

## Kingdom of Thailand “The Land of Smiles”



**Head of State:** H.M. King Maha Vajiralongkorn Phra Vajiraklaochaoyuhua  
**Head of Government:** H.E. Paetongtarn Shinawatra.  
**Capital City:** Bangkok • **Population:** 66 million (2025 est.)  
**Currency:** Thai Baht (THB) • **Official Language:** Thai  
**GDP:** USD 526 billion

Thailand, known initially as Siam, has a history that spans thousands of years. It began with early kingdoms like Sukhothai in the 13<sup>th</sup> century and reached prominence with the Ayutthaya Kingdom in the 14<sup>th</sup> century, which became a major trade center until its fall in 1767. When looking at a map, the country resembles the shape of an axe. The Thai alphabet comprises 44 consonants, 18

vowels, and four diphthong (tonal) notations. While the official Thai language is widely spoken throughout Thailand, many Thais also speak and understand English, though more so in Bangkok and the major tourist areas. As visitors to Thailand also include many Europeans and other Asians, Thai people's language skills often also include these other Languages to varying degrees. Thai language is challenging to master. However, English is typically the common currency for cross-cultural conversations.

### Fun Facts about Thailand

The Land of Smiles - Thailand is often called the "Land of Smiles" due to its cheerful and welcoming people. In Thai culture, there are even names for different types of smiles, including the "gleeful smile," the "teasing smile," and the "I disagree with you" smile.

The Only Southeast Asian Country that was Never Colonized - Thailand was formerly called “Siam” and is the only Southeast Asian country that was never colonized by any foreign power or European nation, unlike other Southeast Asian countries. In Thai, “ประเทศไทย” (Prathet Thai) means “land of the free”. The history of Thailand (or previously Siam) could be divided into four eras/periods, which consists of ‘Sukhothai’ – where the origin of Thai language was made, ‘Ayutthaya’ – the most extended eras of Thai history, ‘Thonburi’ – the transition period to the current era of ‘Rattanakosin’ where the current capital city ‘Bangkok’ was built.

Longest Capital City Name - Bangkok is the shortened version of the capital city’s full name, which is the world’s longest name for a city or place: "Krungthepmahanakhon Amonratanakosin Mahintharayutthaya Mahadilokphop Nopparatratchathaniburirom Udomratchaniwetmahasathan Amonphimanawatansathit Sakkathattiyawitsanukamprasit." The name translates to "City of Angels, Great City of Immortals, Magnificent City of the Nine Gems, Seat of the King, City of Royal Palaces, Home of Gods Incarnate, Erected by Visvakarman at Indra’s Behest."

**Thailand is world-famous for its food, culture, and tourist attractions.** Thailand's most popular Beaches and Islands are Bang Saen Beach, Pattaya, Koh Lan, Koh Samui, Samila Beach, Phuket, Koh Phi Phi, Koh Lipe, and James Bond Island. Popular National Parks in Thailand, **include:** Phang Nga Bay National Park, Doi Inthanon National Park, Khao Sok National Park, Erawan National Park, Mu Koh Ang Thong and Koh Samui National Marine Park, Khao Sam Roi Yot National Park, Similan Islands National Park, Doi Suthep – Pui National Park, Khao Yai National Park, Sai Yok National Park, etc.

Monkey Banquet Festival—Lopburi (also known as the Monkey Province) has an annual Monkey Buffet Festival, during which thousands of macaque monkeys are treated to a feast of fruits, vegetables, and even ice cream. This festival is a way for locals to thank the monkeys for attracting tourists.

**Red Bull Origins**—The popular energy drink Red Bull has its roots in Thailand. It is based on a local drink called Krating Daeng, which was popularized in the 1970s before being modified for Western tastes.

