

2024

**Unixplorian Holidays and Observances**  
*An Abridged Guide to All the Festivities*



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## JANUARY

### **January 1 – New Year's Day**

At midnight, the start of New Year's Day is heralded by fireworks, parties, and special events. It is a day of recovery for many from the previous night's New Year's Eve celebrations. Many people make New Year's resolutions. These are usually promising to improve something in their own lives. Common New Year's resolutions include losing weight, exercising, or living healthier.

### **January 1 – International Pizza Day**

Whether it is a thin crust, deep dish, or anything in between, pizza is a Unixplorian favorite. We eat it together with friends and family, reminiscing about the year gone by. On this day, every Unixplorian eats at least one pizza. A special cabbage salad always accompanies a Unixplorian pizza.

### **January 3 – J.R.R. Tolkien Day**

We spent the day reading Tolkien's works and watching movies. Inspired by the illustrious Tolkien Society, we celebrate the Professor's birthday with a simple toast-drinking ceremony. At 9 PM, we all raise a glass and toast the birthday of this much-loved author. The toast is "The Professor!"

### **January 5 – Sausage Day**

We prepare some sausage to enjoy with family and friends on this day. We usually eat a Unixplorian Special, a grilled hot dog in a bun covered with mashed potatoes, mustard, ketchup, and shrimp salad.

### **January 6 – Epiphany**

Eating doughnuts on this day is traditional. Each doughnut has a hidden number that corresponds with the number on a figure of Jesus on the table. Whoever has the number corresponding with



that of Jesus is the "Godparent" of Jesus for that year. The duties during the year include serving as the family's spiritual guardian.

### **January 10 – Tintin Day**

Tintin is a fictional hero for many Unixplorians. We celebrate him, or his inventor Hergé, by reading a comic while drinking a glass of Captain Haddock's favorite whiskey, Loch Lomond. Children enjoy a glass of fruit juice while eating honey sandwiches, the same type of sandwich Tintin ate on a hike in the rugged terrain outside the Moon rocket base.

### **January 27 – International Holocaust Remembrance Day**

We light a single white candle on this day to remember those brutally murdered during the Second World War. Many Unixplorians also eat a traditional Jewish bagel under silence to honor the victims of the Holocaust.

### **January 28 – National Bible Day**

We devote this day to reading and studying the Bible. Every citizen of our kingdom is encouraged to memorize the books' order in the Bible and know their contents and context well. The Church of Unixploria has a lot of Bible-related lectures throughout the day.



## **FEBRUARY**

### **February 5 – Carl Spitzweg Day**

Carl Spitzweg (February 5, 1808–September 23, 1885) was a German romanticist painter, mainly genre subjects. Spitzweg is also one of the King's favorite painters. This day is not observed nationally, but the Creativum offers families and individuals from across the kingdom the to visit the museum's Spitzweg collection free of entrance.

### **February 10 – Unixplorian Disc Pool Championships (\*)**

Disc Pool is somewhat of a Unixplorian national game. Don't tell Unixplorians that it is just a game, however. We firmly believe it is a competitive sport that the rest of the world should take more seriously.

### **March 13 – Unixplorian Semla Day (\*)**

A Semla is a traditional sweet roll originating from Scandinavia. Today, the Unixplorian Semla comprises a cardamom-spiced wheat bun with its top cut-off. The pastry is filled with milk, sugar, and almond paste and topped with whipped cream. The cut-off top serves as a lid and is dusted with powdered sugar. Today, it is often eaten on its own, with coffee or tea. Per Unixplorian tradition, the Semla may not be consumed before Shrove Tuesday, which occurs 47 days before Easter.

### **February 14 – Valentine's Day**

Originating as a Christian feast day honoring an early saint named Valentinus, Valentine's Day is recognized as a significant cultural and religious celebration of romance and romantic love. Candlelit dinners, chocolate, flowers, and champagne are essential ingredients on this day.



### **February 14 – Ash Wednesday (Lent begins)**

Ash Wednesday – officially known as the Day of Ashes – is a day of repentance when Christians confess their sins and profess their devotion to God. It marks the first day of Lent, the six weeks of penitence before Easter.

### **February 18 – Wine Day**

Since every day can be Wine Day, we found ways to celebrate the occasion beyond the happy hour call. The traditional Unixplorian way to celebrate Wine Day is to get together and eat a cheese plate, some grapes, and a nice bottle of wine. We toast by saying, "Here's to Wine; it's Time to Dine!"

