

Celebrating the New Year around the world

New Year's is a time to reflect on the previous year while creating goals for the next. It is celebrated differently worldwide. Some countries and/or cultures host parties, others prefer to be home with their loved ones, while others prefer to crossover into the new year while praying.

In Germany New Year's Day is called Neujahrstag. It is a public holiday and on that day post offices, banks, government offices, and most businesses are closed. Employees are given the day off to celebrate with family and friends! There are often free public concerts on New Year's Day. Many people like to welcome the New Year with sparkling wine and fireworks.

In Zimbabwe, most people spend their New Year's at church praying for prosperity in the new year.



On December 31, 1907, in the USA at exactly 11:59 PM EST, the Ball in Times Square in New York City made its 60-second descent down the flagpole to signal the start of the New Year. This has been a tradition for 115 years.

In the Philippines, on New Year's Eve (December 31) they celebrate at midnight with a meal known as the Media Noche. New Year's Day is also characterized by lighting fireworks and making a lot of noise to drive away evil spirits.

Other cultures such as the Chinese culture celebrate their traditional or religious New Year's according to their own customs and the lunar calendar or a lunisolar calendar. Chinese New Year, the Islamic New Year, Tamil New Year (Puthandu), and the Jewish New Year (Rosh Hashanah) are among well-known examples.

Chinese New Year, also called **Lunar New Year**, is an annual 15-day festival that occurs sometime between January 21 and February 20 according to Western calendars.

The **Islamic New Year** also called the **Hijri New Year**, begins at sunset on the last day of Dhu al-Hijjah. It's the day that marks the beginning of a new lunar Hijri year.

The **Tamil New Year** calls for feasting and merrymaking in Southern India, mainly in Tamilnadu. People celebrate the day with joy and hope to mark the new cycle of good fortune and prosperity in their lives.

Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year, is one of Judaism's holiest days. Meaning "head of the year" or "first of the year," the festival begins on the first day of Tishrei, the seventh month of the Hebrew calendar, which falls during September or October. A 10-day period of introspection and repentance culminates in the Yom Kippur holiday, also known as the Day of Atonement.



The Hindu New Year (Vikram Samvat) is celebrated in accordance with the Hindu Lunar Calendar. In the Hindu faith, The New Year is celebrated in either March or the month of April. There are various Hindu traditions in different regions in India that dictate the type of festival that is celebrated to welcome the New Year. According to the Hindu calendar, the New Year is celebrated in line with the solar and lunar systems.

India, Nepal, and other countries also celebrate New Year on dates according to their own calendars that are movable in the Gregorian calendar.

Every culture and country celebrates New Year's Eve in its own way, but what unites us all is that we all celebrate the upcoming year.

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