

## The Republic of Cameroon - "Africa in Miniature"



**Head of State:** President Paul BIYA (since November 6, 1982) **Capital City:** Yaoundé• **Population:** 29 million (2024 est.) **Independence:** January 1, 1960 • **Currency:** Central African Franc (CFA) • **Official Languages:** French and English

The Republic of Cameroon resulted from the merger of former French Cameroon and British Cameroon in the early 1960s. Tribes lived in Cameroon's highlands more than 1,500 years ago and began spreading south as they cleared forests for new farms. Cameroon's colonial name comes from the *cameros*, or prawns (shrimps), that 15<sup>th</sup>-century explorers found in the Wouri River. Between 1884 and 1916, Germany united the southern and northern areas into a colony.

Germany's defeat in World War I led to Cameroon's partition between France and Britain.

The French tightly ruled the east from the capital, Yaoundé. The smaller British area to the west was ruled more loosely from Nigeria. Independence was achieved in French Cameroon in 1960. In 1961, voters in the southern portion of British Cameroon chose to join in a federation with the new republic; those in the north chose to unite with Nigeria. Cameroon's former French and British areas kept separate educational, legal, civil service, and legislative structures until a 1972 referendum adopted a national, one-party system along French lines.

#### Fun Fact about the Republic of Cameroon

Cameroon is known as <u>"Africa in Miniature"</u> or <u>"Small Africa"</u> because of its remarkable diversity of landscapes, cultures, and languages. It is the only country that contains every African climate zone within its borders. There are two cultural and natural landmarks listed as <u>UNESCO World Heritage Sites</u> in Cameroon and 18 locations on the Cameroon UNESCO tentative list. The *Dja Faunal Reserve* is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The *Sangha Trinational* is a UNESCO World Heritage Site located at the junction of Cameroon, the Central African Republic, and the Republic of Congo. The <u>Foumban Museum of the Bamoun Kings</u> in Western Cameroon is also a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The Bamoun Kingdom, founded in 1384, is one of the oldest in sub-Saharan Africa.

**World's Oldest Forest:** The <u>Korup National Park</u> is an important park that is believed to have one of the oldest forests that can be found in Africa, and it is located in the Southwest Region of the Republic of Cameroon. Covering an area of about 1,260 square km (490 square mile), the ancient forest is believed to be some 60 million years old, and it is reputed to be one of Africa's oldest and richest tropical forests in terms of floral and fauna diversity.

**World's Largest Frog:** <u>The Goliath Frog</u> (*Amphibia Anura Ranidae Conraua*) is the largest frog in the world. The goliath frog is as big as some house cats! Goliath frogs in southern Cameroon reach 33cm (1.08 ft) in length and 3.3kg (7.2 pounds) in weight. Males move up to 2kg (4.4 pounds) weight of stones to construct breeding pools up to 1 meter wide. Goliath frogs have been around for about 250 million years and are one of only a few amphibians that lived on Earth before the dinosaurs.

**Endemic Birds:** The <u>Mount Cameroon Francolin</u> (*Pternistis camerunensis*) and the <u>Mount</u> <u>Kupe bushshrike</u> (*Chlorophoneus kupeensis*) are species of birds found only in Cameroon.

**Soccer Legends** - <u>Cameroon's eight FIFA World Cup</u> appearances are the top in Africa. Cameroon's men's national football team, also known as the Indomitable Lions reached FIFA World Cup quarterfinals in 1990, becoming the first African team to advance that far. In 2000, the Lions earned Africa's second Olympic football gold medal, when they defeated Spain 5-3 in the 2000 Sydney Olympics. Nigeria's Super Eagles men's Football team won Africa's first Olympic Football Gold Medal at the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta, USA!

**Music, Arts, and Cuisine** - Cameroon is also home to a variety of modern music, such as Makossa, Bikutsi, and Benga, as well as a variety of traditional music genres, such as Balafon, Calabash, and Njang. <u>Cameroonian cuisine</u> is a mix of African, French, and Mediterranean flavors. The country is known for its delicious and spicy dishes, such as *ndole* (a stew made with bitter leaf and peanuts), *mbanga* soup (made with fish and spices), and *koki* (a cassava-based dish).