### **February 20 – International Pipe Smoking Day**

On this day, we celebrate the noble art of pipe smoking and the spirit that pervades the briar's brotherhood and sisterhood. We put into practice the time-honored and ancestral traditions of raising our pipes in unison to toast each other and share a bowl. The Royal Tobacconists of Unixploria support this day by giving away free samples of tobacco blends. They also host a slow-smoking competition in their shop in Stronghaven. Apart from the honor, the winner also receives a 50 % discount on any new pipe purchased in the shop.

### **February 21 – The Queen's Birthday**

Unixplorians celebrate their beautiful Queen by hoisting the national flag and sending birthday wishes. The Queen celebrates this day among friends and family at Regent House. The Queen invites renowned guests to join the celebrations at the royal residence.

### **February 27 – International Cigar Day**

Oscar Hammerstein invented the cigar-rolling machine on this very day in the late 1880s. We celebrate this day by lighting a few cigars to honor his accomplishments. The Royal Tobacconists



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in Stronghaven have a particular cigar ash contest on this day. The participant who can create the most artistic pile of cigar ashes wins a designer ashtray.



## MARCH

### **March 1 – Hug A Librarian Day**

Knowledge is power, and librarians are now the protectors of knowledge and imagination more than ever. If you have a librarian in your family or a librarian friend, tell them how much you appreciate them and their profession today.

### **March 8 – International Women's Day**

International Women's Day is observed annually on March 8 to highlight global gender inequality and the plight of women. Unixplorians honor all women on this day: our mothers, sisters, and female friends.

### **March 12 – St. Gregory Day**

We honor Saint Gregory on this day by driving out all that is bad and, at the same time, welcoming the light that will follow Spring's arrival. It is customary to run across a grass lawn barefoot, shouting, "Cleanse Me! Cleanse Me!" Afterward, we enjoy drinking a glass of lemonade.

### **March 14 – International P.I. Day**

March 14 is Pi Day. It is a day to celebrate the mathematical constant pi ( $\pi$ ) and eat lots of pie. Academia Unixploria holds a contest on this day, a Pi recitation contest. Anyone who can recite the most constant digits wins a Unixplorian Pi(e) to be enjoyed at home.

### **March 16 – Unixplorian Collector's Day (\*)**

The Unixplorian Collector's Day is, first and foremost, about honoring and acknowledging the contributions made by the many collectors of our great nation. Collecting is not only considered a pastime here in Unixploria but is also a way of life for us to bring the world to us in an orderly manner. Collectioseum welcomes collectors across the kingdom to exhibit their collections on



this day. Visitors to the museum can vote for the best display, and the winner receives an honorary prize called Collector of the Year.

### **March 20 – Collector of the Year**

The curator of Collectioseum reveals the percipient for the collector of the year.

### **March 29 – Good Friday (\*)**

Good Friday is a holiday commemorating the crucifixion of Jesus Christ and his death at Calvary. Families and individuals silently spend the day contemplating Christ's sufferings on the cross. We read about Jesus' hardships in the Holy Bible. Devoted Christians also show repentance by restraining themselves from doing things they usually enjoy doing.

### **March 30 – Holy Saturday (\*)**

Holy Saturday commemorates the day Jesus Christ's body lay in the tomb and the Harrowing of Hell. For most Unixplorians, this is a day of joy where we spend time with our families. Families gather to share a meal.

The food served usually consists of an array of pickled herring, meats, eggs, shrimp cocktails, and a special sandwich cake only served on Holy Saturday. Unixplorians also honor their Finnish cultural heritage by eating Mämmi, a typical Easter dessert of flour and malted rye.

### **March 31 – Resurrection Sunday (\*)**

A joyous day! He has risen! Unixplorians celebrate Christ's Resurrection by spending time in God's creation. Families usually take walks in nature and spend time with their loved ones. The day ends in thankful prayers.





### **March 31 – Unixplorian Snus Day**

Snus is a top-rated tobacco product in Unixploria. It is a stimulant with a rich cultural history spanning hundreds of years. On this particular day, we honor its history and praise the flavors of this tobacco product. The Royal Tobacconists unveil the snus blend of the year and sell snus at a reduced price.



