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October, comes from the Latin word "octo," which means eight, as it was originally the eighth month of the year in the Roman calendar. In different parts of the world, October is associated with different events and holidays, such as the Oktoberfest in Germany, National Breast Cancer Awareness Month in the United States, and the Day of the Dead in Mexico.

We are pleased to present the "Stan" Countries as our featured article. The "Stan" countries are a fascinating region to explore, with their rich history, diverse cultures, and stunning landscapes.

According to the National Cancer Institute (NCI), researchers are working to advance our understanding of how to prevent, detect, and treat breast cancer. They are also looking at how to address disparities and improve the quality of life for survivors of the disease. [Click here to view the highlights](#) of what's new in the latest research for breast cancer, including new clinical advances that may soon translate into improved care, NCI-supported programs that are fueling progress, and research findings from recent studies.

We take this opportunity to welcome to South Florida, Mr. Mario Chouloute, Consul General of the Consulate General of the Republic of Haiti. We also welcome Consul General Ana de la Paz Tito of the Argentine Republic to Miami. We salute the nations celebrating their Independence or National Day this month. As always, please be safe!

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The "Stan" Countries



The **Stan** countries are a group of seven nations located in Central and South Asia whose names, in English, end with the suffix "Stan." The word **Stan** originates from the Persian language, and it means "country of" or "land of", or "Where one stands." [The "Seven Stans", or "Stan Countries"](#) are listed below:

Afghanistan (Land of the Afghans)

Officially the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, a landlocked country located at the crossroads of Central Asia and South Asia. It is referred to as the Heart of Asia. The capital city is **Kabul**, and its population is **39 million**.

Kazakhstan (Land of the Kazakhs)

Officially the Republic of Kazakhstan. It is a landlocked country mostly in Central Asia, with a small part in Europe. Its capital is **Astana**, formerly Nur-Sultan. Kazakhstan is the world's ninth-largest country by land area and the largest landlocked country in the world with a population of **19 million**.

Kyrgyzstan (Land of the Kyrgyz)

Officially the Kyrgyz Republic, it is the largest of the Stan countries, the 9th largest country in the world, and largest landlocked country in the world. The population is **18 million**, and its capital city is **Bishkek**.

Pakistan (Land of the Pure)

Officially the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. It is the world's fifth-most populous country, with a population of **242 million** people. It has the world's largest Muslim population, its capital city is **Islamabad**. The name is an acronym for its regions – Punjab, Afghan, Kashmir, Sindh, Baluchistan, and the name translates to "Land of the Pure".

Tajikistan (Land of the Tajiks)

Officially the Republic of Tajikistan is a lot of land with few people. Its population is **8.7 million**. There are also many glaciers. It is home to the largest glacier in the world, not in a polar region. Its capital city is **Dushanbe**, meaning 'Monday' in Tajik. It got this name since it used to be the only market town open on a Monday.

Turkmenistan (Land of the Turkmen)

Turkmenistan has a relatively small population. **Ashgabat** is the capital of Turkmenistan with a total population of **6.5 million** inhabitants.

Uzbekistan (Land of the Uzbeks)

Officially the Republic of Uzbekistan, it is one of the only doubly landlocked countries in the world, the other is - Lichtenstein. A doubly landlocked state is a state that has access to an ocean, bay, or gulf through two other states." The capital city is **Tashkent** and its population is **30 million**. Uzbekistan is the largest producer of electricity in Central Asia.

[All the Stan countries](#) have vast mountainous terrains, Pakistan has five peaks over eight thousand meters, Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan have several peaks over seven thousand meters, Uzbekistan has several peaks over four thousand meters, and Turkmenistan is home to several peaks over three thousand meters. Except for Pakistan, each of the Stan countries has had some form of colonial history with the former Soviet Union - USSR. Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan were all at one time Soviet Socialist Republics. They gained independence when the union was disbanded in 1991.

Each of the seven **Stan** countries is located along side one another in an area which is located east of the Caspian Sea. The ancient **Silk Road**, a vast trading route which linked China to Europe between the cities of Beijing in China and Istanbul in Turkey, was located along the mountain passes of each of the Stan countries.

