

**MAY 2023**

Division Director's Message



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## Languages, Dialects, and Accents

The [Center for Advanced Research on Language Acquisition](#) defines culture as shared patterns of behaviors and interactions, cognitive constructs and understanding that are learned by socialization. Thus, [culture](#) includes [language](#), ideas, beliefs, customs, codes, institutions, tools, techniques, works of art, rituals, and ceremonies, among other elements.

A language is a system of communication used by humans. Languages can be spoken, signed, and written. According to [Ethnologue.com](#), there are 7,168 living languages in the world. To emphasize the importance of languages, the United Nations commemorates February 21<sup>st</sup>, annually as [International Mother Language Day](#). It recognizes that languages and multilingualism can advance inclusion, and the [Sustainable Development Goals](#)' focus on leaving no one behind. Also, [UNESCO](#) encourages and promotes multilingual education based on mother tongue or first language.

[The definition of accents and dialects](#) used most often by [people who work with language](#) is that accents are just one part of a dialect. An accent refers to how people pronounce words, whereas a dialect is all-encompassing. A dialect is a variety of languages used by the members of a particular group. It includes the pronunciations, grammar and vocabulary that people use within a group. [Another definition](#) that has been used to explain the difference is that dialects refer to the way people speak their mother tongue, and accents refer to how someone speaks another language, for instance, a person speaking English with an Italian accent or someone with a New York accent, etc.

[According to Maps of World](#), the ten (10) top languages spoken in the United States, are as follows:

- \* English – 231 million
- \* Spanish – 37.4 million
- \* Chinese (all languages of China) 2.9 million
- \* French & French Creole – 2million
- \* Tagalog – 1.6 million
- \* Vietnamese – 1.4 million
- \* Korean – 1.1 million
- \* German – 1 million
- \* Arabic – 924 thousand
- \* Russian – 879 thousand

[Top five \(5\) cities/areas](#) that speak the greatest number of languages, dialects, and ethnic mix in the world:

- 1) New York Metropolitan Area, USA
- 2) Los Angeles Metropolitan Area, USA
- 3) Manchester, United Kingdom
- 4) Mumbai, India
- 5) Johannesburg, South Africa

### Linguistic Nomenclatures

Individuals, regions, or countries are often referred to linguistically based on the language(s) they speak: Below are some of the linguistic nomenclatures:

- ◆ Anglophone (English-speaking)
- ◆ Allophone (First language is neither English nor French)
- ◆ Arabophone (Arabic-speaking)
- ◆ Francophone (French-speaking)
- ◆ Hispanophone (Spanish-speaking)
- ◆ Germanophone or Teutophone (German-speaking)
- ◆ Italophone (Italian-speaking)
- ◆ Lusophone (Portuguese-speaking)
- ◆ Russophone (Russian speaking)
- ◆ Hellenophone (Greek-speaking)
- ◆ Sinophone (Chinese-speaking, all varieties of the Chinese language)

Welcome to the month of May, named for the Roman goddess Maia, who oversaw the growth of plants. May, also originated from the Latin word *maiores*, "elders," who were celebrated during this month. Maia was considered a nurturer and an earth goddess, which may explain the connection with this springtime month.

Language is an essential part of human culture. Scholars opine that animals and non-humans do not have a true language like humans. However, they communicate with each other through sounds and gestures. Animals have several in-born qualities they use to signal their feelings, but these are not like the formed words we see in the human language. Let us know about your own particular dialect or accent!

During the month of May, we celebrate several holidays, activities, causes, etc., such as May Day ("Lei Day" in Hawaii) on May 1<sup>st</sup>, Cinco de Mayo ("The fifth of May") on May 5<sup>th</sup>, Mothers' Day on May 14<sup>th</sup>, Memorial Day on May 25<sup>th</sup>, etc.

We also commemorate Haitian National Heritage Month, Asian American and Pacific Island Heritage Month, Jewish American Heritage Month, Law Enforcement Awareness Month, Mental Health Awareness Month, etc.

We salute all nations celebrating their independence or national day during the month of May. As always, please be safe!

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# MIAMI'S ACCENT & AMERICA'S LOST LANGUAGE

## Miamians Speak their own Language

We all know Miami has [its own slang](#), but FIU researchers have found it's actually a unique dialect with expressions that only sound normal to us.