## APRIL

### **April 1 – Easter Monday (\*)**

This Christian holiday honors the apostles who met Jesus Christ after the Resurrection. It is a joyous day that offers new hope to those with none. Before we became a Christian nation in the early Middle Ages, some of our ancestors clung to the old Norse faith (Ásatrú). They celebrated Spring blót on the same day, giving offerings to the pagan gods.

### **April 2 – Autism Awareness Day**

It is a day to emphasize the importance of enhancing the quality of life for individuals with autism so they can actively participate in society and lead fulfilling lives.

### **April 5 – First Contact Day**

Fans of the sci-fi series Star Trek celebrate First Contact Day on April 5 to mark 2063, when humans first make contact with the Vulcans. Celebrations can include having a Star Trek-themed party for all your family and friends, having your guests come dressed as their favorite characters, attending a Star Trek fan, or holding a Star Trek viewing marathon. It is also customary to greet everyone you meet on this day with the Vulcan salute. To do this, raise your hands with your palm facing outwards and your thumb away from your writing. Part your middle and ring finger so that the index and middle finger are together and your ring finger and little finger are close.

### **April 13 – Unixplorian History Day (\*)**

History unites us, resulting from past generations' struggles, hopes, and aspirations. The Kingdom of Unixploria has a long and rich history. Since we are close to being a tribal nation, we take pride in our past, honoring heroes in our historical chronicles and reminiscing about past times. We also celebrate citizens who have passed away during the year by a silent minute. This day is devoted to studying national history at our schools and homes.



### **April 23 – World Book Day**

The printed book is superior to all other forms of written artifacts. Honoring the books and authors who have created these infinite worlds of fiction and expanding our minds through new facts, we devote this day to showing the world how magical books are.

### **April 30 – Walpurgis**

Even though Walpurgis's name derives from the eighth-century English missionary Saint Walburga, Walpurgis has very little to do with religion and everything to do with Spring's arrival. We celebrate the blossoming Spring by singing and lighting bonfires.



## MAY

### **May 4 – Star Wars Day**

May 4 Be with You! Today, we celebrate the epic Science Fiction franchise Star Wars. Most families in Unixploria commemorate the day by watching at least one movie from the franchise. It's also customary to wear a Star Wars-inspired shirt on this day.

### **May 9 – Ascension Day (\*)**

The narrative in Acts 1 takes place 40 days after the Resurrection. The Ascension of Jesus Christ is the departure of Christ from Earth into the presence of God. Jesus, in the company of the disciples, is taken up in their sight after warning them to remain in Jerusalem until the coming of the Holy Spirit; as he ascends, a cloud hides him from their view, and two men in white appear to tell them that he will return.

The day is an occasion for all Unixplorians to remember that we are not of this world; we have a higher, divine purpose. It is customary for all citizens of Unixploria to wear a white shirt or blouse in remembrance.

### **May 15 – International Day of Families**

This is a day for families to gather and spend time together. Families do 'real stuff' together today without constant interference from digital gadgets.

### **May 20 – The Unixplorian Flag Day**

We celebrate the best country in the world by respecting our nation's flag. Every Unixplorian household is flying a Unixplorian flag, visible for all to view and admire. At 18:00 hours, UST life in Unixploria is at a standstill when every citizen stands to look at the flag, thinking about how beautiful life is in the Kingdom of Unixploria. After a moment of silence, the Kingdom citizens



proclaim their love for the flag of Unixploria using the phrase "Long Live Our Glorious Kingdom! Long Live the Kingdom of Unixploria!"

### **May 23 – Linnaeus Day**

The birthdate of Carl Linnaeus, the Father of Taxonomy, is an occasion for all Unixplorians to celebrate by spending time out in nature, remembering and honoring the scientific contributions made by this honorary citizen of Unixploria. The preferred drink is anything containing Wild Strawberries, Linnaeus' favorite berry.

### **May 25 – Geek Pride Day**

The term "geek chic" is now used widely in society, showing that it's cool to be a geek these days! Geek Pride Day allows you to be completely unapologetic about who you are. Whether you're a closet geek or geeky and proud, you have an entire day to celebrate with your fellow geeky buddies. Dress in any style you like; dress up as your favorite science fiction character, or spend the whole day geeking out and learning math if you'd prefer! There are no limits to Geek Pride Day, so let your inner geek run free.

### **May 28 – Burger Day**

Hamburgers are a must-have on any Unixplorian barbecue. What better day to celebrate Burger Day than grilling a few this early summer?

