



The United States of America





The USA



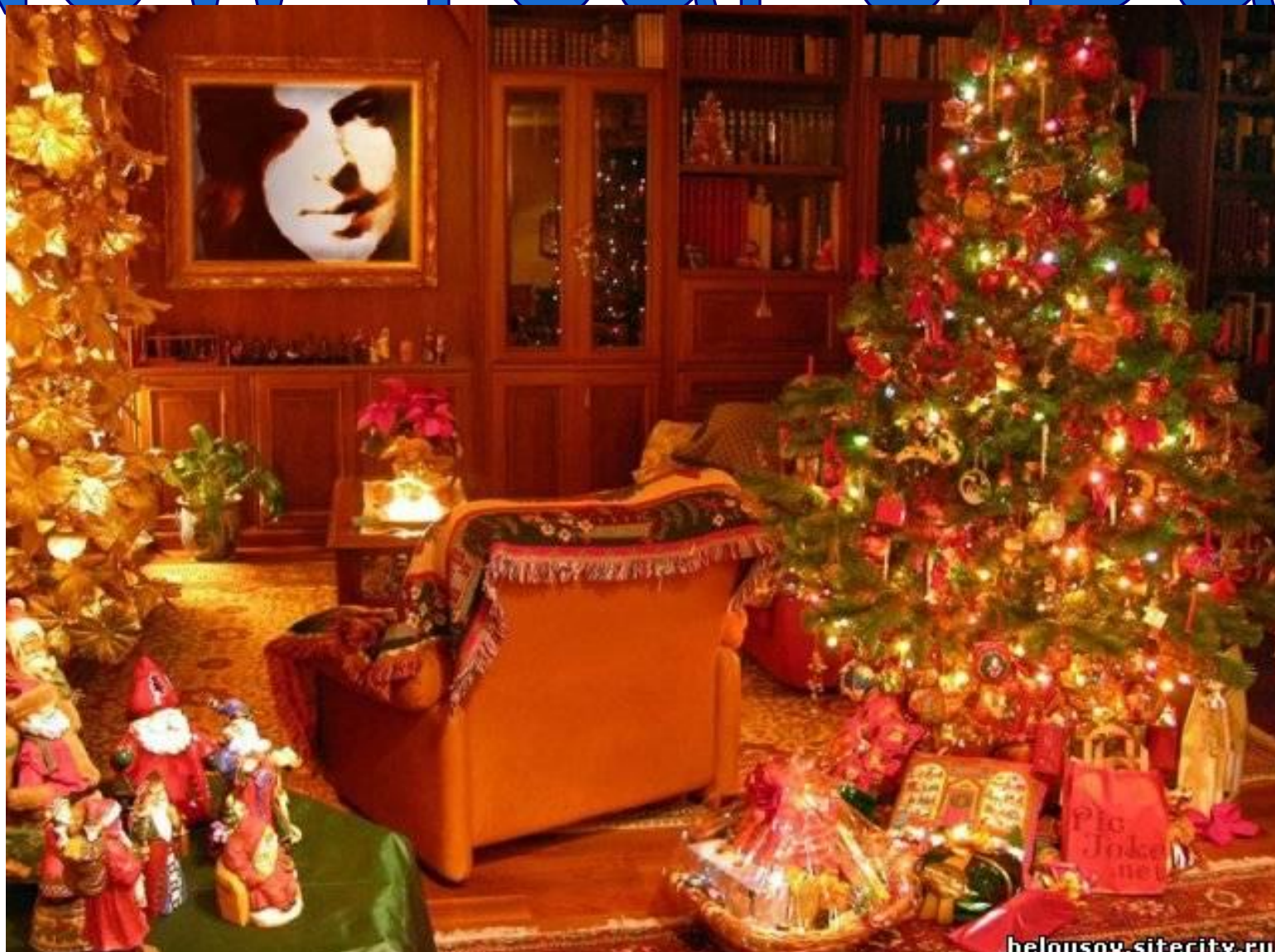
Holidays and Special Days in the USA



There are 10 federal holidays in America. Some states celebrate them on different dates.