**Why it matters:** Miami English — directly influenced by Spanish — pays homage to local Hispanic heritage while being a part of the fabric of Miami's own unique cultural identity.

It's mostly used by second-generation or older native English speakers and contains phrases directly translated from Spanish.

**What they found:** FIU associate professor and sociolinguist [Phillip Carter](#) — who led a study published in [English World Wide](#) — examined Miamians' use of "[calques](#)," or words or expressions translated literally from one language to another.

[For example](#), the Spanish phrase "bajar del carro" translates literally as "get down from the car" — so that's the way many Miamians say it, even though it's more typical for other English speakers to say "get out of the car."

- Some Miamians also say "make the line" — translated from "hacer la fila" — instead of "wait in line."

Or instead of a beef empanada, Miamians might call it a meat empanada, translating "empanada de carne" literally.

**What they're saying:** "When we conduct research like this, it's a reminder there aren't 'real' words or 'pretend' words," Carter said in a statement. "There are only words. And all the words come from somewhere and someplace."

- "This shows Miamians assess certain phrases differently and don't see some examples as 'ungrammatical.' So, those are the ones that are passed down," he says. "This is how dialects are born. Minor things add up."

[Source: Axios Miami](#)

## America's Lost Language

Although the [United States does not have an official language](#) and at least 350 different languages are spoken, close to 300 million people speak English. A [2019 U.S. Census Bureau report](#) showed that while 241 million spoke only English at home, 67.8 million spoke a language other than English. The [top five languages](#) spoken were: English, Spanish, Chinese, Tagalog, and Vietnamese.

Today, indigenous languages are under significant threat, and not one native American language made the list of the top 25 languages spoken in the United States. [Navajo](#), the most widely spoken language, has only 170,000 speakers.

There is another language in the U.S. that is severely threatened, has [fewer than 6,000 speakers](#), and is in danger of being lost: Kouri-Vini (Louisiana Creole). It emerged in [early French Louisiana](#) (1699-1762), and matured as a stable, widely spoken, native language by the Spanish period (1762-1803). At the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, it was still spoken by much of the Creole population in the 22-parish region of south-west Louisiana known as Acadiana.

Kouri-Vini developed from West African and Native American languages, with influences from French, Spanish, and even English. Eventually, it became an organized language, whose name comes from the Creole pronunciation of the French verbs "courir" (to run) and "venir" (to come). In the early years, it was spoken by Louisiana Creole slaves, free persons of color, and whites. It was distinct enough from French to be referred to as the *créole language* of Louisiana. From the 1800's onwards, both Kouri-Vini and Louisiana French were known by the same name: créole.

With the Louisiana Purchase in 1803, the use of Kouri-Vini began to decline as non-English speakers felt pressure to adapt to the culture and learn the language of the new government. After [Reconstruction and the advent of Jim Crow America](#), Creoles began identifying both languages as French. This was a concerted effort to distance themselves from any linkage to Africa in the xenophobic, anglophone America of the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

Until recently, Kouri-Vini was disparaged as an inferior language, only spoken by the uneducated. Today, Louisianians, eager to reclaim their heritage language, are leading grass roots movements to revive Kouri-Vini. Cedric Watson, one of the brightest contemporary talents in American [zydeco](#) music, is leading the charge. His next album, slated to be released this summer, will be sung mostly in Kouri-Vini.

# UPDATES FROM MIAMI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT



## MIAMI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT GUARDIANS APPRECIATION DAY LUNCH

In Florida, May 1<sup>st</sup> is designated as "Law Enforcement Appreciation Day" and the month of May as "Law Enforcement Appreciation Month." May 12, 2023 was designated as holiday for Miami-Dade County employees, in recognition of Law Enforcement Appreciation Day.

The Airline Management Council (AMC) at MIA and the Miami-Dade Aviation Department held the first-ever Guardians Appreciation Day Lunch on May 11, 2023, at the Airport. The purpose of the event was to honor and celebrate all the guardians at MIA, from local, state, and federal agencies, for their sacrifice and for keeping our community safe.