*We extend our sincere appreciation to the Thai Trade Center-Miami and the Thai Tourism Authority in New York for their valued contributions to this article.*



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On March 19, 1911, International Women’s Day was observed for the first time. It celebrated the economic, political, and social achievements of women, who at the time, were fighting for the right to vote, the right to hold public office, and against workplace discrimination. In 1980, President Carter issued the first Presidential Proclamation declaring the week of March 8 as National Women’s History Week. In 1981, Congress passed a resolution establishing a national celebration, and in 1988, Congress passed Public Law 100-9, proclaiming March as Women’s History Month.

As we celebrate Women’s History Month 2025, we honor not only women trailblazers and their indomitable spirit, but all women who quietly, and not so quietly, change our world for the better. Their resilience, creativity, and unwavering determination to overcome obstacles clear a path for those of us following in their footsteps. Every success and every setback have served as a steppingstone, enabling us to strive for greater heights.

The impact of women extends far beyond extraordinary feats. Consider the everyday heroes — community leaders who champion social change, healthcare workers who tirelessly care for others, and teachers who encourage young minds to pursue their dreams – they are all helping to create a brighter tomorrow and better future for all of us. As we celebrate those who have come before us, let us support each other and ensure that the path forward is paved with opportunity and equality for all.

Dear readers, my colleagues and I are honored to share *Global Horizons* with you and are grateful for your continued support. We hope you enjoy this issue.

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# DIPLOMATIC & CONSULAR RELATIONS

## Cherry Blossoms: A Symbol of International Diplomacy

Image Source: [tokyoftrat.com](http://tokyoftrat.com)



[Cherry blossoms](#) have long symbolized friendship and peace in international diplomacy. One of the most notable examples is [Japan's 1912 gift of 3,000 cherry trees to Washington, D.C.](#), representing goodwill between the two nations. This gesture blossomed into an enduring tradition, with the annual National Cherry Blossom Festival celebrating not only the blooms but also the bond between the U.S. and Japan. Beyond the U.S., Japan has shared cherry trees with countries worldwide, fostering cultural exchange and strengthening diplomatic ties. Cherry blossom festivals in cities from Vancouver to Berlin highlight global appreciation for the blooms, promoting unity and cross-cultural understanding. The fleeting beauty of cherry blossoms reminds us of the value of peace and friendship — a powerful message that continues to resonate in international relations today.

Cherry blossom festivals are celebrated in many countries across the world starting in March, primarily to mark the arrival of spring and to honor the beauty and fleeting nature of cherry blossoms. These festivals typically feature cultural events, traditional ceremonies, and gatherings, as people come together to appreciate the delicate blooms.

Here's a look at some of the most notable cherry blossom festivals globally:

### [Japan: Hanami](#)

Location: Nationwide, with famous spots in Tokyo, Kyoto, and Osaka. In Japan, cherry blossom season is celebrated through *Hanami*, which means "flower viewing." This ancient tradition involves people gathering in parks or temples to admire the blossoms, have picnics, and enjoy the transient beauty of the flowers. The cherry blossom, or *sakura*, is deeply embedded in Japanese culture. Its brief bloom symbolizes the impermanence of life, and its appreciation reflects Japan's philosophical approach to the beauty of fleeting moments.

### [United States: National Cherry Blossom Festival](#)

Location: Washington, D.C. - The National Cherry Blossom Festival is one of the most famous cherry blossom celebrations outside of Japan. It commemorates the 1912 gift of 3,000 cherry trees from Japan to the United States as a symbol of friendship. The event celebrates the cultural exchange between the U.S. and Japan, and the beauty of spring's arrival in Washington, D.C.

### [International Cherry Blossom Festival](#)

Location: Macon, Georgia - The International Cherry Blossom Festival in Macon, Georgia, is a major event celebrating the beauty of over 300,000 cherry trees that bloom in the city each spring. Macon hosts this festival to honor the city's long history with cherry trees. The festival, held for about 10 days in March, is a major springtime celebration in the southeastern U.S.

### [South Korea: Jinhae Cherry Blossom Festival](#)

Location: Jinhae - The Jinhae Cherry Blossom Festival, held annually in the spring, is one of South Korea's most popular events. Jinhae is home to over 340,000 cherry trees, which blanket the town in pink and white blossoms.

