CELEBRATIONS AROUND THE WORLD



Dec 8- Bodhi Day: this Buddhist tradition has become a celebration of enlightenment and a day for remembrance, meditation and chanting.



Dec 4-12 - Hanukkah: a Jewish holiday also known as the Festival of Lights. The most well-known symbol of this celebration is the menorah. One candle is lighted each day during Hanukkah.



December 16-24 - Las Posadas: a religious festival celebrated in Latin America, Mexico, Guatemala, and Honduras.



December 21 - Winter Solstice: many cultures mark this day with festivals and special rituals, such as Scandinavia's St. Lucia, Chinese Dong Zhi, Iranian Shab-e Yalda, Peruvian Inti Raymi, Japanese Toji, and a number of Indigenous celebrations.



December 25 - Christmas Day: this day celebrates Jesus Christ's birth over 2000 years ago. It is the most widely observed Christian festival of the year. In most communities it is a family day.



December 26 - Boxing Day: also known as Offering Day, it was once a day to donate gifts to those in need.



December 26-January 1 - Kwanzaa: a 7-day holiday that was inspired by African harvest celebrations. Kwanzaa is a celebration of African heritage and culture. It features the lighting of the kinara each day, similar to the lighting of the menorah during Hanukkah.



December 31 - Ōmisoka: New Year's Eve is considered the second-most important day in Japanese tradition as it is the final day of the old year and the eve of New Year's Day, the most important day of the year.



January 1 - New Year's Day: the first day of the new year, is celebrated around the world in different ways. At the stroke of midnight in Brazil, it is believed that your luck increases if you jump over seven waves; in Denmark, it is traditional to smash plates; in the Philippines it is customary to eat 12 round fruits to ensure a year of abundance; in Ireland, one should bang Christmas bread on the walls to chase away bad spirits.



January 7 - Orthodox Christmas: based on the Julian calendar, Orthodox Christmas ends a 40-day fast with a traditional 12 dishes. It is a special time of prayer and reflection.



January 13 - Lohri: is celebrated in parts of northern India, especially Punjab and neighbouring states, to mark the beginning of the harvest season.



January 14-17 - Thai Pongal: a multi-day Hindu harvest festival that is celebrated by Tamils. It is a celebration of nature and community in which friends and families gather to decorate their homes, offer prayers and share Pongal (a sweet dish made of rice and milk) that symbolizes luck and optimism.



January 17 - World Religion Day: is a reminder of the need for harmony and understanding between religions and faith systems.



February 3 - Setsubun: literally means "seasonal division" and marks the day before spring. In Japanese culture, on the night of Setsubun, many households do a mame-maki – a bean-throwing ceremony that symbolizes driving evil spirits and seeds of misfortune out.



February 6- Lunar New Year: marks the end of winter and the start of spring and is based on the lunar calendar. 2027 is the Year of the Fire Goat.



March 6 - Maha Shivaratri: this Hindu festival is also known as the Great Night of Shiva. It is a time for new beginnings and endeavors, especially with regards to spiritual matters. It commemorates Shiva's cosmic dance that paves the way for new creation and releases negative energy.

Las Posadas
Happy Posada
Posadas Navideñas

Kwanzaa
Have a blessed Kwanzaa
Joyous Kwanzaa

New Year's Day
Feliz Año Nuevo (Spanish)
Bonne année (French)