#### FEBRUARY 2025

Division Director's Message



U. Desmond Alufohai Division Director II Protocol & International Affairs Division Miami-Dade Aviation Department (MDAD)

February, the second month of the year, holds a special significance across cultures, histories, and traditions. Though it is the shortest month in the Gregorian calendar, with either 28 or 29 days during a leap year, February is rich with historical events, celebrations, and observances that impact societies worldwide. From honoring cultural heritage to recognizing global causes, February plays an important role in shaping collective awareness and remembrance. It serves as a period of reflection, love, and advocacy for social causes. Whether honoring history, celebrating love, or recognizing global initiatives, February continues to leave an indelible mark on the world.

This month, we are pleased to feature an article on the Republic of Cameroon, a nation with a rich cultural and historical legacy. Additionally, we extend a warm welcome to Consul General Rutilio Cruz Escandón Cadenas of Mexico and Consul General Tomas Bittar Navarro of Paraguay, who have recently joined our community.

We also take this opportunity to salute all nations celebrating their independence or national day in February. May this month bring prosperity, unity, and progress to all.

As always, please be safe.

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## **DIPLOMATIC & CONSULAR RELATIONS**

#### Meet the new Consul General of the Republic Mexico in Miami, Florida



Mr. Rutilio Cruz Escandón Cadenas is the new Consul General of the Consulate General of the Republic of Mexico in Miami, Florida. He was appointed Consul General of Mexico in Miami on December 2024.

He is a Mexican lawyer and politician, belonging to the National Regeneration Movement. He was governor of Chiapas from 2018 to 2024. He has also served as a senator of the Republic for his home state in the LVIII and LIX legislatures from 2000 to 2006. He also served as a federal deputy in the LX Legislature from 2006 to 2009 and as president of the Superior Court of Justice of the State of Chiapas from 2013 to 2018.

He was a public prosecutor for the Attorney General's Office of the Federal District (D.F.), in the Coyoacán delegation. He also served in the following capacities:

- \* Deputy General Director of the Baja California Mental Health Institute
- \* Delegate at the National Migration Institute in Ixtapa-Zihuatanejo, Guerrero
- \* Legal Director of BANRURAL in Oaxaca
- \* General Director of the Electoral Commission of Chiapas
- \* Director of the southern border of the National Migration Institute
- \* Director of Labor and Social Security in Baja California
- \* Director of the Public Registry of Property and Commerce of the Government of Baja California
- \* Legal Director of Banrural, Chiapas and Oaxaca.

#### Meet the new Consul General of the Republic of Paraguay in Miami, Florida



**Mr. Tomas Bittar Navarro** was appointed Consul General of the Republic of Paraguay in Miami, Florida in January 2025. Prior to his appointment as Consul General, he served as a Senator in the Parlasuriano of MERCOSUR (Headquarters in Montevideo, Uruguay, from 2018 – 2023. He also served in the following capacities:

- President of the National Directorate of Civil Aeronautics, 2003 2007
- Vice Minister of the Interior responsible for security, political affairs, population and migration in Paraguay, 1993 – 1995
- \* Counselor at Yacyreta Binational Entity (Hydroelectric), 1989 1990

He obtained a law degree from the National University of Asunción in 1991. He also owns his law firm, Bittar & Associates. Consul General Bittar Navarro is married to Mrs. Maria Jose Arrellaga de Bittar, with four children.

#### Global Protocol Professionals Gather in Miami, Florida (July 21 - 24, 2025)



**Global Protocol Professionals Gather in Miami, Florida** Join us at the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual PDI-POA Education Forum The Biltmore Hotel, Coral Gables, Florida July 21 – July 25, 2025

Theme: Cultivating Cultural Connections

## AVIATION, CULTURE, ETIQUETTE & PROTOCOL TIDBITS

Culture, Etiquette and Protocol	Aviation Briefs & Facts
	of Love in Bloom: How Aviation Keeps the Valentine's Day Flo
<b>Traditions and Perspectives</b> In today's globalized world, cultural collisions are inevitable.	Industry Thriving As Valantina's Day is supersymptote with laws remained and of an

people from different backgrounds interact-whether through travel, migration, business, or social exchanges-their traditions, values, and ways of life often intersect. These interactions can lead to misunderstandings, but they also offer opportunities for learning, adaptation, and even the creation of new cultural identities. Understanding how cultures collide and evolve through processes such as assimilation, acculturation, and cultural amalgamation is key Valentine's Day is one of the busiest times of the year for the global to fostering mutual respect and global harmony.

