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## 22 January | Lunar New Year

Lunar New Year is a celebration of the arrival of spring and the beginning of a new year on the lunisolar calendar. It is the most important holiday in China, and it is also widely celebrated in many East Asian countries, such as South Korea, Vietnam, Singapore, etc. While the official dates vary by culture, those celebrating consider it the time of the year to reunite with immediate and extended family.

Commonly known as the Spring Festival in China, Lunar New Year is marked by many traditions, such as decorating homes with red paper cuttings and verses expressing auspicious wishes for the new year. Other traditions include shopping in open-air market, cleaning the house and a dinner on Lunar New Year's Eve with symbolic dishes that bring good luck and fortune. The fifteenth and final day of the holiday is the Lantern Festival, during which people have tangyuan, sweet glutinous rice balls, and children carry lanterns around the neighborhood at night to mark the end of the celebration.

## 18 February | Mahashivaratri

Mahashivratri, "The Great Night of Shiva" is a night of special significance among Hindu's. The fourteenth day of every lunar month or the day before the new moon is known as Shivaratri. Among all the twelve Shivratris that occur in a calendar year, Mahashivratri, the one that occurs in February-March is of the most spiritual significance. On this night, the northern hemisphere of the planet is positioned in such a way that there is a natural upsurge of energy in a human being. To allow this natural upsurge of energies to find their way, a nightlong festival ensures that participants remain awake with their spine vertical throughout the night.



31 March | International Transgender Day of Visibility
International Transgender Day of Visibility (TDOV) is a day to celebrate transgender and non-binary people around the globe and their contributions to society, and to acknowledge the courage it takes to live openly and authentically. Simultaneously this day raises awareness around the discrimination and violence the trans people face worldwide.




## 28 June | Eid al-Adha

Eid al-Adha or the Feast of Sacrifice, is celebrated by Muslims all over the world as a major holiday for a period of three to fours days. It honors the willingness of Prophet Ibrahim to sacrifice his son as an act of obedience to God's command. But, before Abraham could sacrifice his son, God provided a ram to sacrifice instead. In commemoration of this, an animal is sacrificed and divided into three equal parts: one part is for you and your family, one is for friends and relatives, one is donated to those in need. Eid al-Adha also enjoys special significance because the Day of Sacrifice marks the climax of the Haij Pilgrimage (annual pilgrimage to Makkah and Madina). Additional ways to celebrate include wearing new clothes, exchanging gifts and/or taking a day off from school or work.


## 18 July | Nelson Mandela International Day

Nelson Mandela International Day (or Mandela Day) is an annual day in honor of Nelson Mandela and was officially declared by the United Nations in 2009 Mandela Day is not meant as a public holiday, but as a day to honor the legacy of Nelson Mandela and his values, through volunteering and community service. It is a global call to action that celebrates the idea that each individual has the power to transform the world the ability to make an impact.

The Mandela Day campaign message is: "Nelson Mandela has fought for social justice for 67 years. We're asking you to start with 67 minutes.".

## 17 August | Independence Day of Indonesia

The Independence Day of Indonesia is a national holiday in Indonesia and is celebrated annually on August 17th. It commemorates Indonesia's declaration of independence from the Netherlands on 17 August 1945. At 10:00 AM the National Flag Hoisting Ceremony takes place at the Merdeka Palace in Jakarta. It is hosted by the president of Indonesia and accompanied by the vice-president to re-enact the declaration of independence proclaimed by President Sukarno in 1945. This festive day is further celebrated throughout Indonesia with parades, community gatherings, athletic events involving adults and children such as sack races, and a multitude of cultural and performing arts festivals.

## 24-25 September | Yom Kippur

Yom Kippur-the Day of Atonement-is considered the most important holiday in the Jewish faith. Falling in the month of Tishrei (September or October in the Gregorian calendar), it marks the culmination of the 10 Days of Awe, a period of introspection and repentance that follows Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year. According to tradition, it is on Yom Kippur that God decides each person's fate, so Jews are encouraged to make amends and ask forgiveness for sins committed during the past year. The holiday is observed with a 25 -hour fast and a special religious service.


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## 25 November | Srefidensi Dey

Suriname celebrates Srefidensi Dey (or Republic Day) on November 25, remembering the same date in 1975 when Suriname was granted full independence from the Netherlands. There are yearly celebrations of independence held at the Paramaribo Presidential Palace, a grand colonial era building fronted by the Independence Square. The Palace is open during the day for visitors, and the president addresses Suriname with a speech. Police officers and soldiers parade in front of the palace, and the parades are followed by the presidential reception, open to guests. Throughout the country, flags are raised and there are celebrations with food and drinks.



3 December | International Day of Persons with Disabilities

The International Day of Persons with Disabilities aims to promote the rights and wellbeing of persons with disabilities in all spheres in society and development, and increase awareness of the situation of people with disabilities in every aspect of political, social, economic and cultural life. This annual day is sanctioned by the United Nations and serves as a yearly reminder for us at PwC to continue to develop our efforts to attract and bind people with work-related challenges to our organization.

