



March 2024

English Corner

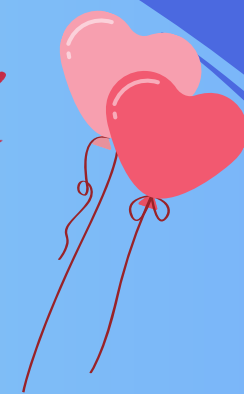
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FESTIVALS



CARNIVAL

Valentine's
Day

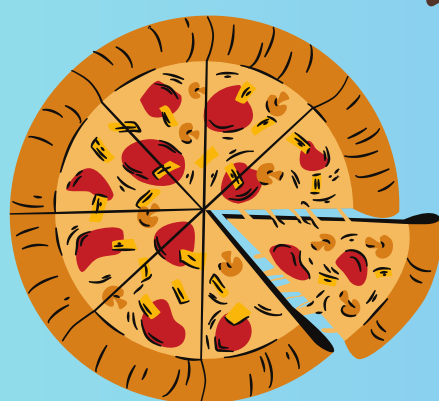


Pancake Day

Fat
Thursday



NATIONAL PIZZA DAY



HAPPY
ST. PATRICK'S
DAY





Carnival

The Carnival is a period of winter balls, masquerades, processions and games. It starts most often on Epiphany Day and ends on the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday which marks the beginning of Lent and the beginning of waiting for Easter.

Brazil - Rio de Janeiro

The most famous in the Brazilian carnival are samba parades on the so-called sambadrome - a special open-air theater. On some days of the samba festival the dancers are kids from some of the most famous Brazilian samba schools. Everyone is having fun together while they observe the competition.

The participants prepared throughout the year not only to make an impression with their dance skills, but also with their colorful costumes.

Bolivia - Oruro

In South America, the most famous carnival, after the Brazilian, is undoubtedly the carnival in Oruro, Bolivia. Dancers walk in processions through the city streets from the early morning hours. The event is held in tribute to Our Lady of Socavón, i.e. the Inca Mother Earth. One of the characteristics of the carnival custom in Bolivia is that the dancers are dousing themselves in water and spraying foam in spray.

Italy - Venice

The most popular carnival in Europe takes place in Venice. It has a wonderful history and tradition. Few people know that back in the 18th century the carnival party in Venice continued as long as a month. Napoleon Bonaparte agreed however, it was too loud and he decided to refute it. The carnival returned in 1980 in favor and it currently lasts 10 days. In the past, during carnival, people used to drink, wear masks and disguise themselves. It has remained so to this day. There are elegant costumes, wigs and masks, an inherent element of the participants Venetian fun.



Carnival

France - Nice

In Nice the most important chariot of the carnival - the queen of carnival - is traditionally decorated with colorful orchids. The procession is diversified by group performances, dance and music groups invited from exotic corners of the world. Salsa is mixed with oberek, tango with rock and jazz rhythms. There are also circus schools, stilt walkers and witches march. An additional attraction are flower battles. The spectators entering the stands buy mimosa branches and throw flowers at each other as they pass by parade participants. The rich artistic program also includes a masquerade and costume ball. These attractions are organized in elegant hotels and they are open for everyone. The "two-week madness" ends with an artificial show fire.

Belgium - Binche

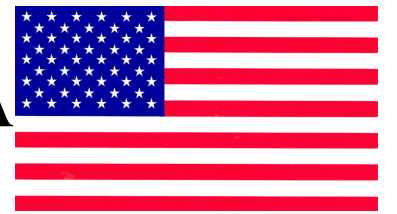
Carnival of Binche in Belgium was entered on the UNESCO heritage list. It is a tradition that started four centuries ago. Six hundred identically dressed men march through the city streets. Every one of them has an antique frock coat, white hat and wax mask with green glasses and mustache.



Valentine's Day



VALENTINE'S DAY IN THE USA



Valentine's Day in the USA is all about showing love and care. From the start of the day, children head to school, excited to exchange small cards called "Valentines" with their classmates. They prepare little boxes to collect cards that say nice things like "Be my Valentine" or "You're a great friend". Adults get into the spirit too. They send cards and sometimes buy gifts, like chocolates or flowers, for their loved ones. Some people go out for a special meal or write heartfelt notes. It's not just couples celebrating; friends and family also show their love for each other. Even pets might get a little treat! The idea is simple: do something, big or small, to make the people (and pets) in your life feel loved and appreciated. This can be as simple as a hug, a kind word, or spending time together. The day is filled with smiles, kind gestures, and lots of love everywhere. It's a day to remind everyone that they are special and loved.