A cultural collision occurs when different customs, social norms, or values come into contact, often exposing contrasting perspectives. These clashes can be seen in various settings, from the workplace to international relations and even within families. Rather than viewing Flowers are highly perishable, and rapid transportation is essential. these collisions as conflicts, they should be recognized as Miami International Airport (MIA) stands as the leading gateway opportunities for growth, adaptation, and mutual enrichment. Societies and individuals can navigate cultural interactions through three primary processes: assimilation, acculturation, and cultural will arrive daily between January 1 and the end of February - a 3% amalgamation.

#### Assimilation: The Absorption of One Culture into Another

Assimilation occurs when individuals or groups adopt the customs, values, and behaviors of a dominant culture, often to the point where their original cultural identity becomes less distinct. This is common among immigrant communities who, over generations, gradually Every year, particularly in the weeks leading up to Valentine's Day, adopt the language, dress, and traditions of their host country. While MIA experiences a significant surge in flower shipments. assimilation can facilitate integration and social acceptance, it can Specialized cargo planes equipped with temperature-controlled also lead to the loss of cultural heritage.

#### **Acculturation: The Exchange Between Cultures**

Unlike assimilation, acculturation refers to the process in which individuals retain their original cultural identity while adapting to and incorporating elements of another culture. This is a two-way street, as both cultures influence each other. American fast food has made its way into Asian countries, but local versions of burgers or pizzas often include regional flavors and ingredients. Acculturation Valentine's Day would not be the same without the beauty and allows for cultural preservation while still enabling people to navigate a different social environment.

#### **Cultural Amalgamation: The Fusion of New Cultures**

Cultural amalgamation occurs when two or more cultures blend together to create a new, hybrid culture. This can be seen in music, cuisine, language, and even societal norms. For example, Creole cultures in the Caribbean and Louisiana emerged from the blending Top 10 Biggest Flower Exporters of 2024 of African, European, and indigenous influences. Similarly, jazz music in the United States evolved from African rhythms, European The global flower export industry is thriving, with countries leveraging harmonies, and American improvisational styles.

#### **Embracing Cultural Differences for a More Unified World**

When cultures collide, the outcome depends on how individuals and societies choose to respond. While misunderstandings and tensions can arise, they can also be opportunities for innovation, deeper relationships, and a richer shared experience.

As globalization continues to bring people from diverse backgrounds 6. India - Export Value: \$151.4 million. together, cultural collisions will become more frequent. However, 7. Malaysia - Export Value: \$103.2 million. through assimilation, acculturation, and cultural amalgamation, 8. Israel - Export Value: \$85.8 million. societies can evolve in ways that foster both unity and diversity. 9. Thailand - Export Value: \$69 million. Cultural collisions are not just points of conflict; they are moments 10. Canada - Export Value: \$82.1 million. of transformation that shape the future of human interaction.

# ower

<u>Valentine's Day</u> is synonymous with love, romance, and, of course, flowers. Every February 14th, millions of bouquets are exchanged worldwide, with roses being the most sought-after floral token of affection. However, what many people do not realize is that the seamless availability of fresh flowers on this special day is made possible by one crucial industry-aviation.

floral industry. According to industry estimates, over 250 million roses are produced specifically for this holiday in the U.S. alone. This huge demand requires precise logistics, ensuring that flowers remain fresh and arrive at their destinations in pristine condition.

for flower imports into the United States. In the weeks leading up to Valentine's Day, MIA projects more than 1,500 tons of cut flowers increase over the airport's record-breaking peak season in 2024. MIA is America's largest gateway for flowers. MIA welcomes 91% of all imports by air to the U.S. More than 90,154 tons of cut flowers valued at more than \$400 million are expected on Valentine's Day.

environments ensure that flowers remain fresh from the moment they leave the farms until they reach florists and retailers worldwide. Once they arrive at their destination airports, they undergo rapid customs clearance and are distributed to wholesalers and florists. This entire process happens within a matter of days, ensuring that flowers retain their vibrant colors and fragrances when they finally reach their recipients.

fragrance of fresh flowers. Thanks to the aviation industry, millions of people around the world can express their love with stunning bouquets delivered just in time for the special day. As the demand for flowers continues to grow, aviation will remain at the heart of this timeless Valentine's Day tradition, ensuring that love truly knows no boundaries.

their unique climates, advanced agricultural techniques, and efficient logistics to dominate the market. Here's a detailed, number-driven guide to the top 10 flower exporters of 2024, highlighting their global market share:

- 1. Netherlands Export Value: \$5.17; Global market share: 40 50%.
- 2. Colombia Export Value: \$1.73 billion; Global market share: 20%.
- 3. Ecuador Export Value: \$987.1 million; Global market share: 10 15%
- 4. Kenya Export Value: \$667.5 million; Global market share: 30%.
- 5. Ethiopia Export Value: \$231.1 million.

