

Holidays in Great Britain

There are many special days in Britain. They are called holidays. On these days people do not go to work. Schools, businesses and government offices are closed.

New Year's Day

New Year's Day is a popular holiday. The celebration begins on December 31, the night before, New Year's day. Horns, whistles and other noisemakers are very popular on this night. This is an old tradition from old times.



Christmas

Christmas Day December 25, is probably the most popular holiday in Great Britain. It is a family holiday. Traditionally all relatives and friends give each other presents. So before Christmas all the department stores



largest shops, people get prepared for this holiday very early. They choose their houses in the traditional way, that is the Christmas trees are set up in the houses, in the streets and churches. The Christmas trees are always decorated with fairy lights, angels and small toys. In addition little packets with nuts, candies and special biscuits are hung on the tree. Presents are put around the tree and artificial "frost" is scattered over the branches.

Halloween

It is celebrated on 31 October. According to an ancient belief on this day the spirits of the dead arise from their graves.

In the Halloween children go door to door. So in the evening you may hear a knock on the door. Outside children in scary costumes shout: “Trick or treat!” If you don’t give them candy cookies, fruit or money they will do sometimes bad to you they will play some trick



Boxing Day

Boxing Day is traditionally the day following Christmas Day, when servants and tradesmen would receive gifts, known as a "Christmas box", from their bosses or employers. Today, Boxing Day is the bank holiday that generally takes place on 26 December. It is observed in the United Kingdom, Canada, Hong Kong, Australia, New Zealand, Kenya, South Africa, Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago and other Commonwealth nations.

In South Africa, Boxing Day was renamed Day of Goodwill in 1994. In Ireland and Italy, the day is known as St. Stephen's Day (Irish: *Lá Fhéile Stiofáin*) or the Day of the Wren (Irish: *Lá an Dreoilín*). In many European countries, including notably Germany, Poland, the Netherlands and those in Scandinavia, 26 December is celebrated as the *Second Christmas Day*.

Saint Patrick's Day

Saint Patrick's Day or the Feast of Saint Patrick is a cultural and religious holiday celebrated on 17 March. It is named after Saint Patrick (c. AD 385–461), the most commonly recognised of the patron saints of Ireland.

Saint Patrick's Day was made an official Christian feast day in the early seventeenth century and is observed by the Catholic Church, the Anglican Communion (especially the Church of Ireland), the Eastern Orthodox Church and Lutheran Church. The day commemorates Saint Patrick and the arrival of Christianity in Ireland, as well as celebrates the heritage and culture of the Irish in general.



Thanks For Attention