August Multicultural Dates/Events

August 1

Confederation Day (Switzerland) - Decreed in 1891, but the origins of this holiday date to 1291, when the foundation of the Swiss Confederation was laid.

Emancipation Day (Bermuda)

Ilinden (Macedonia) - Commemorates the Macedonians revolt against the Ottoman army on August 2, 1903, on Ilinden, or St. Elijah’s Day.

Kamál (8th Month) (Bahá'í) - The first day of the eighth Bahá’í month. The English translation of Kamál (Arabic) is Perfection.

Lugnasad (Wicca) - Its name is taken from the Celtic God Lugh, or Samildanach, which means ‘he of many gifts’. It celebrates the ancient festival of the first harvesting of grain in August.

August 3

Caribana Parade (African-American/Canadian, Canada) - Held in Toronto, Caribana commemorates Canada’s diverse Caribbean community with a giant street parade, based on the Carnival of Trinidad and Tobago. It attracts nearly one million spectators including celebrants from the U.S.

Laylat al-Qadr (Islam) - Night of Power, commemorates the revelation of the Qur’an to Prophet Muhammad in 610 CE. It begins previous evening.

August 6

Hiroshima Day (Canada, Japan, USA) - This solemn day commemorates the day that United States dropped the first atomic bomb in Hiroshima, Japan in 1945. People from different backgrounds unite on this day to declare their commitment to never letting another nuclear bomb be used against humans again.

Independence Day (Bolivia) - Signifies independence from Spain in 1825.

Independence Day (Jamaica) - Signifies independence from Great Britain in 1962.

August 8

Eid-ul-Fitr (Islam) - This marks the end of the Ramadan fast and is celebrated for 3 days. Date of observance may vary according to sighting of the new moon. Dates vary by a day depending on whether the Saudi Arabia or the North American Calendar is being observed. This calendar follows the North American dates which is a day later.

Fravardeghan (8-17) (Zoroastrian) - Fravardeghan lasts ten days in preparation for Now Ruz for those who follow the Shenshai calendar. Ancestors are memorialized during this time.

August 9

Int'l Day Of The World's Indigenous People (UN)

National Day (Singapore) - Marks the day of independence from Malaysia in 1965.

August 10

Independence Day (Ecuador) - Commemorates declaration of independence from Spain in 1809, which initiated a war for freedom within Latin America. Full independence was attained in 1822.
August 12

**Int'l Youth Day (UN)**- A day to increase awareness of the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond, which calls for action in 10 areas: education, employment, hunger and poverty, health, environment, drug abuse, juvenile delinquency, leisure-time activities, girls and young women, and full and effective participation of youths 15-24 years old in society.

August 14

**Independence Day (Pakistan)**- Commemorates independence from Britain in 1947.

**Obon (Japan)**- It is celebrated in honour of their deceased ancestors. Japanese light lanterns and hold circular folk dances. Vietnamese call it Vu Lan. Chinese name it Chung Yuan or Feast of Lonesome Souls where food is laid out and money is burnt for the souls.

August 15

**Assumption (Christian)**- This refers to Mary’s death and ascent to heaven and is celebrated by Catholic and Orthodox Churches. Special mentions: Sicilian-Canadians hold an outdoor procession for the Madonna del Assunta, Polish-Canadians celebrate the Feast of the Mother of God of the herbs, an early harvest festival, Armenian Orthodox bless the first grapes of the season, Ukrainians take flowers to the church to be blessed.

**Independence Day (Acadia)**

**Independence Day (Bahrain)**

**Independence Day (India)**- Marks independence from Great Britain in 1947, when the Indian Independence Act went into effect.

**Korean Liberation Day (Korea)**- The day celebrates the national liberation from Imperial Japan in 1945. On the same day in 1948, the government of the Republic of Korea was established.

August 17

**Independence Day (Indonesia)**- Celebrates proclaimed independence from Dutch colonial rule in 1945. After several years of fighting, Indonesia was formally granted autonomy on December 27, 1949.

August 18

**Now-Ruz (Shenshai) (Zoroastrian)**- It means ‘new day’ and is celebrated by Muslims of Persian heritage or influence and by all Ismaili Muslims around the world. The Zoroastrian New Year celebrates the creation of fire on this day on which Zarathustra received his revelation.

August 19

**Independence Day (Afghanistan)**- Though never a British colony, the British controlled Afghanistan’s foreign policy due to an agreement signed by a former Afghan king. The Third Anglo-Afghan War ended this agreement in 1919

August 20

**Asmá (9th Month) (Bahá’í)**- The first day of the ninth Bahá’í month. The English translation of Asmá (Arabic) is Names.

August 21
Raksha Bandhan (Hindu)- According to legend, God Indra was warring with demons. His wife tied a silk charm around his wrist to protect him and he was able to defeat his enemies. Hindu girls now tie a threaded amulet or ‘rakhi’ on their brothers for protection against evil.

August 23

Int'l Day For Remembrance Of The Slave Trade And Its Abolition (UN)

August 24

Birth of Prophet Zarathustra (Shenshai) (Zoroastrian)- Zarathushtra (Zoroaster in Greek; Zarthosht in India and Persia) is the founder of the Zoroastrian religion dating back to sometime between 1500 and 1000 BCE. He lived in Persia, modern day Iran. Zoroastrianism became the state religion of various Persian empires, until the 7th Century CE. When Arabs, followers of Islam, invaded Persia in 650 CE, a small number of Zoroastrians fled to India where most are concentrated today.

Independence Day (Ukraine)- Observes independence from the former Soviet Union in 1991.

August 25

Independence Day (Uruguay)- Celebrates the declaration of independence from Brazil in 1825. Independence was attained in 1828.

Notting Hill Festival (England, UK)- The Notting Hill Festival is held during the last weekend in August. This is a West Indian Street carnival with floats, bands, and stalls. It began in 1964 with the focus of deterring racism toward Caribbean and other Black immigrants and bringing together the people of the Notting Hill area.

August 26

Summer Bank Holiday (England, N. Ireland, UK, Wales)

August 27

Independence Day (Moldova)- Celebrates the declaration of independence from the Soviet Union on this date in 1991. Independence was formally attained later that same year, with the dissolution of the Soviet Union on December 26.

August 28

Janmashtami (Hindu)- Celebrates the birth of Lord Krishna and his rescue from potential death by the demon Kasna. Lord Krishna was born in a prison, then carried by his father to another village where he was secretly exchanged with a cow herder’s daughter for his safety.

August 30

St. Rosa Of Lima (Peru)- Commemorates a Peruvian saint who lived in Lima. Her home is now a pilgrimage site, where every 30th of August, people come to pray and throw coins, messages and icons into a water well near her home.

Victory Day (Turkey)- Honors the warriors who died in the 1922 Battle of Dumlupinar, the final battle in the war of independence. The Mehtar band, the world's oldest military band, plays, and celebrations include military parades and fireworks.

August 31

Independence Day (Trinidad & Tobago)- Celebrates the day in 1962 that Trinidad and Tobago became an independent nation within the British Commonwealth.
Merdeka (Freedom) Day (Malaysia)-Marks the independence of Malaya from British rule in 1957. The Federation of Malaysia was subsequently inaugurated in 1963, containing Malaya, North Borneo, Sarawak, and Singapore. Singapore later withdrew.