



Festivals in the world

Chinese New Year

- It's the most important of the Chinese holidays, and it's a time of enjoying with family, fireworks, celebration and gift giving.
- It's a 15 day holiday celebrated in February, not in January. Lanterns and dances with dragons are typical of Chinese New Year



Diwali

Diwali is the major festival in India. It's celebrated in October or November.

It's a festival of lights and signifies the victory of light (good things) over darkness (bad things).

On this day people wear new clothes, meet their family members, eat sweets, give presents, set off fireworks at night, and decorate their houses with lights and rangoli patterns (similar to *mandalas*)



Day of Dead

- It's celebrated in Mexico every 1st and 2nd of November.
- The Day of Dead is not a sad day. It's a day of celebration where family and friends gather to honor their loved ones who have passed away.
- They build ofrendas (altars) with flowers, candles, incense, pictures and other things. They also eat sweet skulls.



Canada

- The Canada Day is celebrated in Canada on the 1st of July to commemorate the country's independence from the UK.
- It's celebrated in Ottawa, the capital city. They prepare parades and fireworks.



Carnival in Brazil

- The Carnival of Rio de Janeiro is one of the biggest and most famous in the world. It lasts for five days and four nights.
- It's a week of parades, dancing, bright colours and fireworks. People dress up in costumes and dance samba in the streets.



Obon Festival in Japan

- It's celebrated in Japan. Families release floating lanterns into the water to represent their ancestors' spirits.

Obon Festival, Japan(August)

- ▶ Families release floating lanterns into the water to represent their ancestors' spirits being sent off.



White nights in Russia

- It's celebrated in St. Petersburg in Russia between June and July.
- It's called White Nights because during the last ten days of the month the sun only sets for a short period.
- These nights are celebrated with festivals all day, concerts, and parties.



Italy

- The Carnevale of Venice started in the XIII century. It's the origin of the Spanish and Brazilian carnival. Children and adults dress up with traditional and masks. Originally Venetian masks were made of leather, porcelain or glass and had the function of remaining you anonymous. The most important types of Venetian masks are the *bauta*, *moretta*, *gnaga*, *medico della pesta*, *pantalone*, *arlechino*, *colombina*.

- A lot of celebrations take places in every Italian town, including at schools. There are many parades, bands, puppet shows, theatrical and musical performances, and competitions for the best costumes and masks.



Greece

A Greek festival is a tradition of culture and entertainment where you will taste the Greek food, Greek music, Greek culture, Greek dancing and great family fun. The carnival of Athens is the third most important in the world.

Another important one is the Epidauro festival. It takes place between May and October. They watch theatre plays and listen to opera representations in the antique Epidauro theatre, and they practice their traditional dances. Greek dances are mostly performed in groups that hold each other by hands or by the shoulders.



Australia

- One of the most special celebrations in Australia is Christmas. It's summer in Australia during Christmas time, so it is celebrated as a picnic at the beach.
- They also dive in the Great Barrier Reef. It's like a garden under the sea, with 1400 different types of fish and more than 300 kinds of coral.



Madagascar

- People in Madagascar celebrate their Independence Day on the 26th of March. The children walk in the streets with lanterns in their hands, and go to see the fireworks that take place in the Anosy Lake.
- El Alahamadi Be is their celebration of the New Year



France

- Medieval festival takes place in the second weekend of September. They dress up as medieval people and they represent how they lived. They also have horse shows, fire eaters, musicians, magicians, etc.
- The Lemon festival started 40 years ago, and it's unique. They make decorations that they cover with lemons and oranges. There are also parades, confetti and traditional dances.



Egypt

- The coming of the spring is celebrated in Egypt with the Sham El Nessim festival. In spring, the Nile rises and gives them more water that they use to cultivate.
- They go with their families near the river and they have a picnic there.