Mayor Daniella Levine Cava pose with MDAD and Airline personnel



L-R: Ralph Cutié, Mark Hatfield, and Ken Pyatt chat with Mayor Daniella Levine Cava



Photos of attendees at MIA's Guardians Appreciation Day Lunch. The Honorable Daniella Levine Cava, Mayor of Miami-Dade County, accompanied by Ralph Cutie, Director & CEO, Miami-Dade Aviation Department, Semcha Malika Ledad, Chair of the Airlines Management Council at Miami International Airport gave remarks at the event.



## MIA's first private terminal will open in the historic Pan Am Headquarters in 2025



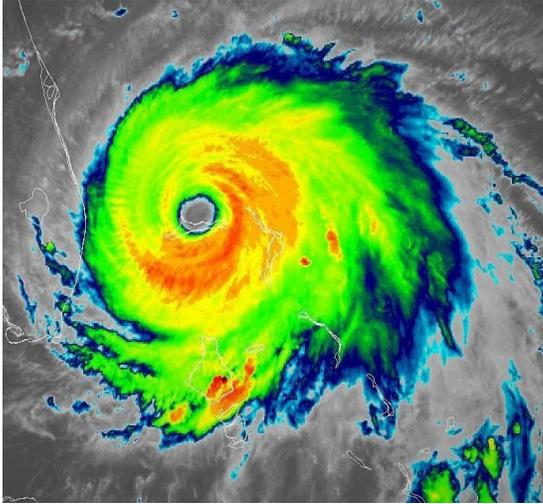
On May 16, [PS](#), formerly known as The Private Suite, announced that it would be bringing its premium experience to Miami International Airport. This superior, first-of-its-kind luxury service for the discerning commercial traveler will open a private terminal in the historic Pan Am Headquarters building on NW 36<sup>th</sup> Street. Under the guidance of acclaimed architect [Richard Heisenbottle](#), the building will be transformed into an oasis of tranquility, sophistication, and service among the hustle and bustle of one of America's busiest airports.

PS MIA will offer its members and guests a seamless travel experience from the moment they arrive to the moment they depart. They will be able to rest in luxurious lounges or private suites, enjoy chef-prepared gourmet meals, and relax and rejuvenate with select spa services. When it is time to board, they will

pass through on-site TSA screening, then will be whisked directly to their gate, where they will board their flight from the tarmac. Arriving passengers will experience the same seamless, efficient service, only in reverse. They will be met at the plane and driven to PS MIA to clear customs and immigration, before departing from MIA. For the press release, please [click here](#). For more information on individual and corporate memberships, please [click here](#) to connect to the PS website.

# BRIEFS & NOTES

## 2023 Atlantic Hurricane Season Predictions



The Atlantic hurricane season is the period in a year, from June 1 through November 30, when tropical or subtropical cyclones are most likely to form in the North Atlantic Ocean. These dates, adopted by convention, encompass the period in each year when most tropical [cyclogenesis](#) occurs in the Atlantic basin.

The [University of Colorado](#) has released its early predictions for this year. The good news is that the early season predictions call for a slightly below average season. Thirteen (13) named storms (average is 14.4) with 6 hurricanes (average is 7.2) and 2 major hurricanes (average is 3.2).

But this year is presenting a big challenge for meteorologists. The [National Weather Service](#) is predicting a better than 90% chance for a strong “El Niño” event to persist into the winter of 2023. “El Niño” or the “Southern Oscillation” is when trade winds weaken and allow warm water to build up along the Pacific Coast of South America. Fishermen first noticed this occurrence in the 1600s and gave it its name because it is most noticeable around Christmas time. [El Niño is associated with a weaker than average Atlantic Hurricane Season](#) due to the global weather pattern associated with it.

However, the National Atmospheric and Oceanographic Administration (NOAA) is also observing [higher than usual surface temperatures](#) in the Caribbean Basin. Higher water surface temperatures are associated with more frequent as well as stronger Atlantic hurricanes. In April forecasters were watching an area for potential tropical development, but it never formed. [April storms are rare](#), but not unheard of, with the last one being Hurricane Arlene in 2017.

