

## SWITZERLAND “Land of the Alps, Neutrality, Watches and Chocolate”



**Federal Council:** Karin Keller-Sutter (President), Guy Parmelin (Vice President), Ignazio Cassis, Albert Rösti, Elisabeth Baume-Schneider, Beat Jans, Martin Pfister. • **Capital:** Bern • **Population:** 9 million (estimate 2025) • **National Day:** August 1, 1291. • **Currency:** Swiss Franc (CHF).

Switzerland, officially the Swiss Confederation, is a landlocked country in west-central Europe, bordered by Italy, France, Germany, Austria, and Liechtenstein. The government is divided into the Alps, the Swiss Plateau, and the Jura, with most of its 9 million residents living on the plateau in cities such as Zurich, Geneva, and Lausanne. A federal republic of 26 cantons, Switzerland has four official languages: German, French, Italian, and Romansh.

Switzerland has maintained armed neutrality since the 16<sup>th</sup> century and has not participated in any international war since 1815. The country is active in global affairs, hosting major international organizations such as the Red Cross, the WTO, the WHO, and the United Nations. It is a founding member of EFTA but is neither part of the EU nor the eurozone. Renowned for high wealth per adult, strong GDP per capita, economic competitiveness, and quality of life, Switzerland is also known for its banking sector, watchmaking, chocolate, and cheese.

Switzerland is one of the countries with the highest number of biotechnology patents per capita, with numerous research laboratories and production facilities. The highest number of medical technology employees per capita is in Switzerland (and Ireland), with SMEs making up the majority of the Medtech industry. Pharmaceuticals is a major industry, accounting for about 7% of GDP, 35% of manufacturing, and more than 8% of global production.

Here are some fun facts about Switzerland:

Four official languages: Switzerland is truly multilingual, with German (63%), French (23%), Italian (8%), and Romansh (less than 1%) as its official languages. English is widely spoken, particularly in cities and among young people. Switzerland is one of only two countries with a square flag, the other being Vatican City.

Switzerland's Federal Constitution of 1848 was directly inspired by the U.S. Constitution, yet evolved into something uniquely Swiss. Switzerland refines around 70% of the world's gold, despite having no gold mines of its own.

World's longest railway tunnel: The Gotthard Base Tunnel stretches 57 km (35 miles) beneath the Swiss Alps, linking northern and southern Switzerland. It opened in 2016, took 17 years to build, and cost over 12 billion Swiss francs.

Abundance of lakes: Switzerland has over 1,500 lakes, covering approximately 6% of its surface area, including notable ones such as Lake Geneva and Lake Zurich. The water bodies provide drinking water, hydroelectric power, and recreational activities such as swimming and sailing.

Nuclear shelters for everyone: Remarkably, Switzerland has enough bomb shelters to house its entire population. Almost every home has a basement shelter with armored doors, air filters, and ventilation. Today, these shelters are mainly used as storage spaces.

Albert Einstein's theory of relativity: Einstein developed the famous formula  $E=mc^2$  while living in Bern, Switzerland, after renouncing his German citizenship to avoid military conscription.

Longest life expectancy in Europe: Switzerland is home to some of the longest-living people in Europe with an average life expectancy of around 85 years and many centenarians.

Economic and cultural strength: Known for precision watches, exquisite chocolate, cheese, and financial services, Switzerland maintains one of the world's highest living standards. Switzerland has ranked #1 in the Global Innovation Index for 12 consecutive years, a reflection of its deep investment in research, cutting-edge tech, and a culture of precision and creativity.

These facts illustrate why Switzerland is admired not just for its natural beauty but also for its innovation, culture, and quality of life. We extend our sincere gratitude to the Honorary Consul of Switzerland in Miami, Florida for their valued contribution to this month's featured article.

**SEPTEMBER 2025**

Division Director's Message



**U. Desmond Alufohai**  
Division Director II

Protocol & International Affairs Division  
Miami-Dade Aviation Department (MDAD)

September signifies the transition from summer to autumn, embodying themes of harvest, reflection, and letting go, while also marking the beginning of the new school year and Labor Day in the United States. Symbolically, it's a time for spiritual renewal, in preparation for winter, and embracing new intentions, as nature enters a period of change and rest.

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to distinguished diplomats and leaders, the newly appointed Dean, Deputy Dean of the Consular Corps of Miami, and the new Consul General of the Republic of Haiti in Miami. Their leadership will undoubtedly strengthen the bonds of diplomacy and cooperation that define our vibrant international community. We look forward to the continued collaboration and goodwill that their respective offices will inspire. September is also a time of national pride for many. We salute the nations that celebrate their Independence or National Day during this month. These milestones are potent reminders of the enduring spirit of self-determination, cultural identity, and unity. To our colleagues, neighbors, and friends from these nations, we join you in celebration.

