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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) Japanese holiday held annually on the second Monday of January. It is held in order to congratulate and encourage all those who have reached or will reach the age of maturity 20 years old. |
|  | **Beginning of spring (setsubun)** | February 3 | Setsubun is not a national holiday, but celebrated at shrines and temples nationwide. The name literally means 'seasonal division', referring to the day just before the first day of spring |
|  | **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, the custom that only women give chocolates to men may have originated from the translation error of a chocolate-company executive during the initial campaigns. |
|  | **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. It began in Japan in 1978; since then, its observance has spread to several other Asian nations. |
|  | **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). is a national holiday in Japan. It’s celebration of the enactment of the 1947 Constitution of Japan. It is a part of the collection of holidays known as Golden Week |
|  | **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)  Japanese national holiday which takes place annually on May 5 and is the final celebration in Golden Week. It is a day set aside to respect children's personalities and to celebrate their happiness. |
|  | **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 this national holiday celebrates mountains. In May 2014, it was announced that Mountain Day will be celebrated as a public holiday every August 11, beginning in 2016. |
|  | **Obon** | July/August 13-15 | Obon is a Buddhist event to commemorate deceased ancestors. It has evolved into a family reunion holiday during which people return to ancestral family places and visit and clean their ancestors' graves |
|  | **Respect for the Aged Day (keiro no hi)** | Third Monday of September | (national holiday) This national holiday was established in 1966 as a day public holiday celebrated annually to honor elderly citizens, longevity and celebrate long life. |
|  | **Autumn Equinox Day (shubun no hi)** | Around September 23 | (national holiday) Graves are visited during the week (ohigan) of the Equinox Day. and visiting shrines and temples. People also celebrate the good weather and autumn harvest by enjoying outdoor activities |
|  | **Health and Sports Day (taiiku no hi)** | Second Monday of October | (national holiday) in Japan held annually on the second Monday in October. It commemorates the opening of the 1964 Summer Olympics held in Tokyo, and exists to promote sports and an active lifestyle. |
|  | **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. |
|  | **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. On this day, school children prepare cards or gifts to distribute to police officers, firefighters, hospital staffs… |
|  | **Christmas** | December 24-25 | While it isn’t a national holiday in Japan, since only about 1 percent of the whole population in Japan is Christian, it’s still felt throughout the country. |
|  | **New Year's Eve (omisoka)** | December 31 | Japanese traditional celebration on the last day of the year. In preparation for a new year and a clean slate people purify their homes and remove last year’s clutter by cleaning from top to bottom. |