### [China: Shanghai Cherry Blossom Festival](#)

Location: Shanghai - The Shanghai Cherry Blossom Festival is a major spring event that takes place at several parks and gardens around the city, especially in Gucun Park, which boasts one of the largest cherry blossom groves in China. The festival is celebrated every spring as the cherry blossoms come into full bloom.

### [Taiwan: Alishan Cherry Blossom Festival](#)

Location: Alishan - The Alishan Cherry Blossom Festival is one of Taiwan's most significant spring celebrations. It takes place in the picturesque Alishan mountain area, known for its breathtaking views and abundant cherry trees. The festival features cultural performances, local food stalls, and opportunities to explore the natural beauty of the area, including hiking trails.

### [Germany: Hamburg Cherry Blossom Festival](#)

Location: Hamburg - The Hamburg Cherry Blossom Festival takes place in the city's Altona district, where streets are lined with cherry trees that bloom beautifully in spring. The festival includes traditional Japanese performances and cultural exhibits, with visitors enjoy both the blossoms and the fusion of cultures.

### [Canada: Vancouver Cherry Blossom Festival](#)

Location: Vancouver - The Vancouver Cherry Blossom Festival is a beloved event in the city, where thousands of cherry trees bloom across the metropolitan area, particularly around the city's parks and waterfront. The festival includes a variety of cultural and community activities that highlight Vancouver's diverse heritage and strong cultural ties to Japan.

### [France: The Cherry Blossom Festival in Paris](#)

Location: Paris - Although Paris is not particularly known for cherry blossoms, several areas of the city, especially around Parc de Sceaux and Parc des Buttes-Chaumont, experience beautiful blooms in the spring. Events often include walks under the cherry trees, photography exhibits, and sometimes Japanese-inspired activities in the city's gardens and parks.

### St. Patrick's Day Etiquette: Balancing Festivity and Professionalism

St. Patrick's Day, the [feast](#) day (March 17) of [St. Patrick](#), patron [saint](#) of [Ireland](#). Born in [Roman Britain](#) in the late 4<sup>th</sup> century, he was kidnapped at the age of 16 and taken to [Ireland](#) as a slave. He escaped but returned about 432 CE to convert the Irish to [Christianity](#). By the time of his death on March 17, 461, he had established [monasteries](#), [churches](#), and schools. It was the emigrants, particularly to the [United States](#), who transformed St. Patrick's Day into a largely [secular holiday](#) of revelry and celebration of things [Irish](#). Cities with large numbers of Irish immigrants, who often wielded political power, staged the most extensive celebrations, which included elaborate parades. [Boston](#) held its first St. Patrick's Day parade in 1737, followed by [New York City](#) in 1762. Since 1962, [Chicago](#) has colored its [river](#) green to mark the holiday. (Although blue was traditionally associated with St. Patrick's, green is now commonly connected with the day.) Irish and non-Irish alike commonly participate in the "wearing of the green"—sporting an item of green clothing or a shamrock, the Irish national plant, in the lapel. [Corned beef](#) and [cabbage](#) are associated with the holiday, and even [beer](#) is sometimes dyed green to celebrate the day. Here are a practical [guide](#) to celebrating St. Patrick's Day in the workplace while maintaining a business-appropriate presence.

#### Do's: Celebrate Smartly

**Incorporate a Touch of Green:** Wearing a subtle yet visible splash of green—like a tie, scarf, or tasteful pin—acknowledges the day without becoming a distraction. There is no need to flash the inside tag of your sweater to prove your festive spirit.

**Host a Festive Office Luncheon:** A St. Patrick's Day-themed potluck is a fantastic way to build camaraderie. Traditional dishes like corned beef, cabbage, or Irish soda bread can unite people while keeping the celebration workplace-friendly.

**Share a Sweet Gesture:** Delivering shamrock-shaped cookies or other festive treats to valued clients, supportive colleagues, or helpful neighbors is a thoughtful way to spread cheer and gratitude.