Finally, as we marked the International Day of Peace on September 21<sup>st</sup>, let us all continue to take a moment to reflect on the values that bind us together - compassion, understanding, and the shared hope for a more peaceful world. In our work, in our communities, and in our hearts, may we continue to be ambassadors of peace. Wishing each of you a meaningful and inspiring month.

### Inside this Edition

Switzerland	1
Diplomatic & Consular Relations	2
Aviation, Culture, Etiquette & Protocol	3
Briefs & Notes	4
National Days & About Us	8

# DIPLOMATIC & CONSULAR RELATIONS

## Consul General Rosa Maria Merida de Mora of Guatemala is the New Dean of the Consular Corps of Miami, FL.



The Secretariat of the Consular Corps of Miami, Florida recently announced changes in its leadership positions. **Ms. Rosa María Merida de Mora**, Consul General of Guatemala in Miami since 2015 is the new Dean of the Consular Corps of Miami. She serves the Guatemalan community in Florida, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. She is a Guatemalan career diplomat with over 37 years of service in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Guatemala. She has held various positions serving the Guatemalan community in Atlanta, Georgia; New York and Chicago, Illinois, and at the Guatemalan Embassies in Argentina, France, El Salvador, and the Permanent Mission of Guatemala in Geneva, Switzerland.

Her passion has been serving Guatemalans, wherever they may be, having worked primarily in the consular field, and also working to promote tourism, trade and investment in Guatemala. She has represented Guatemala in forums on migration issues between Guatemala and various countries. She has participated in seminars about international migration, diplomacy, international organizations, economics and trade, and human trafficking, among others. And has contributed to strengthening the Guatemalan consular network to provide efficient and accessible services to the community abroad. Ms. Rosa María Merida de Mora is married, the mother of one daughter, and grandmother of two grandchildren.

## Consul General Roderick Oliver Mair of Jamaica is the new Deputy Dean of the Consular Corps of Miami, FL.



Since his appointment as Consul General of Jamaica in Miami, Florida, on October 3, 2018, **Mr. Roderick Oliver Mair** has engaged in a record number of community events, strengthening the Diaspora connection across the 13 Southern States under his jurisdiction. His emphasis on economic diplomacy is evident in his Outreach programs, which highlight investment opportunities in Jamaica, including tourism, agriculture, real estate, and the Jamaica Stock Exchange, among others. He has also partnered with fundraising initiatives through charitable organizations, including alumni associations, generating much-needed resources for Jamaica, especially in the areas of health, education, and culture.

In August 2025, the Consular Corps of Miami, Florida, announced the appointment of Consul General Mair as the new Deputy Dean of the Consular Corps. Mr. Mair also serves as the Dean of the South Florida fraternity of the Caribbean Consular Corps since November 2022.

He serves as Honorary Chair of the organizations listed below:

- \* Jamaica USA Chamber of Commerce (JAUSACC)
- \* Jamaican Women of Florida (JWOF)
- \* Jamaican Men of Florida (JMOF)
- \* Louise Bennett Coverley Heritage Council (LBCHC)

## Appointment and promotion to the position of Consul General at the Haitian Consulate in Miami, Florida



**Mr. Yverick Delorme Cyril**, former Deputy Consul General/Head of Post, at the Consulate General of the Republic of Haiti, Miami, Florida since April 16, 2025, has been officially appointed Consul General of the Consulate General of Haiti in Miami. This appointment, once again, marks a continuation of his distinguished career in diplomatic service, characterized by a series of progressively responsible roles within Haiti's foreign affairs and domestic governance structures.

### Professional Experience:

Deputy Consul General/Head of Post, Consulate General of Haiti in New York, NY; Consul, Consulate General of Haiti in Miami, FL.; Counselor, Embassy of Haiti in Havana, Cuba; Vice Consul, Consulate General of Haiti in Miami, FL.; Mission Officer, Prime Minister's Office of Haiti; Mission Officer, Ministry of Interior and Territorial Collectivities, Haiti; Consular Agent, Consulate General of Haiti in Miami, Florida; and Attaché, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Haiti.

Mr. Cyril is an alumnus of the Protocol School of Washington®, where he received specialized training in international protocol, etiquette, and diplomatic procedures. His extensive experience and academic background underscore his commitment to representing Haiti's interests and fostering international relations.