Given the conflicting signals between a potentially robust El Niño and an unusually warm tropical and subtropical Atlantic, the Colorado State team stresses that there is more uncertainty than normal with this outlook. [“Our analog seasons exhibited a wide range of outcomes, from below-normal seasons to hyperactive seasons,”](#) said Klotzbach, a research scientist at CSU's Department of Atmospheric Science. [“This highlights the large uncertainty that exists with this outlook.”](#)

The University of Colorado will release updated predictions based on newer climate data on June 1, July 6, and August 3. You may click on [this link](#) to view the updated predictions as they become available. The best source for accurate, up to date information on any tropical cyclones that may form this year can be found at the [National Hurricane Center](#) website or the [Miami-Dade County 2023 Hurricane Guide](#).

### History of Hurricane Names

For several hundred years many hurricanes in the West Indies were named after the saint’s day on which the hurricane occurred. Ivan R. Tannehill describes in his book "Hurricanes" the major tropical storms of recorded history and mentions many hurricanes named after saints. For example, there was "Hurricane Santa Ana" which struck Puerto Rico with exceptional violence on July 26, 1825, and "San Felipe" (the first) and "San Felipe" (the second) which hit Puerto Rico on September 13 in both 1876 and 1928.

In 1953, the United States abandoned a confusing two-year old plan to name storms by a phonetic alphabet (Able, Baker, Charlie) when a new, international phonetic alphabet was introduced. That year, the United States began using female names for storms. The practice of naming hurricanes solely after women came to an end in 1978 when men's and women's names were included in the Eastern North Pacific storm lists. In 1979, male and female names were included in lists for the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico.

The [National Hurricane Center](#) (NHC) does not control the naming of tropical storms. Instead a strict procedure has been established by an international committee of the World Meteorological Organization. For Atlantic hurricanes, there is a list of names for each of six years. In other words, one list is repeated every sixth year. The only time that there is a change is if a storm is so deadly or costly that the future use of its name on a different storm would be inappropriate for obvious reasons of sensitivity. If that occurs, then at an annual meeting by the committee (called primarily to discuss many other issues) the offending name is stricken from the list and another name is selected to replace it.

According to the [National Hurricane Center](#), Katrina (August 2005), was the single costliest and third most deadly tropical cyclone ever to hit the United States. Overall, more than 1,800 people lost their lives as a result of Hurricane Katrina (1,500 in Louisiana, 230 in Mississippi, and 14 in Florida). More than 800,000 housing units were destroyed or damaged. [The total estimated damage](#) was over \$81 billion and costs of over \$160 billion. Its name became so infamous that the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) chose to remove it permanently from their list of potential hurricane names the following year.

# BRIEFS & NOTES

## Haitian National Heritage Month

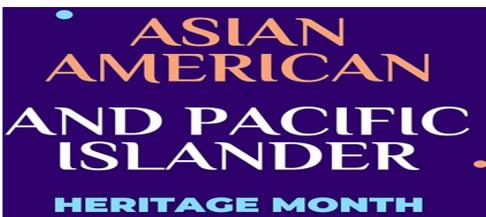


[Haitian Heritage Month](#) is a nationally recognized month celebrated in May every year. It is a great time to celebrate the vibrant culture, distinct art, delectable cuisine, and to get to know people of Haitian origin. Haitian Heritage Month commemorates the incredible achievements and contributions of the Haitian people in America. It is also an expansion of the annual Haitian Flag Day, which falls on May 18.

In Haiti, May 1<sup>st</sup> is celebrated as Labor and Agricultural Day. This is a day when workers, artisans, and peasants' parade in singing together. During the government of President Francois Duvalier, the second day of May was celebrated as Flowers' Day. Many cultural activities were held in the capital's bicentennial plaza, decorated with flowers and the colors of the Haitian flag.

May reminds Haitians of the historic pact signed by the Black and Mulatto officers at the May 1803's congress. As a result, those officers created the [Haitian Flag](#) on the last day of the congress, on May 18, 1803. The Haitian Slave Revolution of August 14, 1791 would have never been the only successful slave revolution in the world if General [Toussaint Louverture](#), who was born on May 20, 1743, had not used his military genius to organize and lead the slaves from victory to victory against the powerful armies of Spain, Great Britain and France. General Louverture was a great visionary, a superb administrator, a great military man, an astute, and a very intelligent diplomat.

Mothers' Day is celebrated in Haiti on the last Sunday of May. On that day, Haitians honor their mothers by wearing a red flower if the mothers are alive and a white or purple one if they are dead.