Source: Bloom & Song:

## **BRIEFS & NOTES**

#### **Global Superstitions and Weather Lore: How Cultures Predict the Future**

For centuries, civilizations have looked to nature, animals, and long-held traditions to predict the future, ensure good fortune, or ward off misfortune. Many of these superstitions persist today, influencing behaviors, festivals, and cultural identity. Let's explore some of the most intriguing weather-related beliefs, animal omens, and folklore that have stood the test of time:

#### North America: Groundhog Day (USA & Canada)

Every year on February 2, the small town of Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania, hosts one of America's most famous weather predictions: <u>Groundhog Day</u>. According to folklore, if the famous groundhog, Punxsutawney Phil, emerges from his burrow and sees his shadow, winter will last for six more weeks. If he doesn't, spring will arrive early. This tradition has deep European roots. In Germany, settlers observed hedgehogs' behavior to predict weather patterns. When they arrived in Pennsylvania, where hedgehogs were scarce, they substituted the groundhog. The tradition gained nationwide popularity after the 1993 film *Groundhog Day*, starring Bill Murray.

#### Tornado Superstitions (Midwestern USA)

In the tornado-prone Midwest, many farmers and old-timers believe in signs predicting an impending storm, such as the eerie silence before a tornado strikes or unusual animal behavior—cows lying down, birds flying low, or dogs acting restless. While science supports some of these observations, others remain firmly in folklore.

#### **Europe: Candlemas Day (Various Countries)**

Candlemas, celebrated on February 2, is a Christian feast day marking the presentation of Jesus at the temple. Over time, it became associated with weather predictions. An old English rhyme states: "If Candlemas be fair and bright, Winter will have another flight. If Candlemas brings clouds and rain, Winter will not come again." This belief spread across Europe, with many regions observing local variations. It directly influenced Groundhog Day in North America.

#### St. Swithun's Day (United Kingdom)

On July 15, the British observe St. Swithun's Day, which carries the superstition that if it rains on that day, it will continue to rain for 40 days straight. This belief stems from St. Swithun, a 9th-century bishop of Winchester, who requested to be buried outdoors so the rain could fall on his grave. According to legend, after his remains were moved inside Winchester Cathedral, it rained for 40 days—a supposed sign of his displeasure.

#### The German Hedgehog Weather Prediction (Germany)

Before Groundhog Day became famous, Germans had their own weather-predicting animal: the hedgehog. The tradition was similar—if the hedgehog emerged from hibernation and saw its shadow, winter would persist. This custom was brought to America by German immigrants but was adapted to use the more common groundhog.

#### Asia: Chinese Zodiac & New Year Predictions (China & East Asia)

The 12-year zodiac cycle plays a major role in East Asian culture. Each year is associated with an animal (Rat, Ox, Tiger, etc.), and many believe that the zodiac influences everything from personal fortune to global events. For example, a "Year of the Dragon" is thought to bring powerful transformations, while a "Year of the Rat" symbolizes adaptability and resourcefulness. During Chinese New Year, fortune tellers predict prosperity and hardships based on the zodiac and other astrological signs. People also consult these predictions when planning major life events, such as marriages and business ventures.

#### Tihar Festival & Crows (Nepal)

Tihar, Nepal's five-day Hindu festival, includes a special day dedicated to crows, known as "Kag Tihar." Crows are believed to be messengers of fate, and their cawing is often considered an omen of bad luck. On this day, people offer food to crows to appease them and prevent misfortune from entering their homes.

#### Africa: Rain Bird Superstition (Southern Africa)

The call of the rain bird (Burchell's Coucal) is believed to signal imminent rain. This belief is rooted in real observations, as these birds tend to be more vocal before storms. Farmers still use these natural signs to predict the weather, particularly in rural areas. Also, owls are often viewed as harbingers of misfortune or even death in many African cultures. In some traditions, hearing an owl's hoot near a home is believed to foreshadow a death in the family. This superstition arises from the owl's nocturnal habits and eerie calls.