# AVIATION, CULTURE, ETIQUETTE & PROTOCOL TIDBITS

## Culture, Etiquette and Protocol

### Etiquette - Who selects the wine?

Whether for business or pleasure, navigating the wine list and ordering wine is typically done by the official host — the person paying the bill. As a host, you may pass the wine list around the table for others to inspect or offer to have one of the guests select a wine. Suppose you regularly conduct business at a favorite restaurant. In that case, you may want to consider calling ahead and having them plan a menu and select a wine, or arrive early to discuss the menu, wine choices, and prices.

### How much should you spend?

The first rule is to have a price range in mind before you order. A sensible guideline is to spend about as much on a bottle of wine as you spend on one complete dinner. Fine wines can vary in price from a few dollars to hundreds of dollars, so make sure that you know what you're doing if you select an expensive wine.

The most expensive wine on the wine list isn't always the most impressive. When you're looking for value, don't follow the trends; select lesser-known or local wines, which are usually priced lower due to a lack of recognition. If you're a beginning wine drinker or just not familiar with the wines on the wine list, ask for help from a knowledgeable wine specialist on staff. Better establishments have a wine steward, or sommelier, on hand to assist you. Be enthusiastic about your wine selection! Don't be afraid to ask your server or the wine steward for assistance and mention how impressive the wine list is. Taste, learn, and drink what you enjoy. Personal preference should be the final deciding factor.

### Which wine complements your meal?

Wine and food go together. The key to choosing a wine is to find one that won't overpower the food or be overpowered by it. The following are examples of wines that generally match certain foods:

- \* Light meat dishes (such as pork), poultry, or full-flavored fish (such as salmon) go well with a red wine such as a dry rosé, Pinot Noir, or Burgundy.
- \* Lighter fish and shellfish dishes are fine with a light-bodied white wine, such as Chenin Blanc, Sancerre, Pinot Grigio, rosé, or German Riesling.
- \* A full-bodied Chardonnay, Sémillon, or Viognier complements lobster or richer fish dishes.
- \* Chicken and pasta can go with either red or white wine, depending on the sauce. A heavy meat sauce is better complemented by a medium-bodied red wine, such as Merlot or Cabernet Franc, while a light vegetable or cream sauce goes well with a rosé, white, or sparkling wine.
- \* Stews, roasts, game, duck, lamb, and other full-flavored dishes go best with full-bodied red wines, such as Bordeaux, Cabernet Sauvignon, Petite Sirah, or Zinfandel.

Some international foods weren't designed to go with wine, so be creative and experiment with different varieties. Chefs across the country pour Champagne with everything from Asian-influenced main courses to Indian curries. The effervescence of Champagne can refresh the palate so that the spices don't overwhelm the wine. The right sparkling wine can make a meal memorable and create a festive mood. ([Source](#)).

## Aviation Briefs & Facts

### MIA is North America's most-improved mega airport

MIA jumps from 10<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> in annual customer satisfaction rankings.

Miami International Airport is North America's most-improved mega airport in customer satisfaction, after its overall score jumped 24 points in [J.D. Power's 2025 North America Airport Satisfaction Study<sup>SM</sup>](#). MIA's ranking surged from 10<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> place among the busiest airports in the study, based on 30,439 completed surveys from U.S. and Canadian residents who traveled through at least one U.S. or Canadian airport from July 2024 through July 2025.

*"I am thrilled to see that the unprecedented investments we have made to transform the customer experience at MIA — from facility upgrades to increased workforce — are making such a strong impression on our visitors. The fact that MIA improved its customer satisfaction score while also serving record-breaking numbers during the busy fall and winter seasons speaks volumes about the significant progress we're making at every step of the passenger journey. More importantly, these results reflect something more profound: the pride, professionalism, and dedication that define our airport community.—Miami-Dade County Mayor Daniella Levine Cava"*

The J.D. Power study measures overall traveler satisfaction by examining seven core dimensions (in order of importance): ease of travel through the airport; level of trust with the airport; terminal facilities; airport staff; departure/arrival airport experience; food, beverage, and retail; and arrival/from airport experience. MIA surged in the customer satisfaction study while also serving 3.5 million more travelers in 2025 than the year before, for a new annual record of nearly 56 million passengers and the airport's third-consecutive record-breaking year.

Over the last five years, MIA has consistently ranked among the 10 best mega airports in the study, achieving the #1 overall ranking in 2021 and 4<sup>th</sup> place in 2023. The improved J.D. Power ranking is the latest in a series of accolades MIA has received this year for its customer experience, including its [Best Airport for Layovers Award](#) from Global Traveler magazine and a ranking in [Food & Wine magazine's annual list of Top 10 U.S. Airports for Food and Drink](#).