[May is Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month!](#) This annual month-long event is an opportunity to celebrate the many contributions and achievements of the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community. Given the vast diversity of the AAPI community, it's important to recognize that the AAPI umbrella is not a monolith. During May, it's important to give our attention to the concerns and needs of the AAPI community and find long term ways to support them. Below, you can find resources and ways to uplift the AAPI community nationwide and in your own community!

### About AAPI Heritage Month History

Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month was originally a week; it was [President Jimmy Carter](#) who signed it into law in 1978 designating a week to celebrate the AAPI community. President George H. W. Bush signed a bill in 1990 that extended the week into the full month and President Barack Obama changed the name to Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month in 2009. According to the 2020 Census, there are 24 million people in the United States who fall under the umbrella of AAPI, and [the Pew Research Center has found that Asian Americans are the fastest-growing ethnic group in America. Lawmakers chose May because of its historical significance for the AAPI community.](#)

It commemorates the immigration of the first Japanese people to the United States, as well as [Golden Spike Day](#) (May 10, 1869), which marked the completion of the transcontinental railroad, largely built by Chinese laborers. Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month was able to exist due to the traction from the civil rights movement in the 70s; they were able to find momentum because of [Black History Month](#) and [Hispanic Heritage Month](#). [Click here to view the 2023 Presidential Proclamation](#) on Asian America, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander.



[May is Jewish American Heritage Month](#) – On April 20, 2006, President George W. Bush proclaimed that May would be Jewish American Heritage Month. The announcement was the crowning achievement in an effort by the Jewish Museum of Florida and South Florida Jewish community leaders that resulted in resolutions introduced by Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz of Florida and Sen. Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania urging the president to proclaim a month that would recognize the more than 350-year history of Jewish contributions to American culture. The resolutions passed unanimously, first in the House of Representatives in December 2005 and later in the Senate in February 2006.

The month of May was chosen due to the highly successful celebration of the 350<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of American Jewish History in May 2004, which was organized by the Commission for Commemorating 350 Years of American Jewish History. This coalition was composed of the Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives, the American Jewish Historical Society, the Library of Congress and the National Archives and Records Administration.



# MAY IS MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

#breakthestigma

According to the [National Institute of Mental Health](#) (NIH), Mental illnesses are common in the United States. It is estimated that more than one in five U.S. adults live with a mental illness (57.8 million in 2021). Mental illnesses include many different conditions that vary in degree of severity, ranging from mild, to moderate, to severe. Two broad categories can be used to describe these conditions: Any Mental Illness (AMI) and Serious Mental Illness (SMI).

Any mental illness (AMI) is defined as a mental, behavioral, or emotional disorder. AMI can vary in impact, ranging from no impairment to mild, moderate, and even severe impairment (e.g., individuals with serious mental illness as defined below). Serious mental illness (SMI) is defined as a mental, behavioral, or emotional disorder resulting in serious functional impairment, which substantially interferes with or limits one or more major life activities. The burden of mental illnesses is particularly concentrated among those who experience disability due to SMI.

To learn more about the tools, diagnosis, recovery, and support for mental illnesses visit [Mental Health America](#) website. [Click here to view the 2023 Presidential Proclamation](#) on National Mental Health Awareness Month.

Source: [Mental Health America: The State of Mental Health in America](#)