#### South America: The "Huevos de San Juan" (Argentina & Chile)

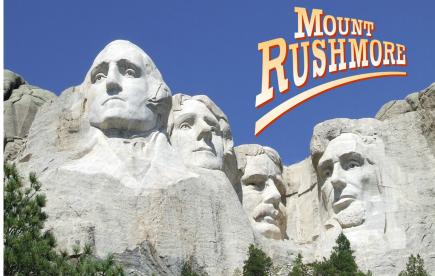
On June 24, St. John's Day, people crack an egg into a glass of water and leave it overnight. In the morning, the shapes formed by the egg whites are interpreted as omens—such as a ship symbolizing travel or a house signifying prosperity. This practice has roots in Spanish folklore and continues in parts of Latin America. In many Latin American cultures, a dog howling at night without reason is considered an omen of death or misfortune. This belief exists in Mexico, Brazil, and the Caribbean, where dogs are thought to have spiritual sensitivity, detecting unseen spirits or danger.

#### Australia & Oceania: The Crocodile's Call (Australia, Aboriginal Beliefs)

Some Aboriginal Australian groups believe that the sounds made by crocodiles or frogs can predict rain. This belief is based on natural observations, as these animals tend to become more active before storms. Many Indigenous Australian traditions connect animals with spiritual guidance, making these predictions a blend of practical knowledge and cultural significance. In Hawaiian culture, sharks are revered as *aumakua*—ancestral spirits that guide and protect families. Some Hawaiian families believe they have a specific shark guardian and honor it with offerings. From predicting the weather to interpreting omens, these beliefs showcase how different cultures have interacted with nature and sought guidance from the world around them. While some of these superstitions are rooted in scientific observations, others remain fascinating mysteries passed down through generations.

## **BRIEFS & NOTES**

#### Mount Rushmore and Similar Global Landmarks



Monuments that feature grand depictions of national leaders or symbolic figures exist worldwide, each reflecting unique cultural and historical narratives.

Carved into the southeastern face of <u>Mount</u> <u>Rushmore</u> in South Dakota's Black Hills National Forest are four gigantic sculptures depicting the faces of U.S. Presidents George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln, and Theodore Roosevelt. The 60-foot-high faces were shaped from the granite rock face between 1927 and 1941 and represent one of the world's largest pieces of sculpture, as well as one of America's most popular tourist attractions. To many Native Americans, however, Mount Rushmore represents a desecration of lands considered sacred by the Lakota Sioux, the original residents of the Black Hills region who were displaced by white settlers and gold miners in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century.

#### **Mount Rushmore Depictions**

On July 4, 1930, a dedication ceremony was held for the head of Washington. After workers found the stone in the original site to be too weak, they moved Jefferson's head from the right of Washington's to the left; the head was dedicated in August 1936, in a ceremony attended by President Franklin D. Roosevelt. In September 1937, Lincoln's head was dedicated, while the fourth and final head—that of FDR's fifth cousin, Theodore Roosevelt—was dedicated in July 1939.

Mount Rushmore National Memorial, sometimes called the "Shrine of Democracy," has become one of the most iconic images of America and an international tourist attraction. In 1959, it gained even more attention as the site of a climactic chase scene in Alfred Hitchcock's film "North by Northwest." (In fact, South Dakota did not allow filming on Mount Rushmore itself, and Hitchcock had a large-scale model of the mountain built in a Hollywood studio.) In 1991, Mount Rushmore celebrated its 50th anniversary after undergoing a \$40 million restoration project. The National Park Service, which maintains Mount Rushmore, records upwards of two million visitors every year. Meanwhile, many Sioux activists have called for the monument to be taken down, even as they continue to protest what they view as the illegal U.S. possession of their ancestral lands.

Below are some of the most notable counterparts to Mount Rushmore and their significance:

India – <u>The Statue of Unity</u> is the world's tallest statue (182m or 597 feet), depicting Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, India's unifier after independence. Significance: Like Mount Rushmore, it commemorates a leader crucial to nation-building, symbolizing unity and strength.

**Brazil** – <u>Christ the Redeemer</u>, a 30m or 98 feet tall Art Deco statue of Jesus Christ atop Corcovado Mountain in Rio de Janeiro. Significance: Unlike Mount Rushmore's political focus, this monument embodies Brazil's Christian identity and national pride.