The languages spoken by the **Stan** countries originate from three main language groups: Urdu, Dialects of Persian, and variants of several Turkic languages. All the **Stan** countries, except for Pakistan, also have Russian as an official language, where the Russian Cyrillic alphabet is used both in the writing style of the Russian language and their own Turkic or Persian languages.

DIPLOMATIC & CONSULAR RELATIONS

Meet the New Consul General of the Consulate General of the Republic of Haiti in Miami



Born in Pétion Ville, Haiti, on December 17, 1961, **Mr. Mario Chouloute** is the youngest of a large family of four children, including two girls and two boys. His best friends within his family were his mother and his older sisters. He credits this earlier foundation in his upbringing for his dedication to women. In 2001, he united his destiny with that of Pascale, and together they have a son called Mario-Pascual.

After studying legal sciences and international relations, Mr. Chouloute joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1986, at the age of 24. His training in international relations was followed by postgraduate studies at the Diplomatic School of Madrid. In 2001, 17 years later, he was transferred from the position of introducer of Ambassadors and Ministers to that of Minister Counselor at the Embassy of Haiti in Taiwan, then Minister Counselor at the Embassy of Haiti in Chile, then Chargé d'Affaires in Taiwan, then Director of Protocol at the Haitian Chancellery, then Chargé d'Affaires in Brazil. Currently, he is Consul General of Haiti in Miami.

As the Consul General of Haiti in Miami, Mr. Chouloute considers it an honor and pleasure to be able to work with colleagues from the Consular Corps with the objective of strengthening the bonds of friendship and cooperation between countries, the City of Miami, and between the different communities that are present in Miami. He believes it is in the best interest of the participating countries in the Consular Corps.

Meet the new Consul General of the Consulate General of the Argentine Republic in Miami



Ms. Ana De La Paz Tito is the new Consul General of the Argentine Republic in Miami. She was born in Concordia, Entre Rios, Argentina.

Ms. Tito served as the Consul General, Consulate General of the Argentine Republic in Rome from October 2020 – July 2023. Prior to that she served in the following professional capacities:

- * Business Manager, Embassy of Argentine Republic in Italy (June – October 2020)
- * Chancery Manager and Human Rights Officer, Embassy of Argentine Republic in Italy (May 2019 – October 2020)
- * International Affairs Manager, General Directorate of International Affairs, Argentine Investment, and International Trade Agency (2018 – 2019)
- * Head of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Unit, Directorate of Multilateral Economic Relations (2017 -2018)
- * Head of the Economic and Commercial Section, Embassy of the Argentine Republic in Brazil (2014 – 2017)
- * Head of the Commercial Marketing, Investment and Tourism Subsection, Embassy of the Argentine Republic in Brazil (2012 – 2017)
- * Secretary of Commerce and International Economic Relations (2010 – 2012)
- * Directorate of economic and commercial affairs, Undersecretary of Latin American Economic Integration and MERCOSUR (2009 – 2010)
- * Commercial Section, Consulate General and Commercial Promotion Center of the Republic of Argentina in São Paulo (2003 – 2009)
- * Directorate of Economic and Commercial Affairs for MERCOSUR, Undersecretary of Latin American Economic Integration and MERCOSUR (2000 – 2003)

Ms. Tito was a first-class Minister in the foreign service. She obtained a master's degree in Latin American Politics from the University of Sao Paulo in 2018, and second master's degree in international commerce from the University of Salvador (1966 - 1997). She graduated as Secretary of the Embassy, Consul of the third class from the National Foreign Service Institute in 1998/1999 session.

Ms. Tito attended the Universidad Nacional de Rosario and graduated with a degree in International Relations (1990 -1994).

BRIEFS & NOTES

Culture, Etiquette, and Protocol

“Personal space and distance between people vary among cultures. For example, in Latin American and Middle Eastern countries, people stand closer to one another while in the United States and United Kingdom, it’s customary to stand much farther apart. In one culture, looking someone in the eye while speaking to them is natural and usual, while in others it might be unthinkable.”