MIA's upward trend in customer satisfaction coincides with the ongoing progress of its [\\$9 billion Modernization in Action \(M.I.A.\) Plan](#). Among its many recent milestones, MIA reopened its newest pair of renovated moving walkways this month, marking the 23<sup>rd</sup> modernization of a moving walkway, elevator, or escalator at MIA this year. Fifteen more conveyance units are on schedule for completion by the end of 2025, putting the airport on track for 38 new and improved units this year, which will easily set a new annual record for the modernization program. More than 95% of these units are now operational as well — another record for MIA.

In addition to replacing more than 200 escalators, elevators, and moving walkways, the M.I.A. Plan is transforming every touchpoint of the passenger journey over the next five years, including significant projects like [renovating nearly 200 public restrooms](#); upgrading 75% of the airport's [passenger boarding bridges](#); [opening the new 2,240-space Ibis garage](#) in December; and completing the [new Concourse K](#) in 2029.



# BRIEFS & NOTES

## Discover How Countries Get their Nicknames

Countries are often known by distinctive nicknames that reflect their history, geography, or cultural identity. Media, popular culture, and local expressions frequently shape these informal titles. Such nicknames offer valuable insights into a nation's character, serving as concise references that encapsulate rich stories, traditions, and national pride in a few words.

List of Countries and Their Nicknames			
Country	Nickname	Explanation	Source / Reference
Australia	The Land Down Under	Refers to its location in the Southern Hemisphere.	Australian Government, Tourism Australia
Brazil	The Land of the Palms	Due to its tropical vegetation and abundance of palm trees.	Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE)
Canada	The Great White North	Highlights its northern location and snowy climate.	Canadian Encyclopedia
China	The Red Dragon	Symbolizes power and the color red, which is culturally significant in China.	BBC, Chinese Cultural Studies
Egypt	The Gift of the Nile	Refers to the Nile River's vital role in Egypt's civilization.	Herodotus, Ancient History Encyclopedia
France	The Hexagon	Due to the roughly hexagonal shape of the country.	French Government, France Diplomatie
Germany	The Land of Poets and Thinkers	Celebrates its rich intellectual and cultural history.	Goethe-Institut, Britannica
Greece	The Cradle of Western Civilization	Due to its foundational influence on Western philosophy, democracy, and arts.	UNESCO, History.com
India	The Land of Spices	Known for its diverse and flavorful spice trade.	Indian Ministry of Commerce & Industry, National Geographic
Indonesia	The Emerald of the Equator	Refers to its lush tropical islands near the equator.	Indonesian Tourism Board
Ireland	The Emerald Isle	Refers to its lush green landscape.	Irish Tourism Board
Italy	The Boot	Named for its boot-like shape on the map.	National Geographic
Japan	The Land of the Rising Sun	Based on its eastern location and the Japanese name "Nihon" or "Nippon."	Japan National Tourism Organization
Kenya	The Safari Capital of the World	Known for its world-famous wildlife safaris.	Kenya Tourism Board
Mexico	The Land of the Sun	Refers to its warm climate and ancient sun-worshipping civilizations.	INAH (Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia)
New Zealand	Aotearoa (Land of the Long White Cloud)	Māori name describing the cloud formations seen by early Polynesian settlers.	The Ara Encyclopedia of New Zealand
Nigeria	The Giant of Africa	Due to its large population and economic influence.	Nigerian Bureau of Statistics, BBC
Norway	The Land of the Midnight Sun	Refers to the natural phenomenon in the Arctic Circle.	Visit Norway, National Geographic
Russia	The Motherland	A term of endearment and patriotism used by Russians.	Russian History Museum
South Africa	The Rainbow Nation	Coined by Desmond Tutu to describe its multicultural diversity post-apartheid.	South African Government, Nelson Mandela Foundation
Switzerland	The Land of Milk and Honey	Refers to its prosperity and high quality of life.	Swiss Federal Statistical Office
Thailand	The Land of Smiles	Known for the friendliness and hospitality of its people.	Tourism Authority of Thailand
United Kingdom	Albion	An ancient name for Britain, often used poetically.	Oxford English Dictionary, Britannica
United States	Uncle Sam / The Land of Opportunity	"Land of Opportunity" reflects the American Dream.	Library of Congress, U.S. History.org
Venezuela	The Land of Grace	Named by Christopher Columbus for its beauty.	Venezuelan History Archives

[Source.](#)

# BRIEFS & NOTES

## World Tourism Day—September 27



[World Tourism Day](#) is commemorated annually on September 27 to foster awareness among the international community of the importance of tourism and its social, cultural, political, and economic value. The United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) designated September 27 as the day, with the commemoration commencing in 1980. This date commemorates the anniversary of the adoption of the UNWTO Statutes on September 27, 1970.