## KEY FINDINGS



# BRIEFS AND NOTES

## The Iconic Brooklyn Bridge on its 140<sup>th</sup> Birthday

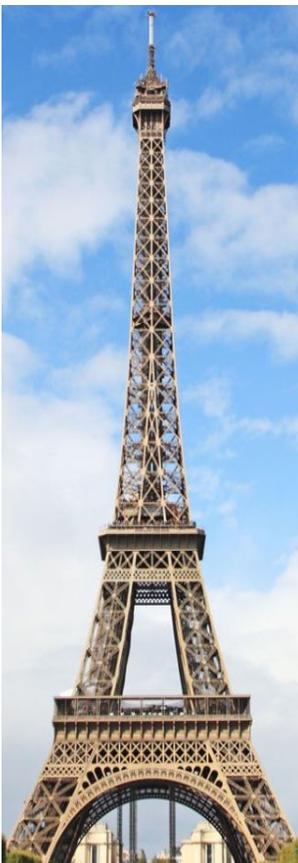


**Brooklyn Bridge**, [suspension bridge](#) spanning the [East River](#) from [Brooklyn](#) to [Manhattan](#) in [New York City](#). A brilliant feat of 19<sup>th</sup>-century engineering, the Brooklyn Bridge was the first bridge to use [steel](#) for cable wire, and during its construction explosives were used inside a [pneumatic caisson](#) for the first time. Since its construction, the [bridge](#) has become an essential landmark of New York City—an outstanding architectural accomplishment that is still revered across the world. Accordingly, it has been designated a National Historic Landmark by the U.S. [National Park Service](#). Upon its completion, [Emily Warren Roebling](#) rode the first carriage across from the Brooklyn side, carrying a rooster as a symbol of victory. The bridge's opening day, May 24, 1883, was marked by much celebration and was attended by U.S. President [Chester A. Arthur](#). The building of it came to represent a landmark in technological achievement for a generation.

The bridge was the masterwork of [John Augustus Roebling](#). The Brooklyn Bridge was built (1869–83) in the face of immense difficulties. Roebling, an engineer, had developed his own method for weaving wire cables, which became one of the leading constructional components of his bridge designs. He built a series of suspension bridges, including the Cincinnati–Covington Bridge, later renamed the John A. Roebling Bridge. He died at the beginning of the Brooklyn Bridge's construction as a result of an accident on site, and his son, [Washington Roebling](#), suffered a crippling attack of [decompression sickness](#) (caisson disease) after taking over as chief engineer. [Confined](#) to his apartment in Columbia Heights (Brooklyn), Roebling continued to direct operations with the help of his wife, [Emily Warren Roebling](#), observing with field glasses and sending messages to the site with her assistance. At least 20 workers were killed during construction, and many more suffered decompression sicknesses.

The Brooklyn Bridge's 486-metre (1,595-foot) main span was the longest in the world until the completion of the [Firth of Forth cantilever](#) bridge in [Scotland](#) in 1890. The towers are built of [limestone](#), [granite](#), and [cement](#). Its deck, supported by four cables, carries both automobile and pedestrian traffic. A distinctive feature is the broad [promenade](#) above the roadway, which John Roebling accurately predicted “in a crowded commercial city will be of incalculable value.” - Click to view the [Source](#).

## The Eiffel Tower - Still standing tall, 134 years after it opened



The Eiffel Tower or French Tour Eiffel is a Parisian landmark that is also a technological masterpiece in building-construction history. When the French government was organizing the International Exposition of 1889 to celebrate the centenary of the French Revolution, a competition was held for designs for a suitable monument. More than 100 plans were submitted, and the Centennial Committee accepted that of the noted bridge engineer Gustave Eiffel. Eiffel's concept of a 300-metre (984-foot) tower built almost entirely of open-lattice wrought iron aroused amazement, skepticism, and no little opposition on aesthetic grounds. When completed, the tower served as the entrance gateway to the exposition.

Nothing remotely like the Eiffel Tower had ever been built; it was twice as high as the dome of St. Peter's in Rome or the Great Pyramid of Giza. In contrast to such older monuments, the tower was erected in only about two years (1887–89), with a small labor force, at slight cost. Making use of his advanced knowledge of the behavior of metal arch and metal truss forms under loading, Eiffel designed a light, airy, but strong structure that presaged a revolution in civil engineering and architectural design. And, after it opened to the public on May 15, 1889, it ultimately vindicated itself aesthetically.

The Eiffel Tower stands on four lattice-girder piers that taper inward and join to form a single large vertical tower. As they curve inward, the piers are connected to each other by networks of girders at two levels that afford viewing platforms for tourists. By contrast, the four semicircular arches at the tower's base are purely aesthetic elements that serve no structural function. Because of their unique shape, which was dictated partly by engineering considerations but also partly by Eiffel's artistic sense, the piers required elevators to ascend on a curve; the glass-cage machines designed by the Otis Elevator Company of the United States became one of the principal features of the building, helping establish it as one of the world's premier tourist attractions. The tower itself is 300 meters (984 feet) high. It rests on a base that is 5 meters (17 feet) high, and a television antenna atop the tower gives it a total elevation of 324 meters (1,063 feet).