#### Don'ts: Keep It Professional

**No Pinching** — Not everyone wears green, and that's okay. Some may feel the color doesn't suit them, or they may choose a different look. Respect personal choices — pinching belongs on the playground, not in the office.

**Skip Over-the-Top Decorations:** A small desk decoration or accessory is plenty. Overloading your workspace with shamrocks, leprechaun hats, and green streamers might be fun at home, but it's distracting in a professional setting.

**Avoid Green Nails (or Other Bold Looks):** While green nails, face paint, or novelty glasses may feel festive, they're better saved for personal celebrations after hours. Stick to well-groomed, professional looks during the workday.

**Leave the Leprechaun Hat at Home:** It might make your friends laugh at a weekend parade, but it's unlikely to impress your clients or leadership team. Remember, you're representing yourself and your organization — keep it polished.

Sources: [Britannica](#); [Diane Gottsman](#).

### Reuniting at the Gate: U.S. Airports Offering Non-Ticketed Visitor Passes

Saying goodbye or welcoming loved ones at the airport just got more personal. A select group of U.S. airports now offer programs allowing non-ticketed visitors beyond security — bringing back the chance to meet family and friends right at the gate. Each airport's program varies — some require advance registration, while others offer same-day applications. Expect to undergo standard TSA screening (without Precheck perks), and digital passes are often required. Reconnecting at the gate is no longer a thing of the past; with some planning, you can create a more meaningful airport send-off or arrival. Here's a streamlined breakdown of U.S. airports offering non-ticketed visitor programs:

**San Antonio International Airport (SAT), San Antonio, TX.** SAT Pass Program. You can apply for the same day or up to seven days in advance. Limited passes are valid from the approved start time until 9 p.m.

**Philadelphia International Airport (PHL), Philadelphia, PA.** Wingmate Pass. This free program is limited to 100 visitors per day. You can apply up to 7 days ahead, with a limit of 6 hours.

**Orlando International Airport (MCO), Orlando, FL.** The Experience MCO Visitor Pass is only for Terminal C access. No printed passes or hand luggage are allowed.

**Seattle-Tacoma International Airport (SEA), Seattle, WA.** SEA Visitor Pass. 300 passes available daily. Enter via Checkpoint 3 between 5 a.m. and 9 p.m.; multiple re-entries are allowed.

**Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport (MSY) – New Orleans, LA.** MSY Guest Pass. There are 50 weekday passes and 100 on weekends. 24-hours reservations are required.

**Detroit Metropolitan Airport (DTW), Detroit, MI.** DTW Destination Pass. Apply in person at kiosks in the McNamara or Evans terminals. The pass is valid from 5 a.m. to 9 p.m. on the same day.

**Tulsa International Airport (TUL), Tulsa, OK.** TUL Visitor Pass. Apply online on the same day or up to 7 days ahead. Hand-carried luggage is not allowed.

**Capital Region International Airport (LAN), Lansing, MI.** LAN Visitor Pass Program. Limited to 25 non-ticket visitors daily. The pass is valid for 4 hours between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.

**John Wayne Airport (SNA), Santa Ana, CA.** OC Air PASS. Apply for the Information Booths (Terminals A, B, C). A printed pass requires on-site ID verification.

**Ontario International Airport (ONT), Ontario, CA.** ONT+ Visitor Pass Program. Apply for specific terminal access and time slots. Digital passes are only accepted; printed versions are not.

**Palm Springs International Airport (PSP), Palm Springs, CA.** Stay and Play Pass. TSA approval is required. Same-day applications are also considered.

**Tri-Cities Airport (TRI), Blountville, TN.** PSC Pass. Only 10 passes are available daily. Apply by 8:30 p.m. the night before — no same-day requests.

Sources: [Travel + Leisure](#).



# BRIEFS & NOTES

## Women's History Month 2025

**Women's History Month** is an annual celebration in March, recognizing the contributions of women to history, culture, and society. Its origins trace back to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, evolving from local observances to a nationally and internationally recognized event.

