



## UK Holidays

The special days celebrated in the United Kingdom:

1st January = New Year's Day

14th February = Valentine's Day

17th March = St Patrick's Day (Ireland)

Easter: Easter Sunday, Mothering Sunday, Shrove Tuesday or Pancake Day

1st April = April Fool's Day.

June = Father's Day

31st October = Halloween

5th November = Bonfire Night

11th November = Remembrance Day

25th December = Christmas Day

26th December = Boxing Day



# New Year's Day

1st of January

New Year's Day is celebrated on the 1st of January every year.

It is a Bank Holiday which means it is a non-working day.

The evening is celebrated by many to see the new year in.

People gather in their homes and in cities. They will also count down for the last 10 seconds to midnight.

Fireworks are set off in London at midnight.

Then people cross arms with one another and sing 'Auld Lang Syne'.

[New Year's Eve: London fireworks celebrate start of 2020 - BBC News - YouTube](#)

[Auld Lang Syne - London 2014 - YouTube](#)



# Valentine's Day

14th of February

Valentine's Day, also known as simply '*Valentine's*', is a celebration of love, affection and romance.

It is named after the Saint Valentine who died on the 14th of February. Originally, Valentine's Day was a festival celebrated in Rome to signify the beginning of Spring. In Rome, women were paired off with a man through a lottery system.

In the UK, it is common for cards to be sent to partners with flowers and chocolates to show their love for one another. However, some like to simply spend time together as a sign of their love.

People often use Valentine's Day to show affection towards family members and people who they appreciate a lot.

[British Holidays - Valentine's Day - YouTube](#)

# St Patrick's Day (Ireland)

17th of March

St Patrick's Day is celebrated in Ireland after the death of the patron saint of Ireland. It is a holiday which has developed into a festival of Irish culture with music, dancing, parades and drinking.

Green is a big and important colour during this celebration, this is because *shamrock* is the national symbol of Ireland. Also, green represents the mythical creatures, leprechauns.

[Dublin and the World celebrate St Patrick's Day 2014 - YouTube](#)





## Easter: Easter Sunday February / March / April

The date of Easter Sunday changes every year, but it always coincides with the start of Spring.

Easter is one of the most important Christian celebrations. It honours the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Easter eggs and the Easter Bunny are usually seen during the Easter period. The story of the Easter Bunny came about in the 19th century. The rabbit symbolises the beginning of new life .

It is told to children that the Easter Bunny decorates and hides Easter eggs for them to find during an Easter Egg Hunt. The eggs also symbolise the beginning of new life.

People often celebrate Easter by eating chocolate, for example, chocolate Easter eggs. This is because the six weeks before Easter is known as 'Lent'. Lent is a period of time where people do not eat any dairy or animal products (so no chocolate for six weeks).

[British Holidays - Easter - YouTube](#)



## Easter: Mothering Sunday or Mother's Day


February / March / April

Mothering Sunday or Mother's Day is celebrated on the fourth Sunday of Lent. For example, in 2021, Mother's Day will fall on Sunday 24th of March 2021.

This day is an appreciation of Mothers and other female guardians (such as Grandmothers, Step-Mothers, and Mother-in-laws) to show how grateful we are for all their help and support over the years.

Children often gift their mother figure with flowers and homemade cards to show their appreciation. They also spend the day with their mother figure.





## Easter: Shrove Tuesday or Pancake Day February / March / April

Shrove Tuesday, or also known as *Pancake Day*, falls on the day before Ash Wednesday. Shrove Tuesday is known as for the feast before Lent begins. During Lent, Christians would traditionally fast for a six week period.

Shrove Tuesday falls 47 days prior to Easter Sunday. It is the last time for Christians to eat dairy and animal products. As a traditional British pancake uses those ingredients, it was a perfect dish to serve in order to not waste any food. This is why this holiday is also known as Pancake Day. Each ingredient represents something different: Eggs (creation), Flour (the staff of life), Salt (wholesomeness) and finally Milk (purity).

The pancakes are usually thin and the batter is cooked in a frying pan. Most Brits believe a traditional pancake has lemon juice and sugar on them. Some compete to see who can flip the most pancakes in the frying pan.

**Traditional British Pancake Recipe:** [Pancake recipe - BBC Food](#)



**Click Here!**

# April Fool's Day

## 1st of April

April Fool's Day falls on the 1st of April every year.

It is a day that British usually prank or play tricks on one another.

One person may play a joke on a friend and shout 'APRIL FOOLS!'.

Even newspapers have been known for spreading fake news on April Fool's Day.

However, you can no longer play anymore tricks after midday.

The origins of April Fool's Day is unclear but it has been traced all the way back to the Ancient Romans.