Every year on September 27, countries, communities, and travelers celebrate World Tourism Day, a moment to appreciate how travel connects people, supports jobs, and protects culture and nature when done responsibly. According to the [World Travel & Tourism Council](#), in 2024, there were 1.45 billion international tourists, representing an 11.5% growth compared to 2023. The travel and tourism sector's contribution to global GDP totaled \$10.9 trillion. This includes direct, indirect, and induced impacts of the industry. As a share, Travel & Tourism represented 10% of the global economy. Travel & Tourism is also an essential source of employment. In 2024, the sector supported a total of 357 million jobs globally, representing approximately one in ten jobs. Domestic visitors spent \$5.3 trillion, a 5.4% increase over the 2023 level. At the same time, spending by international visitors increased 11.6% year-over-year to reach \$1.9 trillion.

Tourism is a major global employer, especially for youth and women. From local guides and artisans to hotels and small restaurants, travel dollars ripple through communities. It helps preserve heritage. Entrance fees and visitor interest can help fund the restoration of historic sites and maintain traditions. Nature benefits when tourism supports conservation, park management, and wildlife protection, so long as visits are managed well. This year's focus: World Tourism Day often highlights inclusive growth and greener practices. That means making travel accessible, reducing emissions, and ensuring residents benefit directly.

Top 10 Countries by Tourist Arrivals (2024)	Top 10 Cities by International Arrivals (2024)	The Ten Most Visited Cities in the U.S. (2023)
1. France ~ 102 million	1. Bangkok, Thailand ~ 32.4 million	1. New York, NY - 8.9 million
2. Spain ~ 94 million	2. Istanbul, Turkey ~ 23.0 million	2. Miami, FL - 4.4 million
3. United States ~ 72.3 million	3. London, UK ~ 21.7 million	3. Los Angeles, CA - 3.6 million
4. Turkey ~ 61 million	4. Hong Kong SAR, China ~ 20.5 million	4. Orlando, FL - 3.5 million
5. Mexico ~ 45 million	5. Mecca, Saudi Arabia ~ 19.3 million	5. San Francisco - 2.3 million
6. Germany ~ 37.5 million	6. Antalya, Turkey ~ 19.3 million	6. Las Vegas - 2.1 million
7. Japan ~ 36.8 million	7. Dubai, UAE ~ 18.2 million	7. Washington D.C. - 1.6 million
8. Greece ~ 36 million	8. Macau (SAR, China) SAR, China ~ 18 million	8. Chicago, IL - 1.4 million
9. Thailand ~ 35.5 million	9. Paris, France ~ 17.4 million	9. Honolulu, HI - 1.3 million
10. Austria ~ 32.2 million	10. Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia ~ 16.5 million	10. Boston, MA - 1.2 million
Sources: <a href="#">UNWTO</a>	<a href="#">Euromonitor International</a>	<a href="#">World Atlas</a>

	Top Bucket-List Destinations by Region
<b>Africa</b>	1. Safari in the Serengeti or the Maasai Mara (Tanzania/Kenya) – For wildlife lovers and adventure seekers.
	2. Victoria Falls (Zambia/Zimbabwe) – One of the world's largest waterfalls, and a natural wonder.
	3. Pyramids of Giza (Egypt) – An ancient civilization site and a world-renowned heritage site.
<b>Asia</b>	4. Bali, Indonesia – Beaches, temples, and culture.
	5. Great Wall of China (China) – Historic and symbolic.
	6. Taj Mahal (India) – An icon of love and architecture.
<b>Europe</b>	7. Santorini, Greece – Romantic sunsets and iconic architecture.
	8. Paris and the Eiffel Tower (France) – Romance, culture, and gastronomy.
	9. Northern Lights (Norway/Iceland/Finland) – A unique natural phenomenon.
<b>Americas</b>	10. Machu Picchu (Peru) – Ancient Incan city in the Andes.
	11. Grand Canyon (USA) – Awe-inspiring geological wonder.
	12. New York City (USA) – Statue of Liberty, Times Square, and a cultural magnet.
<b>Middle East</b>	13. Petra (Jordan) – Ancient rock-cut city, archaeological treasure.
	14. Dubai (UAE) – Ultra-modern architecture, luxury tourism, desert experiences.
	15. Mecca (Saudi Arabia) – For those of the Muslim faith, a spiritual life-goal journey.
Sources:	<a href="#">Forbes</a> ;