“In the Middle East, guests at a dinner will never be seated with their backs to the head of state, and one must never show the soles of their feet to their conversation partner as this is a grave insult. In addition, the use of the left hand is limited in most situations.”

“The Japanese bow (Ojigi) when greeting each other and do not blow their nose in public. Brazilians may form unruly bus lines, and they prefer brown shoes to black, and may arrive two hours late at cocktail parties. Greeks stare you in the eye, nod their heads when they mean no and occasionally smash plates against walls in restaurants. The French wipe their plates clean with a piece of bread, throw pastry into their coffee and offer handshakes to strangers in bistros. Brits tip their soup bowls away from them, eat peas with their forks upside down and play golf in the rain.”

“In Sweden, the toast is a formal ritual, and one does not drink until the host has personally invited every guest for a toast. They look into each other’s eyes and say ‘skal.’ It is important that one lets the guests and elders toast in order of hierarchy and age. When toasting, it is also important that eye contact is made and everyone nods before the glasses are lowered, and that men wait for women to put their glasses back on the table.”

“The several hundred national and regional cultures of the world can be roughly classified into three groups: task-oriented, highly organized planners (linear-active), people-oriented, loquacious inter relators (multi-active); and introverted, respect-oriented listeners (reactive). Italians see Germans as stiff and time-dominated; Germans see Italians gesticulating in chaos; the Japanese observe and quietly learn from both.”

Sources: Gilbert Monod de Froideville & Mark Verheul. An Experts’ Guide to International Protocol. 3rd Ed., Amsterdam Univ. Press, 2016.
Richard D. Lewis. When Cultures Collide: Leading Across Cultures. 3rd Ed., Nicholas Brealey Publishing, 2006.

Interesting Fun Facts... Know more about the world!

- * A snail can sleep for three years.
- * All polar bears are left-handed.
- * It is physically impossible for pigs to look up into the sky.
- * Hydra – an aquatic creature is the only living creature that never dies. It regenerates, replacing its cells with fresh ones.
- * Elephants are the only animals that can’t jump.
- * Coca-Cola was originally green because of fresh coca leaves.
- * Honey is the only food that doesn’t spoil.
- * Strawberry is the only fruit with its seeds on the outside.
- * All vegetables must be replanted every year except two perennial vegetables; Asparagus and rhubarb that can live to reproduce on their own for several growing seasons.
- * There are 366 dimples on a golf ball.
- * There are 318,979,564,000 possible ways to play the first four moves, per side, in chess.
- * The bulletproof vest was invented by a pizza delivery guy from Detroit USA, after he was shot twice on the job.
- * Boxing is the only sport in which neither the spectators nor the participants know the score or the winner until the contest ends.
- * Each king in a deck of playing cards represents a great king from history. Spades – King David, Clubs – Alexander the Great, Hearts – Charlemagne, Diamonds – Julius Caesar.
- * The most common name in the world is Mohammed.
- * The name of all the continents ends with the same letter that they start with (Africa, Antarctica, Asia, Australia, Europe, North America, and South America).
- * Mao Zedong of China never brushed his teeth in his lifetime.
- * When Elizabeth I of Russia died in 1762, there were 15,000 dresses in her closets.
- * Randy Gardner of San Diego is the person who has gone the longest without sleep for 11 days in 1965. He broke the record of Peter Tripp of New York, who settled a record of 8.5 days without a wink.

Sources:

www.rd.com/list/interesting-facts

www.academictips.org/interestingfacts

Countries with Multiple National Capitals

South Africa has three (3) national capitals: **Bloemfontein** is the **judicial capital**; **Cape Town**, the **legislative capital**, and **Pretoria** is the executive (administrative) and de facto national capital.

Cote d’Ivoire: **Abidjan** is the economic capital, and the **District of Yamoussoukro** is the official capital city.

Montserrat: **Plymouth** was the capital as well as the only port of entry to Montserrat, an overseas territory of the U.K, and **Brades** has been the de facto capital of Montserrat since 1998.

American Samoa: **Fagatogo** is the capital of American Samoa since it is listed in its Constitution as the official seat of government, and **Pago Pago** is the capital town of American Samoa.