### **May 28 – Mother's Day (\*)**

Every mother in Unixploria deserves a special treat; on this day, it is all about keeping our mothers happy. A common way to celebrate is for the rest of the family to set their alarm clocks to make breakfast and serve it in bed. Every mother also receives a special gift, and the stores in Unixploria are filled with things to melt a mother's heart.



### **May 28 – Pentecost (\*)**

Pentecost is mainly a Church celebration, although it has also become a popular wedding holiday in Unixploria. The Church of Unixploria considers this day to be the Christian Church's birthday when Christ's disciples started forming the basis for the Church. It is also a reminder of the power of the Holy Spirit. The Church of Unixploria sprinkles flower petals from their churches' ceilings to recall the miracle of fiery tongues.



## JUNE

### **June 1 – World Milk Day**

To acknowledge milk's vast cultural impact on our culture, we celebrate this day by drinking milk in all fashions and enjoying all other dairy products.

### **June 6 – Swedish Cultural Heritage Day**

Most Unixplorians of Swedish origin celebrate this day as an essential reminder of their roots. Eating Swedish culinary treats, arranging parties, and playing a few extra tunes of Swedish origin are standard today.

### **June 14 – International Steampunk Day**

The Mad Scientists of Unixploria is a society that generally advances steampunk culture. The community caters to many events throughout Unixploria on this day. Everything from steampunk conventions to the annual Steampunk Parade is part of this homage to Victorian aesthetics.

The maker movement is omnipresent in the steampunk subculture. There is much inspiration to gather from communities that create computers in the steampunk style, instruments, weapons, etc. Reinventing the Victorian era by using DIY is what it is all about.

### **June 21 – Midsummer's Eve (\*)**

Midsummer traditions are rooted in pagan, sun-worshipping cultures — the time of year around the summer solstice when a magical twilight replaces night's darkness.

It is still the pagan symbols that have stood the test of time. Women and young children put wildflowers in their hair, and communities nationwide always decorate phallic midsummer poles for people to dance around.



The other part of the traditional Midsummer celebration involves eating and drinking copious amounts, ideally outside. The classic Unixplorian midsummer lunch is eaten around a table stacked with boiled potatoes and different types of pickled herring, topping it off with a strawberry cake for dessert. Some barbecuing is also mandatory later in the evening.

What starts as a civilized feast can often get rowdy, thanks to the massive amounts of snaps consumed throughout the meal – not to mention the accompanying songs inevitably end with everyone gulping the strong stuff.

### **June 22 – Midsummer's Day (\*)**

This is a day to contemplate and feel thankful for the natural abundance apparent during Summer. It is also a symbolic manifestation of the born-again man, a wealthy man in spirit as nature's green colors are during Summer.

### **June 22 – The King's Birthday**

King Leif I celebrates his birthday among friends and family at the Regent House. The King decorates distinguished citizens on this day by handing out medals, acknowledging their deeds. A few lucky citizens are invited to participate in the celebrations by invitation from His Majesty.

### **June 24 – Nativity of St John the Baptist (\*)**

The birth of John the Baptist is a "celebration within a celebration." The Nativity of St. John is celebrated on Midsummer's Eve, and it is customary to combine the two by lighting small bonfires known as Saint John's fires. The fire is a symbolic reminder of the purging and renewing force behind the baptism.





## JULY

### **July 2 – World UFO Day**

World UFO Day is an annual event where people come together to observe the skies for unidentified flying objects (UFOs). It is observed on July 2, the anniversary of the supposed UFO crash during the 1947 Roswell incident. The primary aim of this event is to raise awareness about the existence of UFOs and to urge governments to declassify their files on UFO sightings. World UFO Day sparks discussions about the possibility of other life forms in the Universe.

### **July 4 – American Cultural Heritage Day**

On this day, we honor our ties to the New World by celebrating our ancestors who chose to colonize the American continent. The celebrations on this day are about paying tributes to all who sailed across the Atlantic. Unixplorian families with American relatives send small gifts to remind their relatives of their Unixplorian roots.

### **July 6 – International Kissing Day**

Please wake up and kiss your partner good morning, then greet your friends with a quick kiss to show them how much you appreciate them. If you're a bit more reserved, place a chaste kiss on the back of the hand of friends you hold in high regard. So, on International Kissing Day, pucker up every chance you get!