Valentine's Day

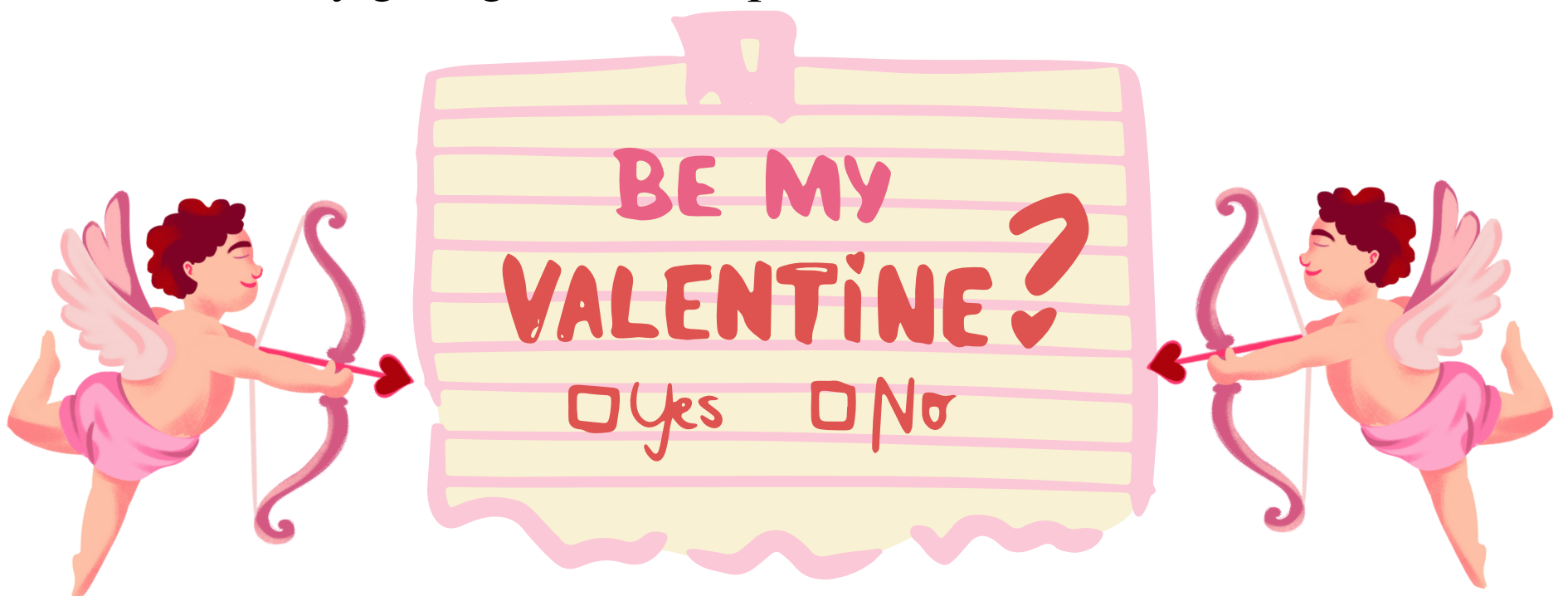


HISTORY OF VALENTINE'S DAY IN THE UK



Valentine's Day in the UK started a long time ago from a Roman festival about love and growing things.

