Families honor deceased loved ones with colorful altars, food, flowers, and sugar skulls. Rather than mourning, it is a joyful reunion of the living and the dead, filled with music, processions, and celebration.

video



Guy Fawkes Night (UK) – November 5

6/10

Commemorating the failed Gunpowder Plot of 1605, Brits light bonfires and burn Guy Fawkes effigies. Fireworks fill the skies as history meets festivity in this mix of remembrance and communal revelry.



Krampusnacht (Austria) – December 5

7/10

On the eve of December 5, people dress as Krampus, the horned demon who punishes naughty children. Parades and frightening costumes balance Santa's kindness with a reminder of darker folklore.

video



Night of the Radishes (Mexico) – December 23

6/10

In Oaxaca, artisans carve giant radishes into nativity scenes and local motifs. The best designs win prizes, turning humble vegetables into festive works of art and a beloved community competition.



Yule Cat (Iceland) – December 24

7/10

A giant, fearsome cat prowls at Christmas, devouring those who haven't received new clothes. The legend encouraged hard work and gift-giving, turning a scary tale into a motivator for holiday generosity.



Christmas Caterpillars (South Africa) – December 25

7/10

In South Africa, fried caterpillars of the Emperor Moth are eaten on Christmas. The unusual delicacy is believed to bring luck and abundance in the year ahead.



Weirdest Holidays Worldwide



weirdness



Takanakuy Fistfights (Peru) – December 25

7/10

Communities in Peru celebrate Christmas by settling disputes with organized fistfights. Dressed in colorful costumes, participants fight, then reconcile, turning conflict into a symbolic fresh start for the new year.

video



Day of the Holy Innocents (Spain) – December 28

4/10

Spain's version of April Fools' Day. Pranksters play tricks, and bakers prepare salty cakes disguised as sweet treats. It's a playful way to end the holiday season with laughter.



The Candy-Pooping Log (Spain, Catalonia) – December

8/10

Families keep a smiling log, feed it, and cover it warmly until Christmas Eve. Then children beat it with sticks while singing songs, revealing candy "pooped" from the log — a uniquely Catalan custom.



Kumari, the Living Goddess (Nepal) – Ongoing

8/10

In Kathmandu, a young girl is chosen as the living goddess Kumari, worshipped as an incarnation of the divine. She blesses devotees and even kings, until she reaches puberty, when a successor is chosen.



What is it today?