Canary Island: **Las Palmas de Gran Canaria**, also known as **Las Palmas** is one of the two capitals of Canary Island. **Santa Cruz de Tenerife** or commonly known as **Santa Cruz** is the other capital.

[Source](#)

BRIEFS & NOTES



[National Breast Cancer Awareness Month](#) is an annual campaign to raise awareness of breast cancer, educate the public about its symptoms and prevention, and fund research into its causes, treatment, and cure. It is celebrated in October in the United States and many other countries around the world. Breast cancer is the most common cancer among women in the United States, and it is also the second leading cause of cancer death among women. However, early detection and treatment can significantly improve the chances of survival.

During National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, organizations and individuals across the country work to raise awareness of the disease and encourage people to get screened regularly. Many businesses and organizations also participate in fundraising events to support breast cancer research and patient care.

Please find below some ways to get involved in National Breast Cancer Awareness Month:

- * Get screened for breast cancer.
- * Get regular mammograms and clinical breast exams, which are the best way to detect breast cancer early.
- * Educate yourself about the signs and symptoms of breast cancer. If you notice any changes in your breasts, be sure to see your doctor right away.
- * Support breast cancer research and patient care by donating to a breast cancer charity or by participating in a fundraising event.
- * Talk to your friends and family about the importance of early detection and breast cancer awareness.

[Male Breast Cancer](#)

It is also important to emphasize and educate the public about male breast cancer. Male breast cancer is a rare cancer that begins as a growth of cells in the breast tissue of men. Breast cancer is typically thought of as a condition that happens in women. But everyone is born with some breast tissue. So, anyone can get breast cancer. Male breast cancer is rare. It happens most often in older men, though it can occur at any age.

Treatment for male breast cancer typically involves surgery to remove the breast tissue. Other treatments, such as chemotherapy and radiation therapy, may be recommended as well. Signs and symptoms of male breast cancer can include:

A painless lump or thickening of the skin on the chest; changes to the skin covering the chest, such as dimpling, puckering, scaling or changes in the color of the skin; changes to the nipple, such as changes in the skin color or scaling, or a nipple that begins to turn inward; and discharge or bleeding from the nipple.”

Sources: National Breast Cancer Foundation: <https://www.nationalbreastcancer.org/>; American Cancer Society: <https://www.cancer.org/cancer/breast-cancer.html>; Susan G. Komen Foundation: <https://komen.org/>; and [Mayo Clinic](#).



On October 9, 2023, [Columbus Day](#) was celebrated in the United States, a holiday (originally October 12; since 1971 the second Monday in October) to commemorate the landing of [Christopher Columbus](#) on October 12, 1492, in the New World. Although his explorations were financed by King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella of Spain, Columbus was a native of Genoa, Italy, and over the years Italian Americans took up the cause of honoring his achievement. The 300th anniversary of his landing was celebrated in New York City in 1792 by the Society of St. Tammany, or Columbian Order, and the 400th anniversary, in 1892, by presidential proclamation nationwide.

During the latter half of the 19th century, the day began to be celebrated in cities with large numbers of Italian Americans, and in 1937 it became a national holiday by presidential proclamation. The day came to be marked by parades, often including floats depicting the ships of Columbus, and by public ceremonies and festivities. By the quincentennial in 1992, the holiday was an occasion for discussing the European conquest of American Indians, and some people objected to celebrating the event and proposed alternatives, among them Indigenous Peoples' Day.

[Indigenous Peoples Day](#) has been recognized for decades in different forms and under a variety of names to celebrate Native Americans' history and culture and to recognize the challenges they continue to face. In 2021, President Biden issued the [first-ever presidential proclamation of Indigenous Peoples Day](#). He said in a statement that the day was meant to “honor America’s first inhabitants and the Tribal Nations that continue to thrive today.” The Indigenous Peoples Day is typically observed on the second Monday in October, the same day as Columbus Day, a federal holiday established decades ago to recognize Columbus’ sighting in 1492 of what came to be [known as the Americas](#). Although Indigenous Peoples Day is not a federal holiday, 17 states — including Washington, South Dakota, and Maine — as well as Washington, D.C., have holidays honoring Native Americans, some of which are on the second Monday in October, according to the Pew Research Center.

