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| Nr | Holiday | Day celebrated | Description |
|  | **New Year (shogatsu)** | January 1 | (national holiday) This is the most important holiday in Japan. While only January 1 is designated as a national holiday, many businesses remain closed through January 3. |
|  | **Coming of Age (seijin no hi)** | Second Monday of January | (national holiday) The coming of age of 20 year old men and women is celebrated on this national holiday. |
|  | **Beginning of spring (setsubun)** | February 3 | Setsubun is not a national holiday, but celebrated at shrines and temples nationwide. |
|  | **National Foundation Day (kenkoku kinenbi)** | February 11 | (national holiday) According to the earliest Japanese [history](https://www.japan-guide.com/e/e641.html) records, on this day in the year 660 BC the first Japanese [emperor](https://www.japan-guide.com/e/e2135.html) was crowned. |
|  | **Valentine's Day** | February 14 | In Japan, women give chocolates to men on Valentine's Day. It is not a national holiday. |
|  | **Emperor's Birthday (tenno no tanjobi)** | February 23 | (national holiday)  The birthday of the current [emperor](https://www.japan-guide.com/e/e2135.html)  is always a national holiday. If the emperor changes, the national holiday changes to the birthday date of the new emperor. |
|  | **Doll's Festival (hina matsuri)** | March 3 | On this day, families with girls wish their daughters a successful and happy life. [Dolls](https://www.japan-guide.com/e/e2104.html) are displayed in the house together with peach blossoms. |
|  | **White Day** | March 14 | The opposite of Valentine's Day: Men give cakes or chocolates to women. It is not a national holiday. |
|  | **Spring Equinox Day (shunbun no hi)** | Around March 20 | (national holiday) Graves are visited during the week (ohigan) of the Equinox Day. |
|  | **Showa Day (Showa no hi)** | April 29 | (national holiday) The birthday of former Emperor Showa Hirohito. Before 2007, April 29 was known as Greenery Day (now celebrated on May 4). |
|  | **Constitution Day (kenpo kinenbi)** | May 3 | (national holiday) A national holiday remembering the new constitution, which was put into effect after the [war](https://www.japan-guide.com/e/e2129.html). |
|  | **Greenery Day (midori no hi)** | May 4 | (national holiday) Until 2006, Greenery Day was celebrated on April 29, the former Emperor Showa's birthday, due to the emperor's love for plants and nature. |
|  | **Children's Day (kodomo no hi)** | May 5 | (national holiday) Also called boy's festival. |
|  | **Star Festival (tanabata)** | July/August 7 | Tanabata is a festival rather than a national holiday. |
|  | **Ocean Day (umi no hi)** | Third Monday of July | (national holiday) A recently introduced national holiday to celebrate the ocean. The day marks the return of Emperor Meiji from a boat trip to [Hokkaido](https://www.japan-guide.com/list/e1101.html) in 1876. |
|  | **Mountain Day (yama no hi)** | August 11 | (national holiday) Newly introduced in 2016, this national holiday celebrates mountains. |
|  | **Obon** | July/August 13-15 | Obon is a Buddhist event to commemorate deceased ancestors. |
|  | **Respect for the Aged Day (keiro no hi)** | Third Monday of September | (national holiday) Respect for the elderly and longevity are celebrated on this national holiday. |
|  | **Autumn Equinox Day (shubun no hi)** | Around September 23 | (national holiday) Graves are visited during the week (ohigan) of the Equinox Day. |
|  | **Health and Sports Day (taiiku no hi)** | Second Monday of October | (national holiday) On that day in 1964, the [Olympic games](https://www.japan-guide.com/e/e2260.html) of [Tokyo](https://www.japan-guide.com/e/e2164.html) were opened. |
|  | **Culture Day (bunka no hi)** | November 3 | (national holiday) A day for promotion of culture and the love of freedom and peace. On culture day, [schools](https://www.japan-guide.com/e/e2150.html) and the [government](https://www.japan-guide.com/e/e2136.html) award selected persons for their special, cultural achievements. The day was originally a public holiday because it was [Emperor Meiji](https://www.japan-guide.com/e/e2130.html)'s birthday. Later in 1946, the [post-war](https://www.japan-guide.com/e/e2124.html) constitution was promulgated on this date which led to the establishment of Culture Day. |
|  | **Seven-Five-Three (shichigosan)** | November 15 | Girls of age three and seven and boys of age three and five are celebrated on Shichigosan around November 15, and it is prayed for their good health and growth. |
|  | **Labor Thanksgiving Day (kinro kansha no hi)** | November 23 | (national holiday) A national holiday for honoring labor. |
|  | **Christmas** | December 24-25 | Christmas is not a national holiday. |
|  | **New Year's Eve (omisoka)** | December 31 | December 31 is not a national holiday. |