**Early Roots** – International Women's Day (1909-1911): The idea of honoring women began with [International Women's Day](#) (March 8, 1909), initiated by the Socialist Party of America. In 1911, the first International Women's Day was officially celebrated in Austria, Denmark, Germany, and Switzerland, promoting women's rights and suffrage. The modern celebration began in 1978 in Sonoma County, California, when local activists and educators launched Women's History Week to align with International Women's Day. In 1980, President Jimmy Carter officially proclaimed the first National Women's History Week, urging schools and communities to commemorate women's contributions. The week was observed in the second week of March to align with International Women's Day. In 1987, the U.S. Congress passed a resolution designating March as Women's History Month, expanding the celebration nationwide. [Click here to view President Donald J Trump - Women's History Month Proclamation 2025.](#)

### Global Impact:

Women's History Month has inspired similar observances worldwide, with various countries adopting their own celebrations of women's history, leadership, and social progress. Women's History Month serves as a reminder of past struggles, achievements, and the ongoing fight for gender equality across all sectors of society. Throughout history, women have made groundbreaking contributions in science, activism, medicine, and beyond—often without receiving the recognition they deserve. While figures like Marie Curie and Rosa Parks are widely celebrated, many pioneering women remain relatively unknown. Below are some of the extraordinary women who impacted and changed the world:

[Alice Augusta Ball \(1892–1916\)](#) – Medical Chemist Who Revolutionized Leprosy Treatment: Alice Ball was an African American chemist who developed the "Ball Method", the first effective treatment for leprosy. Before her discovery, leprosy patients had little hope for relief. She found a way to make chaulmoogra oil, an existing but ineffective treatment, into an injectable form that was quickly absorbed by the body. Unfortunately, she died at just 24, and for years, a male colleague took credit for her work.

[Fe del Mundo \(1911–2011\)](#) – Pediatrician & First Woman at Harvard Medical School: Fe del Mundo, a Filipina doctor, was mistakenly admitted to Harvard Medical School in 1936 before they realized their "error"—but she was so brilliant that they let her stay. She later founded the first pediatric hospital in the Philippines and introduced innovations such as bamboo incubators for premature babies in rural areas. Her work saved countless lives, and she remained active in medicine well into her 90s.

[Nwanyeruwa \(Early 1900s\)](#) – Leader of the Aba Women's War Against Colonial Rule: Nwanyeruwa, an Igbo woman in Nigeria, led one of the most significant anti-colonial protests in African history. In 1929, she helped organize the Aba Women's War, where thousands of women used nonviolent protests and civil disobedience to resist British taxation and oppression. The uprising forced colonial authorities to abandon unfair policies and demonstrated the power of organized women's resistance.

[Stephanie Kwolek \(1923–2014\)](#) – Chemist & Inventor of Kevlar: Stephanie Kwolek's research led to the development of Kevlar, a fiber five times stronger than steel. Initially searching for materials to improve car tires, she unexpectedly created a lightweight, heat-resistant material used today in bulletproof vests, helmets, spacecraft, and even sports equipment. Her invention has saved countless lives, but she remained humble about her achievement.

[Juliette Gordon Low \(1860–1927\)](#) – Founder of the Girl Scouts: Juliette Gordon Low founded the Girl Scouts of the USA in 1912 with a vision of empowering young girls. At a time when women had few opportunities outside the home, the Girl Scouts encouraged leadership, outdoor skills, and community service. Today, her organization has over 2.5 million members worldwide.

[Wangari Maathai \(1940–2011\)](#) – Environmentalist & First African Woman to Win the Nobel Peace Prize: Wangari Maathai founded the Green Belt Movement in Kenya, which has planted more than 50 million trees to combat deforestation. Her environmental activism also uplifted women, providing them with economic opportunities through tree planting. In 2004, she became the first African woman to receive the Nobel Peace Prize for her work in sustainable development and democracy.

