HOLIDAYS AND CELEBRATIONS IN UKRAINE

We celebrate many holidays in Ukraine. Among them there are national holidays, religious festivals and special days. Winter is the most festive season of a year.

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| **Date or month** | **Name of the festival** |
| January 1 | **New Year’s Day** – we usually celebrate it with families or friends. We decorate Christmas Trees and give presents to each other. There is a lot of singing and dancing on this day. |
| January 6 | **Christmas Eve** – people have special dinner which consists of 12 lean dishes. It’s a family holiday. |
| January 7  February 14 | **Christmas Day** – is one of the greatest religious festivals. For most people it is much more important than New Year’s Day. On that day people go to church, visit their relatives, give presents to children. It is a family holiday.  We have also many other religious holidays in winter.  **St Valentine’s Day** – now people in Ukraine (especially young people) celebrate this day giving each other Valentine cards and small gifts. |
| March 8 | **Women’s Day** – is the first spring holiday. On that day men give flowers and gifts to women. |
| March/April | **Easter Sunday** – is the celebration of Christ resurrection. It is the greatest spring holiday. Ukrainian people have many Easter traditions. |
| May 1-2 | **The festival of spring and labour** – people usually have picnics if the weather is fine. |
| May 9  May 13 | **Victory Day** – on May 9, 1945 the end of the Great Patriotic War was proclaimed. Now on this day we commemorate all the soldiers who died during wars.  **Mother’s Day –** children give flowers, gifts and special cards to their mothers. In schools we often have special celebrations for mothers. |
| May/June | **TheHoly Trinity** – a religious festival. In Ukraine it is also called **Green Festival (Zelene Sviato)** because people decorate their houses with green branches and flowers. |
| June 28 | **Constitution Day** – In 1991 the new Constitution of Ukraine was adopted on June 28. Now it is a national holiday in our country. |
| August 24 | **Independence Day** – on August 24, 1991 Ukraine was proclaimed a sovereign state. Earlier it had been one of the Soviet Republics. |
| September 1 | **Day of Knowledge** – on 1 September a new academic year begins in all schools, colleges and universities. |
| Autumn | In autumn there are many **local harvest festivals**. It is also the season of weddings. |
| October 31 | **Halloween –** this celebration is very popular with young people.  They often have fancy dress parties. |
| December 19 | **St Nicolas Day** – children believe that St Nicolas brings gifts to children who obey their parents. Practically all of them get presents on that day. The presents are usually put under their pillows. |