# BRIEFS & NOTES

## World Coconut Day - September 2



[World Coconut Day](#) is an international day established by the Asian and Pacific Coconut Community (APCC), an intergovernmental organization of countries that produce coconuts, to recognize the importance of the coconut. World Coconut Day has been observed annually on September 2 since 2009. It is celebrated by farmers in coconut-producing countries, including India, Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand, Kenya, and Vietnam, as well as stakeholders in the coconut industry. Various activities related to promoting coconut consumption and events to raise awareness about the benefits of consuming coconuts are organized on this day.

The aim of celebrating this holiday is to bring coconuts into the spotlight and recognize their importance and benefits — not just health-wise, but also economically. Coconuts are especially celebrated in the Asian and Pacific regions by the APCC, the Asian and Pacific Coconut Community, which facilitates most of the coconut production centers.

### [International Coconut Community \(ICC\)](#)

The ICC is an intergovernmental organization formed by coconut-producing countries in 1969 under the aegis of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN-ESCAP). With its Secretariat in Jakarta, Indonesia, the ICC represents nearly 20 countries that produce coconuts. This handful of countries accounts for over 90 percent of the global coconut production and trade of coconut products. Unsurprisingly, most ICC members come from Asia and the Pacific Peninsula. Nine Pacific countries make up the ICC. They include the Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, the Marshall Islands, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, and Vanuatu. The eight Asian representatives at the ICC include India, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam, and Timor-Leste. The global coconut industry was worth a staggering [\\$4.5 billion in 2023 and is projected to surpass \\$31 billion by 2026](#). The ICC projects this value to reach \$72 billion by 2028. This represents an annual growth rate of 9.98 percent over the next five years.

The coconut tree, scientifically known as *Cocos nucifera*, with its towering height and abundant canopy, is often revered as [the 'tree of life'](#) for its remarkable versatility and the multitude of ways in which it is used. From its roots to its fruits, virtually every part of the coconut palm serves a purpose, making it an indispensable resource for many communities. The coconut is classified as a drupe, which is at once a fruit, a seed, and a nut. The coconut tree can provide sources of food, fuel, medicine, or even building material due to the versatility of the coconut. Fuel and charcoal can be made from coconut shell, while coconut oil and coconut milk can be extracted from the inner flesh of the mature seed. Coconut milk has gained popularity among individuals adopting plant-based diets. Marco Polo encountered the coconut on his travels to Sumatra and referred to it in his writing as "**nux indica**," or "**Indian nut**."

Coconuts offer a diverse range of products and benefits. The tender white flesh inside the coconut is used in a variety of cooking recipes, and the oil, milk, and water are utilized for both culinary and non-culinary purposes. Coconut butter, coconut cream, and the oil are byproducts used in beauty products, and the husks and leaves of coconuts are used for making doormats, roofs, and huts.

Here's a list of 15 notable types of coconuts, their country or region of origin, and distinctive features:

Coconut Variety	Country/Region of Origin	Key Features
Tall (West Coast Tall)	India	High yield, long lifespan, salt-tolerant, used for oil and copra.
Dwarf (Malayan Dwarf)	Malaysia	Shorter trees, which produce fruit early, are available in yellow, green, and orange varieties.
King Coconut	Sri Lanka	Orange-skinned, sweet water, mainly used for drinking.
Macapuno	Philippines	Jelly-like flesh, used in desserts, is rare and considered a delicacy.
Fiji Dwarf	Fiji	Compact size, disease-resistant, suitable for ornamental planting.
Panama Tall	Panama / Central America	Hardy, tall, suitable for oil production.
East Coast Tall	India	High copra content, long lifespan, and widely cultivated in coastal areas.
Chowghat Orange Dwarf	India	Orange-colored fruit, early bearing, suitable for tender coconut water.
Green Dwarf	Thailand / Vietnam	Popular for sweet water, early fruiting, and smaller size.
Golden Malayan Dwarf	Malaysia	Golden-yellow fruit, ornamental and water-rich.
West African Tall	West Africa	Adapted to tropical climates, used for oil and copra.
Tiptur Tall	India	High oil content, drought-resistant, long, productive life.
Jamaican Tall	Jamaica	Tall, robust, used for both water and copra.
Maypan Hybrid	Jamaica	Hybrid of Malayan Dwarf and Panama Tall, disease-resistant, high-yielding.
Kalpa Sree	India (Kerala)	Dwarf hybrid, high copra and oil yield, early bearing.