Date/Day	Holiday
1st January	<u>New Year's Day</u>
January (Third Monday)	<u>Martin Luther King's Birthday</u>
February (Third Monday)	<u>President's Day</u>
May (Last Monday)	<u>Memorial Day</u>
4th July	<u>Independence Day</u>
September (First Monday)	<u>Labor Day</u>
October (Second Monday)	<u>Columbus Day</u>
11th November	<u>Veteran's Day</u>
November (Fourth Thursday)	<u>Thanksgiving Day</u>
25th December	<u>Christmas Day</u>

New Year's Day





New Year's Day

1st January

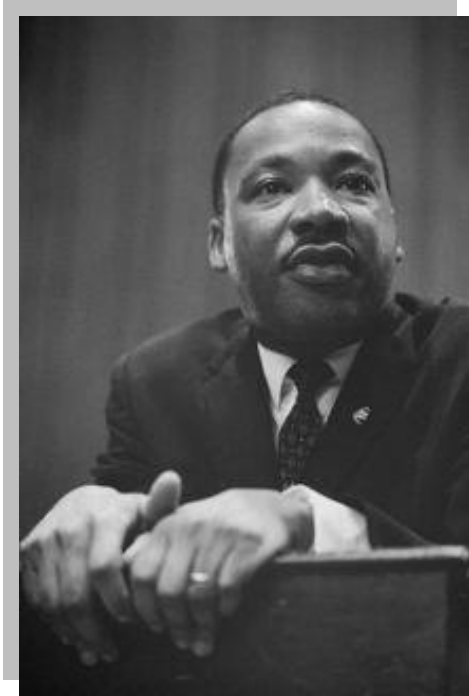
New Years Eve (December 31) is a time for big parties and celebrations in the USA. The most famous outdoors New Years Eve celebration is held at Times Square in New York City.

New Years Day (January 1) is a quiet day for recovery from the celebration of the previous evening. Some people have dinner parties for their family or invite guests.



Martin Luther King's Birthday

January (Third Monday)



On this day people remember the Afro-American civil rights leader who fought discrimination against black Americans.

President's Day

February (Third Monday)

This holiday was created to celebrate the deeds of two legendary American Presidents



George Washington
(1732-1799)

George Washington's Birthday is February 22.

He was the first president of the United States.

During the War of Independence he took command of the Continental Army for eight years, until colonies won their independence from Britain.



Abraham Lincoln
(1809-1865)

Abraham Lincoln's Birthday is February 12.

He was the 16th president of the USA.

He won the Civil War between the North and the South and this victory put an end to slavery in the USA.

Memorial Day

May (Last Monday)



Americans remember the US soldiers who died in the wars. People visit cemeteries and put flowers on graves.



Independence Day

4th July

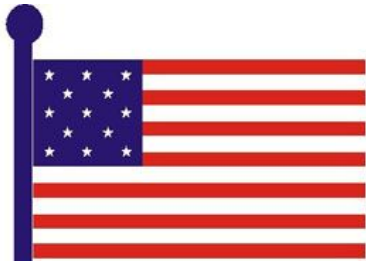
It is the United States' Birthday.

It is a time for patriotic celebrations, picnics and relaxation. Many cities and towns across the country hold parades, musical performances and fireworks displays.



Labor Day

September (First Monday)



HAPPY LABOR DAY

In 1869 the first labor union to defend workers' rights was started. Workers got the right to an eight-hour workday.

Most people do not go to work on Labor Day. They have a three-day weekend. In some cities there is a parade.

Columbus Day

October (Second Monday)

On this day Americans remember Christopher Columbus, an Italian explorer. He sailed west across the Atlantic to find a faster route to travel from Asia to Europe. On October 1, in 1492, he reached some islands near North America. He thought he was in India and he called the people of the islands Indians.



Veteran's Day

11th November



On this day Americans give thanks to war veterans for peace.

At 11:00 in the morning, most Americans observe the moment of silence to remember those who fought for peace.

Thanksgiving Day

November (Fourth Thursday)

This is equivalent to the annual harvest festivals in many other countries. It is not a religious holiday. Most people in the USA celebrate this holiday by gathering at their family home. The traditional dish for the Thanksgiving Day dinner is a large roasted Turkey.





Christmas

25th December

Christmas is a religious holiday celebrating the birth of Jesus. Most families have small evergreen trees in their homes and decorate them with colored lights.

On Christmas morning, children awaken to find gifts under the Christmas tree. Christmas day is a family holiday. Close friends, relatives and neighbors often visit each other on Christmas evening.



Holidays and Special Days in the USA