[Henrietta Lacks \(1920–1951\)](#) – The Woman Behind the HeLa Cells That Transformed Medicine: Henrietta Lacks was an African American woman whose cells were taken without her consent in 1951, leading to one of the most important medical discoveries of all time. Her cells—called HeLa cells—were the first to survive indefinitely in a lab and have since been used in cancer research, vaccine development (including polio and COVID-19), and countless medical breakthroughs. Despite her immense contribution, her family was unaware of this until decades later.

[Lillian Gilbreth \(1878–1972\)](#) – Industrial Engineer & "Mother of Modern Management": Lillian Gilbreth was an efficiency expert who revolutionized workplace organization, ergonomics, and home efficiency. She developed labor-saving inventions like the foot-pedal trash can and refrigerator door shelves. Her research on time management also improved conditions for factory workers. She raised 12 children while breaking barriers in industrial engineering, inspiring the famous book and film *Cheaper by the Dozen*.

[Bessie Coleman \(1892–1926\)](#) – First African American & Native American Woman Pilot: Denied admission to U.S. flight schools because of her race and gender, Bessie Coleman taught herself French and moved to France to earn her pilot's license in 1921. She became the first African American and Native American woman to hold a pilot's license. As a daring stunt pilot, she thrilled audiences and inspired future generations of Black aviators. Tragically, she died in a plane accident at just 34, but her legacy continues through aviation scholarships in her name.

## The Blue Zones



### The Blue Zones: Secrets to Longevity from the Healthiest Communities on Earth

Across the world, there are regions where people consistently live longer, healthier lives—often surpassing the age of 100 while remaining active and vibrant. These areas, known as *Blue Zones*, have been extensively studied to understand the factors contributing to their residents' exceptional longevity.

#### What Are the Blue Zones?

The concept of Blue Zones was introduced by author and National Geographic fellow Dan Buettner, who identified five key regions where people live the longest and maintain remarkable health well into old age.

Below are the 5 blue zones:

**Okinawa, Japan** – Home to the world's longest-living women, Okinawa boasts a culture deeply rooted in strong social connections, a plant-based diet, and active lifestyles. The Okinawan philosophy of *ikigai* (a sense of purpose) and *moai* (tight-knit social groups) contribute significantly to their longevity.

**Sardinia, Italy**—This mountainous region has an unusually high number of male centenarians. The Sardinian diet is rich in whole grains, beans, vegetables, and local cheese. A culture of walking, strong family bonds, and daily physical labor also contribute to their longevity.

**Nicoya Peninsula, Costa Rica**—Nicoyans thrive on a diet centered around beans, corn, and tropical fruits. Their strong faith, social engagement, and “plan de vida” (reason for living) contribute to their extended lifespan. Additionally, they rely on natural sources of calcium-rich water that support bone health.

**Ikaria, Greece** – Sometimes called the “island where people forget to die,” Ikaria is known for its low rates of dementia and chronic disease. The Ikarian lifestyle emphasizes Mediterranean cuisine, afternoon naps, moderate wine consumption, and a relaxed, stress-free approach to life.

**Loma Linda, California, USA**—This community is unique and largely consists of Seventh-day Adventists. They adhere to a plant-based diet and prioritize faith, family, and a strong sense of community. Their lifestyle choices, including regular exercise and focusing on spiritual well-being, contribute to their longevity.

#### What Makes Blue Zone Residents Live Longer?

Although these regions span different continents and cultures, they share several everyday lifestyle habits, known as the *Power 9 Principles*, that contribute to long, healthy lives:

- \* Move Naturally – Daily, low-intensity physical activities such as walking, gardening, and manual labor keep bodies strong without excessive strain.
- \* Purpose in Life – A clear sense of purpose adds years to life and brings fulfillment.
- \* Downshift – Managing stress through relaxation, naps, or spiritual practices helps prevent chronic diseases.
- \* 80% Rule – People in Blue Zones stop eating when they are 80% full, preventing overeating.
- \* Plant-Based Diet – Meals are primarily made up of beans, vegetables, whole grains, and nuts, with minimal meat consumption.
- \* Moderate Alcohol Consumption – Some Blue Zone residents drink wine in moderation, particularly Sardinians and Ikarians.
- \* Belonging to a Faith-Based Community – Participation in religious or spiritual activities is common.
- \* Family First – Prioritizing family and maintaining strong relationships with loved ones is central to their way of life.
- \* Social Circles – People in Blue Zones maintain close, supportive social networks encouraging healthy behaviors.