[Source.](#)

# BRIEFS & NOTES

## Did you know?

**Bangkok is the world's most visited city:** With 22.78 million international visitors, Bangkok has been named the most visited city in the world for the fourth year in a row – beating Paris, London, Dubai, and Singapore.

**Typing keyboards used to be arranged alphabetically:** Have you ever wondered why keyboards aren't arranged by the ABCs compared to the QWERTY keys we know now? You'd be surprised to know the uniform [QWERTY keys](#) we use were chosen at random. Before PCs and laptops, the typewriter was humanity's first typing experience. The earliest typewriters had alphabetic keys, but people typed so fast that the mechanical arms got jammed and tangled up. To solve this, the keys were randomly positioned to slow down typing and prevent key jamming.

**We are born with only two natural fears:** The fear of falling and the fear of loud sounds. All other fears and phobias are learned or acquired later in life.

**Baked beans are not actually baked:** In the U.K., the dish is usually stewed in sauce. On the other hand, canned baked beans are cooked through a steaming process. Bottom line? "Baked" beans are rarely ever baked.

**Australia has the greatest number of venomous snakes worldwide:** Australia is home to almost a hundred species of venomous snakes. However, only one fatal snakebite incident is recorded per year.

**Antarctica is the only continent without any reptiles or snakes:** Not only does the elusive continent of Antarctica lack McDonald's restaurants – but it also doesn't have any of our lizard friends. Why? Well – we all know that reptiles are cold-blooded – so they can't produce their own heat. Meaning, they would turn into popsicles in the frosty Antarctic.

**Video games help surgeons perform better:** According to a 2007 study, surgeons who play certain video games at least 3 hours a week performed 27% faster with 37% less errors during surgery.

**Tomato ketchup was used as medicine for 16 years:** Whether you love it or hate it, this condiment once had a place in the world beyond hotdogs. However, you'd be surprised to know that ketchup only had tomatoes in it starting 1834. Before then, ketchup was made with a mix of fish and mushrooms. When Dr. John Cooke Bennet added tomatoes to the mix, he claimed that the antioxidants gave it medicinal properties. He had a pill salesman turn his tomato ketchup into pills and claimed it could treat diarrhea, indigestion, jaundice, and rheumatism.

**The brain is the fattest organ:** The stomach may be our body's fattest part, but the fattest organ is our brain. The brain is composed of nearly 60% fat.

**Dead people get goosebumps:** One of the not-so-fun but amazing fun facts: When people die, the tiny muscles under their hair follicles contract. This gives the skin the appearance of their hair standing on end. If you think death is a hair-raising concept, you are right.

**You can't move or touch William Shakespeare's bones:** William Shakespeare's legacy doesn't stop at his plays and how many words he created – even in the afterlife, he leaves a lasting display of his wit. Buried in 1616, the playwright was said to have written his tombstone inscription which reads: "Good friend, for Jesus' sake forebeare, To digg the dust enclosed heare; Bleste be the man that spares thes stones, and curst be he that moves my bones."

Source: <https://facts.net/fun-facts/>

## International Day of Peace—September 21st



Every year on September 21, the world pauses to reflect on one of humanity's most vital aspirations: peace. Established in 1981 by the [United Nations General Assembly](#), the [International Day of Peace](#) was later designated in 2001 as a day of [global ceasefire and non-violence](#) – a day dedicated to strengthening the ideals of peace through nonviolence, dialogue, and international unity. This year's theme, "Act Now for a Peaceful World", reminds us that peace isn't just about ending war—it's about listening, understanding, and respecting each other across all borders and beliefs.

The International Day of Peace is marked by a variety of events and activities worldwide, with the most notable being the Peace Bell Ceremony, traditionally held at the UN Headquarters in New York City. A gift presented to the UN by the [UN Association of Japan in 1954, the Peace Bell](#) – cast from coins donated by delegates of 60 nations – is rung by the UN Secretary-General and marks a moment of silence to reflect on the meaning of peace, a call for global unity, and a reminder of the need to work towards world peace.

[Other events and activities include:](#)

Global Moment of Silence; Educational events; Community activities; Advocacy; etc.