[British English Holidays - April Fool's Day - YouTube](#)

[Flying Penguins, 2008 | April Fool's Day: the best TV pranks - TV \(telegraph.co.uk\)](#)



Flying Penguins, 2008

The BBC's nature programmes are the stuff of national pride and treasure - when it transpires that things may not be entirely as they seem on David Attenborough's Planet Earth series, it makes the press.

So when the Corporation's Miracles of Evolution series claimed that it had footage of famously flightless Adelie penguins gliding over the water, viewers didn't know what to do.

Presenter Terry Jones backed up his claim with science, saying that the penguins not only flew but emigrated, like other birds, to the rainforests of South America where they





# Father's Day

June



Father's Day falls on the third (3rd) Sunday of June. For example: Sunday 20th June 2021.

Similar to Mother's Day, it is a day to honour and celebrate Father figures, including: Dads, Grandads, Father-in-laws and more.

Like Mother's Day, most British people spend this day with their Father figures, and buying them a present and card to show their gratitude.

# Halloween

31st of October



Halloween is celebrated on the 31st of October every year. It originally came from Ireland, where Celts (an ancient European tribe) would have a festival to warn off ghosts. They would often dress up in costumes and set alight bonfires.

Now, in the UK, Halloween is associated with children dressing up in spooky or scary costumes. Children will often go out '**trick-or-treating**' where they dress up and knock on their neighbour's front door, asking for candy or sweets.

Halloween also includes activities, such as: watching horror films, apple bobbing and carving pumpkins.

[Morrisons Halloween At Home Pumpkin Carving - YouTube](#)

[BRITISH Halloween | How We Celebrate In The UK | English Traditions - YouTube](#)

# Bonfire Night

5th of November



Bonfire Night, also known as *Guy Fawkes*, is celebrated on the 5th of November every year.

It is a day to remember the anniversary of the Gun Powder Plot, whereby a group of Catholic (a group of Christians) men tried to blow up the King in 1605. The men were unsuccessful in their plot, and instead were ***hung, drawn and quartered***, as torture for treason.

Treason = trying to kill the King or Queen of England.

Today, British people celebrate by having a bonfire and fireworks.

[Guy Fawkes and Bonfire Night Animated History - YouTube](#)



# Remembrance Day

11th of November



Remembrance Day also known Armistice Day is celebrated on the 11th of November every year. It commemorates the anniversary of the armistice agreement of the First World War - 11th November 1918.

Remembrance Sunday is marked on Sunday closest to the 11th of November, to honour and remember those who fought and died in the War.

On the 11th of November on the 11th hour and 11th minute, there is a two minute silence to pay our respects.

A poppy is worn by many to celebrate Remembrance Day. This is because after the First World War, poppies grew all over the battlefields.



# Christmas Day

25th of December

Christmas Day is celebrated on the 25th of December every year. It is also a bank holiday, meaning British people do not work.

Christmas Day, religiously, celebrates Jesus Christ's birth. However, many Brits who are not religious still celebrate Christmas. Some families attend Church on Christmas Day and others do not.

The night before Christmas is known as Christmas Eve, and most young children will leave a glass of milk and a mince pie out for Father Christmas, or Santa Claus, who delivers the presents overnight.

Most families have a Christmas Tree in their homes which is decorated with tinsel, baubles and lights. The majority of British people, use this day to be with loved ones, and gifting giving to show appreciation. A Christmas dinner is a traditional meal eaten at midday on Christmas Day. This meal includes: turkey, vegetables, stuffing, pigs in blankets and yorkshire puddings.



# Traditional Christmas Dinner

Turkey

Vegetables

Yorkshire  
Puddings



Gravy

Cranberry  
Sauce

Pigs in  
Blankets  
=  
sausages  
wrapped  
in bacon



# Christmas Day 25th of December



Other traditional British foods eaten at Christmas time are:

- Mince Pies
- Panettone
- Christmas Pudding
- Mulled Wine
- Stollen
- Eggnog
- Gingerbread!



Below is a recipe for gingerbread men, a traditional biscuit for Christmas:

[https://www.bbc.co.uk/food/recipes/gingerbread\\_men\\_99096](https://www.bbc.co.uk/food/recipes/gingerbread_men_99096)



**Click Here!**

## Boxing Day

26th of December



Boxing Day (26th of December) falls the day after Christmas (25th of December). Boxing day is also a bank holiday which means that the majority of British people do not work.

For many British people it is a day of recovery after Christmas Day. Most people spend it visiting other extended family members who they may not have seen on Christmas Day itself.

Boxing Day came from the tradition of employers gifting presents to their employees on this particular day. The name, Boxing Day comes from a “Christmas Box” or present.