The Indigenous Peoples Day is typically paired with Columbus Day or replaces the federal holiday altogether. Dozens of cities and school systems observe Indigenous Peoples Day as well.

INDEPENDENCE AND NATIONAL DAYS (OCTOBER)

October 1, 1949 – China: The People's Republic of China was founded on October 1, 1949.

October 1, 1960 – Cyprus: Based on the London-Zürich Agreements, Cyprus was proclaimed an independent state and gained independence from the U.K. on August 16, 1960.

October 1, 1960 – Nigeria: The Federal Republic of Nigeria gained independence from the United Kingdom.

October 1, 1978 – Tuvalu: In 1819, Tuvalu was renamed the Ellice Islands. In 1892, the United Kingdom declared a protectorate over the Ellice, as well as the Micronesian Gilbert Islands, and this Protectorate became a colony in 1916. In 1974, Tuvaluans voted to secede from the colony, and on October 1, 1978, Tuvalu regained their independence from the UK.

October 2, 1958 – Guinea: After being a French colony since 1893, Guinea declared its independence on October 2, 1958. It was the only French West African colony to opt for complete independence, rather than membership in the French Community.

October 3, 1990 – Germany: Day of German Unity, commemorates the reunification of the two Germanys on October 3, 1990.

October 3, 1932 – Iraq: During World War I, Iraq was occupied by the United Kingdom and, in 1920, was declared a League of Nations mandate under U.K. administration.

October 4, 1966 – Lesotho: In 1868 Basutoland became a British protectorate, and after 1884, a crown colony. On October 4, 1966, the country achieved independence and was renamed the Kingdom of Lesotho.

October 8, 1991 – Croatia: The Croatian parliament severed constitutional relations with Yugoslavia. Since 2002, October 8 is celebrated as Independence Day, while June 25, the day parliament voted for independence, is recognized as Statehood Day.

October 9, 1962 – Uganda: Uganda was a British Protectorate from 1894 until it achieved independence on October 9, 1962.

October 10, 1970 – Fiji: After being a British Crown Colony since October 10, 1874, Fiji gained its independence on Oct. 10, 1970.

October 10, 1911 – Taiwan: Republic Day, Taiwan's National Day, also known as "Double Ten Day," commemorates the 1911 Wuchang Uprising, which led to the collapse of the Qing Dynasty and the birth of the Republic of China (Taiwan).

October 12, 1968 – Equatorial Guinea: Equatorial Guinea achieved independence after 190 years of Spanish rule.

October 12, 1987 – Spain: Spain's National Day, also known as Día de la Hispanidad, commemorates Christopher Columbus's arrival in the Americas on October 12, 1492. The 1987 law which decreed October 12 as the Fiesta Nacional stated that the day commemorates "the linguistic and cultural projection of Spain outside of its European limits."

October 22, 1953 – Laos: Even though Laos gained independence from France on July 19, 1949, full independence was not recognized until the Franco-Lao Treaty of Amity and Association was signed on October 22, 1953.

October 23, 1956 – Hungary: The day commemorates the 1956 Hungarian Revolution, a nationwide revolt against the Stalinist government of the People's Republic of Hungary and its Soviet-imposed policies.

October 26, 1955 – Austria: The law of permanent neutrality was adopted by the National Council. In 1965, October 26 was declared Austria's National Holiday.

October 27, 1979 – Saint Vincent and the Grenadines: On October 27, 1979, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines gained independence from Great Britain.

October 27, 1991 – Turkmenistan: Gained independence from the Soviet Union.

October 28, 1918 – Czech Republic: Although the Czech Republic came into being on January 1, 1993, Czechs commemorate October 28 as their Independence Day.

October 29, 1923 – Turkey: Republic Day commemorates the proclamation of the Turkish Republic on October 29, 1923. Mustafa Kemal Atatürk became Turkey's first president on the same day.

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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