This year also marks the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the UN's Peacebuilding Commission, whose mission is to address the primary drivers of conflict and violence, including poverty, inequality, discrimination, and injustice. Just like UN Peacekeepers, we can all act in some way to help foster a more peaceful world: [Speak up for peace](#): Use words to challenge hate and champion peace; [Educate about peace](#): Knowledge is power; share information on topics such as conflict prevention, mediation, and resolution; Say no to violence: Strive to resolve differences and conflicts at home, work, and in your communities peacefully through dialogue and compassion; [Practice understanding and solidarity](#): Support people and organizations that promote dialogue, learning, and reconciliation; [Embrace inclusion and diversity](#): Be more open to learning from others and adapting your perspective; [Support advocates for peace](#): Learn more about the work of Goodwill Ambassadors and Messengers of Peace and get inspired.

# INDEPENDENCE AND NATIONAL DAYS (SEPTEMBER)

**September 1, 1991 – Uzbekistan:** On this date, Uzbekistan gained independence from the Soviet Union.

**September 2, 1945 – Vietnam:** In early 1945, Japan ousted the French administration in Vietnam. Hours after Japan had formally surrendered to the Allies on September 2, 1945, Ho Chi Minh declared Vietnam's independence from France.

**September 6, 1968 – Eswatini:** Swaziland, as Eswatini was known until April 2018, achieved independence from the UK.

**September 7, 1822 – Brazil:** Prince Regent Dom Pedro declared Brazil's independence from Portugal on September 7, 1822.

**September 8, 1991 – North Macedonia:** A referendum endorsed independence from Yugoslavia in 1991.

**September 9, 1991 – Tajikistan:** Following the breakup of the Soviet Union, Tajikistan gained its independence.

**September 15, 1821 – Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua:** On September 15, 1821, envoys from Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua signed the Act of Independence of Central America, proclaiming their independence from Spain.

**September 16, 1810 – Mexico:** Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla, a Catholic priest and the father of Mexican independence, urged his fellow Mexicans to take up arms against the Spanish. His proclamation, known as the "Grito de Dolores" marked the start of the Mexican War of Independence. The war ended in 1821, and September 16, is celebrated annually as Mexico's Independence Day.

**September 16, 1975 – Papua New Guinea:** On this day, it was granted independence from the Australia-administered UN trusteeship.

**September 18, 1810 – Chile:** In 1810, a group of Santiago residents met in open council to name a governing board, taking the first steps toward independence from Spain. Although independence was not officially declared until February 12, 1818, and the last Spanish stronghold did not fall until 1826, September 18 is celebrated annually as Chile's Independence Day.

**September 19, 1983 – St. Kitts and Nevis:** In 1967, the island territory of Saint Christopher-Nevis-Anguilla became an associated state of the United Kingdom with full internal autonomy. After Anguilla seceded, the remaining islands achieved independence as Saint Kitts and Nevis on September 19, 1983.

**September 21, 1964 – Malta:** Malta was a British colony from 1814 until it gained independence in 1964. Since December 13, 1974, Malta has been a republic.

**September 21, 1981 – Belize:** British Honduras, a British colony since 1862, was renamed Belize on June 1, 1973. On September 21, 1981, Belize gained its independence from the United Kingdom.

**September 21, 1991 – Armenia:** On this day, approximately 95% of the population voted for independence from the Soviet Union.

**September 22, 1908 – Bulgaria:** Prince Ferdinand declared Bulgaria's independence from the Ottoman Empire.

**September 22, 1960 – Mali:** As the colony of French Soudan, Mali was part of the Federation of French West Africa. In 1959, Soudan and Senegal joined to form the Mali Federation, which became fully independent within the French Community on June 20, 1960 which collapsed two months later when Senegal seceded. On September 22, 1960, Soudan proclaimed itself the Republic of Mali and withdrew from the French Community.

**September 23, 1932 – Saudi Arabia:** King Abdulaziz proclaimed the unification of the country as a kingdom.

**September 24, 1973 – Guinea-Bissau:** Declared independence from Portugal.

**September 27, 1991 – Turkmenistan:** From 1924 until regaining its independence on October 27, 1991, Turkmenistan was a Soviet Republic. Since 2018, Independence Day has been officially celebrated on September 27.

**September 30, 1966 – Botswana:** In 1965, after 80 years as a British protectorate, Bechuanaland attained self-government as the independent Republic of Botswana.

## 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.*

### Contact:

**Tel:** + 1 (305) 876-7457

**Email:** [Protocol@FlyMIA.com](mailto:Protocol@FlyMIA.com)

**URL:** [https://www.miami-airport.com/protocol\\_international\\_affairs.asp](https://www.miami-airport.com/protocol_international_affairs.asp)

For comments, suggestions, event Announcements, or to opt-out, please send us an email.