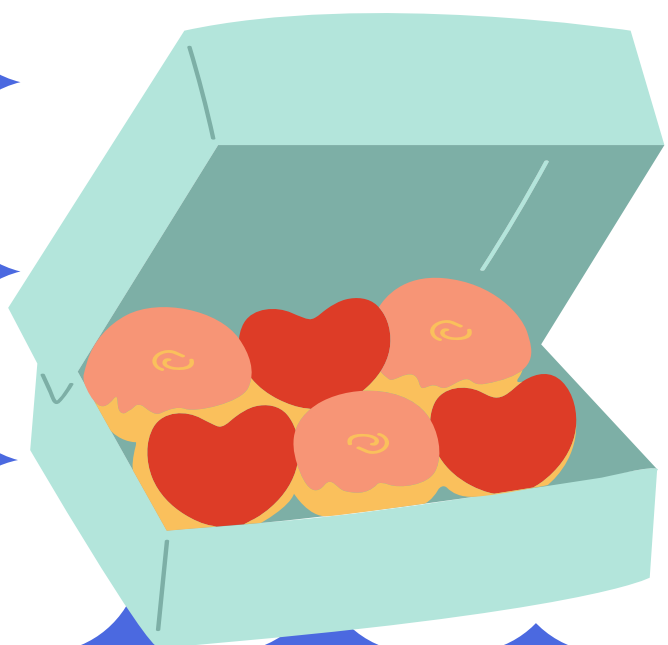
Later, Christians named it after Saint Valentine. People started to connect it with love because of a poem written a long time ago. Over time, people began exchanging cards and gifts like flowers and chocolates. Now, it's a special day where people show love by giving cards and presents.





Fat Thursday

Fat Thursday is a Christian tradition mainly celebrated in Poland. But this holiday got accepted in other countries like: Germany, Greece, Italy and Spain. For some people Fat Thursday is the day before Lent when you can eat a lot of food. One of the most traditional and popular type of pastry made from leavened fried dough are „pączki” (doughnuts) and angel wings - because during the six-week period of Lent they are banned in Christian tradition. It is said that you will have bad luck for an entire year if you do not eat at least one „pączka” on this day! :)





Pancake Day

Pancake Day, also known as Shrove Tuesday, is a special tradition in England that happens on the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday. It has Christian roots and marks the start of Lent. On this day, families make and enjoy pancakes, following different recipes depending on the region. There are fun events like pancake races where people often dressed up, flip pancakes to the finish line. Pancake Day brings communities together with towns hosting activities and schools doing pancake-related things. Beyond religious connections, it has become a celebration for everyone. While traditional choices stay popular, newer options like Nutella, berries, and savory toppings are becoming liked. Pancake Day brings people of all ages together, creating a sense of joy through tradition, tasty food, and community celebrations.





Pizza Day

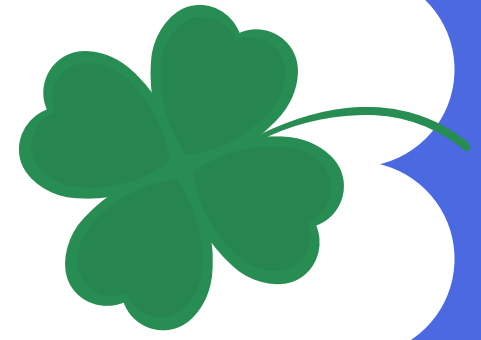


Pizza day is celebrated on the 9th of February. It was first established to honor one of the most beloved and popular food items which is pizza. On National Pizza Day, pizza enthusiasts have the opportunity to savor the delicious flavors of this iconic dish, whether it's a classic Margherita, a meat lover's delight, or a creative fusion of international flavors. From thin crust to deep-dish, from traditional toppings to unconventional combinations, the options are endless. The first pizza delivery service was in the 1960s, it revolutionized the way people enjoy pizza.





St. Patrick's Day



Saint Patrick's Day is a religious and cultural holiday held on 17 March. St. Patrick's Day is celebrated all over Ireland and everywhere in the world where Irish people or their descendants live. This Christian feast day honors St. Patrick, a patron saint, and apostle of Ireland. There are seven symbols that hold special meaning on this day. The St. Patrick's Day symbols are shamrocks, the color green, leprechauns, parades, corned beef and cabbage, and green beer and the harp. Green colour was introduced to St. Patrick's Day festivities in the 18th century, when the shamrock became a national symbol. The word shamrock comes from the Irish word seamróg, which translates to mean "young clover". St. Patrick made the shamrock a metaphor for the religion, saying that the three leaves of shamrocks represented the holy trinity: the father, son and holy sprit. The shamrock is the national plant of Ireland including both Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. One icon of the Irish holiday is the Leprechaun. In Irish folklore, leprechauns were described as solitary, small, mischievous, cranky faeries with magical powers. Legend says if you are able to catch a leprechaun, they will grant you three wishes.



Sources: St. Patrick's Day (nationalgeographic.com)

St. Patrick's Day Symbols - Shamrock Meaning, Why We Wear Green &... (alwaystheholidays.com)