The Eiffel Tower has a total of 5 lifts, 1665 steps, 3000 meters (985 feet) high. It was the tallest structure in the world for 41 years, until 1930 when it was surpassed by the Chrysler Building in New York at a height of 1046 feet. There is a secret apartment at the top of the tower! - Sources: [1](#) / [2](#).

# INDEPENDENCE AND NATIONAL DAYS (MAY)

**May 9, 1877 – Romania:** Although Romania's National holiday, Unification Day, is celebrated on December 1<sup>st</sup>, the country gained independence from the Ottoman Empire on May 9, 1877.

**May 15, 1811 – Paraguay:** During the night of the 14<sup>th</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup> of May 1811, an uprising led to Paraguay achieving independence from Spain. Both days continue to be celebrated as Independence Days.

**May 17, 1814 – Norway:** Constitution Day, Norway's National holiday, celebrates the day the Norwegian constitution was adopted in 1814.

**May 20, 2002 – Timor-Leste:** Restoration of Independence Day celebrates the day Timor-Leste was internationally recognized as a sovereign state, gaining independence from Indonesia.

**May 24, 1993 – Eritrea:** Although Eritrea was fully liberated from Ethiopia in May 1991, the provisional government did not declare formal independence until May 24, 1993.

**May 25, 1810 – Argentina:** Initially intended as a show of loyalty to the Spanish Crown, the May Revolution (18 - 25 of May 1810) was the beginning of Argentina's quest for independence. May 25<sup>th</sup> is celebrated annually as the Day of the May Revolution.

**May 25, 1946 – Jordan:** On this date, Jordan gained independence from the League of Nations mandate which had placed it under British administration.

**May 26, 1918 – Georgia:** Georgia celebrates two Independence Days. On 26 May 1918, Georgia gained independence from Soviet Russia, while on April 9, 1991, it regained its independence from the Soviet Union.

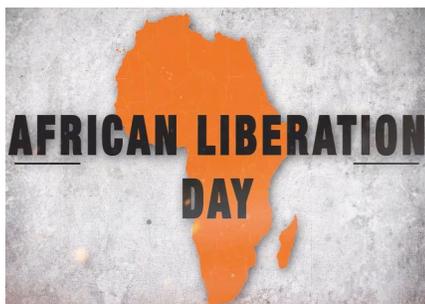
**May 26, 1966 – Guyana:** The country gained its independence from the United Kingdom.

**May 28, 1918 – Armenia:** On this date, Armenia declared independence from the Russian Empire. Since 1992, May 28<sup>th</sup> is celebrated as the Day of the Armenian First Republic, while independence from the Soviet Union is celebrated on September 21<sup>st</sup> (1991).

**May 28, 1918 – Azerbaijan:** Republic Day, Azerbaijan's National Day commemorates the founding of the Democratic Republic of Azerbaijan in 1918.

**May 30, 1967 – Anguilla:** Celebrated as Anguilla's Day. It remains a British Overseas Territory.

## Africa Day!



[African Liberation Day](#) (ALD) a.k.a. Africa Day was first celebrated in Accra, the capital of Ghana, in 1958. In its first year, only eight African nations were independent and able to participate. This led to the first independent African states banding together as neighbors and allies, with the convening of the Congress of Independent African States. Africa was soon quite rapidly "decolonized" by western powers leaving the continent, some by force and others more voluntarily.

The 15<sup>th</sup> of April was declared "Africa Freedom Day," to mark each year the onward progress of the liberation movement, and to symbolize the determination of the people of Africa to free themselves from foreign domination and exploitation. Between 1958 and 1963 the nation/class struggle intensified in Africa and the world. Seventeen countries in Africa won their independence and 1960 was proclaimed the Year of Africa.

On the 25<sup>th</sup> of May 1963, thirty-one African Heads of state convened a summit meeting to establish the Organization of African Unity (OAU). They renamed African Freedom Day "African Liberation Day" and changed its date to May 25<sup>th</sup>.

### ABOUT US

The core mission of MDAD's Protocol and International Affairs Division is -

*To facilitate the movement of official guests, delegations, dignitaries and VIPs through MIA and support the airport's international programs and initiatives.*

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