#### Applying Blue Zone Principles to Everyday Life

While we may not live in a designated Blue Zone, adopting their lifestyle choices can significantly enhance health and longevity. Prioritizing whole foods, regular movement, meaningful connections, and stress reduction can help create a healthier, more fulfilling life. The Blue Zones remind us that longevity is not just about genetics—it is deeply influenced by how we live, eat, and interact with our communities. We can all work towards a longer, healthier future by embracing these timeless habits.

Source: <https://www.bluezones.com/>

# INDEPENDENCE AND NATIONAL DAYS (MARCH 2025)

**March 1, 1992 - Bosnia and Herzegovina:** On March 1, the referendum for independence was completed, and on March 3, Bosnia and Herzegovina declared independence from Yugoslavia.

**March 2, 1956 – Morocco:** After signing the French Moroccan Agreement on March 2, 1956, Morocco gained independence from France. The abolition of the Spanish protectorate, and recognition of Moroccan independence by Spain, were negotiated separately and made final in the Joint Declaration of April 1956.

**March 3, 1878 – Bulgaria:** On Liberation Day, March 3, 1878, Bulgaria became an autonomous principality within the Ottoman Empire and remained as such until it gained full independence in 1908.

**March 6, 1957 - Ghana:** Formed by the merger of the Gold Coast (British colony) and the Togoland trust territory, Ghana became the first Sub-Saharan country in colonial Africa to gain its independence on March 6, 1957.

**March 11, 1990 – Lithuania:** This day, known as Restoration of Independence Day, marks the day Lithuania declared independence from the Soviet Union in 1990.

**March 12, 1968 - Mauritius:** On March 12, 1968, Mauritius gained independence from the United Kingdom. 24 years later, on March 12, 1992, it became a republic.

**March 13, 2013 - Holy See (Vatican City):** This day commemorates the election of Pope Francis in 2013.

**March 15, 1848 – Hungary:** On March 15, Revolution Day, Hungarians commemorate the Revolution and the War of Independence against the Austrian-Hapsburg rule in 1848 – 1849.

**March 17, 1903 - Ireland:** Saint Patrick's Day, marks the traditional death date of Saint Patrick, patron saint of Ireland. Although this day was celebrated as early as the ninth century, it did not become an official public holiday and Ireland's National Day until 1903. The Irish American Heritage Month is also celebrated in March to honor the many contributions Irish Americans have made to the U.S.

**March 17, 1861 - Italy:** After the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies joined Piedmont-Sardinia, the new Kingdom of Italy was proclaimed on 17 March 1861.

**March 20, 1956 – Tunisia:** The country gained independence from France on March 20, 1956.

**March 21, 1990 – Namibia:** On this day, Namibia gained independence from the South African mandate.

**March 25, 1821 - Greece:** After being part of the Ottoman Empire since 1453, the War of Greek Independence began on March 25, 1821. Independence was achieved on February 3, 1830, but March 25 continues to be celebrated as Greek Independence Day. Greek American Heritage Month is also celebrated in March to honor the many contributions Greek American have made to the United States.

**March 26, 1971 - Bangladesh:** Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, leader of the Awami League and “Father of the Nation” declared an independent Bangladesh on March 26, 1971. The fight for independence lasted until December 16, 1971, when Pakistan was defeated, and the nation of Bangladesh was born.

## 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 International Protocol Education Forum

The Biltmore Hotel, Coral Gables, Florida

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Theme: Cultivating Cultural Connections



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