**Russia** – <u>The Motherland Calls</u>, an 85m or 279 feet tall statue in Volgograd, commemorating the Soviet victory in the Battle of Stalingrad. Significance: It represents resilience and sacrifice during WWII, contrasting with Mount Rushmore's celebration of U.S. political history.

**China** – <u>The Terracotta Army</u> - Thousands of life-sized soldier sculptures built to protect Emperor Qin Shi Huang's tomb. Significance: Unlike Mount Rushmore, which honors democratic leaders, this reflects China's imperial and military legacy.

**Turkey** – <u>Anitkabir (Atatürk Mausoleum)</u> - The grand tomb of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, founder of modern Turkey. Significance: Like Mount Rushmore, it pays tribute to a transformative leader but with a stronger emphasis on secularism and national reform.

While Mount Rushmore immortalizes U.S. presidents who have shaped the nation's democracy, global counterparts focus on themes such as unity, resilience, faith, and military strength. Each monument serves as a powerful reflection of its country's historical and cultural identity.

## **INDEPENDENCE AND NATIONAL DAYS (FEBRUARY 2025)**

**February 4, 1948** – **Sri Lanka:** British Ceylon gained independence from Great Britain on February 4, 1948. When it became a republic on May 22, 1972, it was renamed the Republic of Sri Lanka.

**February 7, 1974 – Grenada:** After becoming a self-governing state in association with the United Kingdom in 1967, Grenada became an independent nation on February 7, 1974.

February 11, 1929 – Holy See (Vatican City): On this date, the Holy See signed three treaties with Italy that acknowleged its full sovereignty and established its territorial extent. Currently, its National Day is celebrated on March 13, the election day of Pope Francis.

**February 13, 1913** – **Tibet:** After Tibetan troops had driven out the soldiers of the collapsing Manchu (Qing) Dynasty, the 13<sup>th</sup> Dalai Lama proclaimed independence from China on February 13, 1913. The Chinese never accepted this proclamation, and in 1949, it reoccupied the Himalayan region. Tibet is currently an autonomous area within the People's Republic of China but continues to fight for its independence.

**February 15, 1804** – **Serbia:** Although Serbia gained independence from the State Union of Serbia and Montenegro on June 5, 2006, its National Day, known as Statehood Day, is celebrated on February 15. It marks two historical events, the beginning of the First Serbian Uprising in 1804 and the adoption of the First Serbian Constitution in 1835.

**February 16, 1918** – Lithuania: On February 16, 1918, Lithuania gained independence from Soviet Russia and Germany; a day known as Restoration of the State Day. Lithuanians celebrate a second national day: March 11, Restoration of Independence Day, marking the day in 1990 when Lithuania declared independence from the Soviet Union.

February 17, 2008 – Kosovo: On this date, the Kosovo Assembly unanimously voted to declare independence from Serbia.

**February 18, 1965 – Republic of The Gambia:** The Gambia, the smallest country within mainland Africa and a British Crown colony and protectorate, gained independence from Great Britain on February 18, 1965. It remained a constitutional monarchy within the Commonwealth until it became a republic on April 24, 1970.

**February 22, 1979** – **St. Lucia:** After being contested between the French and British throughout the  $17^{th}$  and  $18^{th}$  centuries, St. Lucia became a British Crown colony in 1814. On February 22, 1979, it gained full independence, choosing to remain within the Commonwealth as a parliamentary democracy.

**February 23 – Japan:** Since Emperor Naruhito ascended to the Chrysanthemum Throne on May 1, 2019, Japan has celebrated February 23 as its National Day to honor the Emperor who was born on February 23, 1960.

**February 24, 1918** – **Estonia**: Estonia celebrates two independence days: Independence Day on February 24, the day they declared independence from Soviet Russia in 1918, and Restoration of Independence Day, on

August 20, the day they declared independence from the Soviet Union in 1991.

**February 25, 1963** – **Kuwait:** Under the leadership of Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salim Al-Sabah, Kuwait gained independence from Britain on June 19, 1961. Starting in 1963, National Day celebrations were moved to February 25 to avoid the prevailing summer heat. The date was chosen to coincide with the anniversary of the Sheikh's coronation in 1950.

**February 27, 1844 – Dominican Republic:** On this date, Dominicans seized the fortress of Puerta del Conde and drove the Haitian army out of Santo Domingo. Since this day marked a turning point in the nation's history, it is celebrated annually as its Independence 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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