

## June is Caribbean American Heritage Month

**Caribbean American Heritage Month** was established to create and disseminate information about the contributions of Caribbean people to the United States of America. Caribbean immigrants have been contributing to the well-being of American society since its founding. The first Secretary of the Treasury, Alexander Hamilton, was from the Caribbean Island of Nevis. Other influential Caribbean-Americans include Secretary of State Colin Powell, Cicely Tyson, W.E.B. Dubois, James Weldon Johnson, Harry Belafonte, and Sidney Poitier.

This month highlights the influences of cuisine, culture, and music from the Caribbean Islands. Caribbean Cuisine is a fusion of African, Creole, European, Latin American, Middle Eastern, and Asian influences. Popular dishes reflect the cultures that have influenced the region. The music of the Caribbean reflects the multi-cultural influences that have shaped the Caribbean and African people. Caribbean Americans come together to honor their heritage through many activities such as dancing, sharing traditional meals, festivals, parades, concerts, and observing and appreciating their rich history.

### Did You Know!

- Ninety percent of Caribbean people came from five countries: Cuba, Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Haiti, Trinidad, and Tobago.
- The largest Caribbean communities are located in New York, Florida, Georgia, Maryland, Washington, D.C., Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Texas, and California.
- Caribbean Cuisine is a fusion of African, Creole, European, Latin American, Middle Eastern, and Asian influences. Popular dishes reflect the cultures that have influenced the region.
- The Caribbean people brought music, such as bachata, cadence rampa, calypso, chutney, compas (kompa), cumbia, dancehall, filmi, Latin trap, méringue, merengue, parang, ragga, rapso, reggae, salsa, and zouk, which has a profound impact on U.S. popular culture.



The Day of 'Arafah (Yawm Al-'Arafah), also called the Day of the Standing (Yawm Al-Waqf), is significant because it is the holiest day of the Islamic Hijri lunar year. 'Arafah is the ninth day of Dhu'l-Hijjah, the 12th and final month in the Islamic calendar. It occurs on the second day of the Hajj pilgrimage to Makkah (and its surrounding religious waymarks) that Muslims are obligated to perform at least once in their lifetimes, if able.

'Arafah, or 'Arafât (literally: the Place of Meeting, or Knowing, or Fragrance) is a vast, open desert plain about 12 miles southeast of the Ka'bah, which is in the city of Makkah. The Plain of 'Arafah is marked by the prominence of Jabal 'Arafah, the Mount of Meeting, also known as Jabal Al-Raḥmah, the Mount of Mercy. This is a granite hillock rising to a peak of about 230 feet.

The Day of 'Arafah is the Hajj in itself. So said the Prophet, God's blessings and peace upon him: "Al-Hajj 'Arafah," meaning "'Arafah is the Hajj" (Ahmad). On the Day of 'Arafah, from somewhat before noon until sunset, Pilgrims, observing the rules and symbolic dress of ritual pilgrim sanctity (iḥrâm), gather to the Plain of 'Arafât and take their stand (wuqûf) of faith before God, entreating His mercy and forgiveness. From this rite, 'Arafah takes its other popular name, Yawm Al-Waqf (the Day of Standing).

## Juneteenth - June 19

**Juneteenth (officially Juneteenth National Independence Day)** is a federal holiday in the United States commemorating the emancipation of African American enslaved people. Originating in Galveston, Texas, it has been observed annually on June 19th in various parts of the United States since 1865. The original observances included prayer meetings and the singing of spirituals, and people wore new clothes as a way of representing newfound freedom.

Within a few years, African Americans in other states were making it an annual tradition. These observances have continued across the United States into the 21st century and typically include prayer and religious services, speeches, educational events, family gatherings and picnics, and festivals with music, food, and dancing. The day was recognized as a federal holiday on June 17, 2021, when President Joe Biden signed the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act into law. Juneteenth's commemoration is on the anniversary date of the June 19, 1865, announcement of General Order No. 3 by Union Army general Gordon Granger, proclaiming freedom for slaves in Texas, which was the last state of the Confederacy with institutional slavery.

Juneteenth is now recognized as an official state holiday in Tennessee. On May 5, Governor Bill Lee signed a bill into a law that would recognize Juneteenth as an official holiday. The law will take effect in June of 2023.

### [Juneteenth 2023 Observances in Tennessee:](#)

- June 16, 2023, at The Factory in Franklin, TN
- June 17, 2023, at Health Sciences Park in Memphis, TN
- June 17, 2023, at the Big Spring in Greeneville, TN
- June 17, 2023, at Freedom Run & Walk at Hubert Fry Center in Chattanooga, TN
- June 19, 2023, at Fort Negley in Nashville, TN
- June 19, 2023, at Shelby Bottoms Greenway, Nashville, TN

For other observances in the State of Tennessee, Google Juneteenth & your specific city.

## World Refugee Day - June 20

**World Refugee Day** is observed all over the globe on June 20th every year.

World Refugee Day is commemorated through stories told by young refugees at virtual and live events around the world. The day brings awareness to the importance of supporting refugees across the globe. It is an opportunity to build empathy and understanding for their plight and to recognize their resilience in rebuilding their lives.

***A refugee is someone who survived and who can create a future. – Amela Koluder***

### **What happens on World Refugee Day?**

Each year, World Refugee Day is marked by a variety of events in many countries around the globe in support of refugees. These activities are led by or involve refugees themselves, government officials, host communities, companies, celebrities, school children and the general public, among others. Read the World Refugee Day Live Blog to discover some of the activities that took place in 2022.