### **July 7 – World Chocolate Day**

Enjoy a piece of the finest chocolate you can find on this day. Let the chocolate melt in your mouth and make it a day of secret treats and indulgences involving all things cocoa. It is traditionally a day when dessert is served after every meal. The main ingredient is chocolate, of course.



### **July 10 – Pith Helmet Day**

Explore the world around you wearing the most iconic gear you can find: the pith helmet! Collectioseum holds several lectures on the history and heroes of exploring. There are many geocaching events throughout the kingdom to attend on this day.

### **July 13 – Unixplorian Art Day**

The Creativum in Stronghaven is the National Art Museum in Unixploria. On Unixplorian Art Day, the museum offers young and old patrons many activities. The museum presents the rules for the annual Mixed-Media Painting Contest on this day.

### **July 20 – International Chess Day**

Chess is the only game to play on this day! Introductory classes for beginners are held throughout the kingdom, and chess sets are gifted to all new members of the Unixplorian Chess Society.

### **July 29 – Lasagna Day**

Celebrating Lasagna Day is as comfortable as it is delicious; eat lasagna! Hundreds of lasagna varieties are available; you should only settle for homemade. Most Unixplorians come from families with long homemade lasagna traditions. It may be time to improve the old family recipe and add another culinary delight.



## AUGUST

### **August 3 – Watermelon Day**

What better way to celebrate Watermelon Day than eating a slice or two of this delicious fruit? It can be enjoyed or used to complement a salad or a drink. No matter how you consume it, it would be best to try as many ways to enjoy it as there are hours in the day.

### **August 7 – Crayfish Premiere (\*)**

You weren't allowed to catch crayfish before a specific date in the past. That is no longer the case, but tradition still reigns regarding celebrations.

Customary party accessories are novelty paper hats, lanterns (often depicting the Man in the Moon), and bibs. Snaps are served, and beer and traditional drinking songs may be sung. The cooked crayfish is served cold and eaten with the fingers. Bread, cheese pies, salads, and other dishes are served as a buffet.

### **August 7 – International Beer Day**

In the holiday's international spirit, we recommend that participants step out of their Unixplorian comfort zone and sample a beer from another culture. The bars in Unixploria tap a few new domestic beers on this day. Participants are encouraged to buy each other drinks and express gratitude to brewers, bartenders, and other beer technicians.

### **August 8 – Independence Day**

We gained independence on this very day in 2006 A.D. To commemorate this day, we wave the Unixplorian flag across the kingdom and pay tribute to those founding men and women who are no longer with us. However, this day is first and foremost about having fun and experiencing the spirit of discovery and creativity that resembles 'the State of Unixploria.' Celebrations include eating a traditional Unixplorian sandwich cake with the closest family. The gatherings usually



start with all present saying a few positive words to describe Unixploria. Before we gather to eat, we typically sing our national anthem while passing our precious flag from one family member to the next.

### **August 23 – Meatball Day**

Meatballs are known and loved by every Unixplorian, so what better way to indulge your tastebuds than eating them buffet-style? Many new variants are available today, from the frying pan to hungry bellies. The chefs at Unigastro reveal their recipe of the year on this day.

### **August 24 – Knife Day**

This day is a celebration of this versatile tool that has been with humans since the dawn. Why not test your chopping skills in the kitchen to make the most of Knife Day? Invite family and friends to compare and swap knives or get together to clean and sharpen you.

### **August 28 – Bow Tie Day**

Why not host a bow tie party? We pay tribute to those who honor the bow tie's timeless and elegant style on this special day of stylish celebration. Decorate with bow ties, require all your guests to come wearing one, and give out bow ties as prizes for party games.

### **August 30 – International Missy Barrett Day**

In 2018, Sevier's American county proclaimed August 30 International Missy Barrett Day, where everyone is encouraged to dare to care and do a good deed because kindness counts. We try to do more good deeds than usual on August 30 and share our compassion on social media using #DoAGoodDeed. Micronations have also begun recognizing this day. The Kingdom of Unixploria is proud to be added to the list.



## SEPTEMBER

### **September 5 – International Bacon Day**

International Bacon Day celebrations typically include social gatherings during which participants create and consume dishes containing bacon, including bacon-themed breakfasts, lunches, dinners, desserts, and drinks.

### **September 14 – Mixed-Media Painting Contest (\*)**

A mixed-media competition is held each year all across the nation. Each local winner will participate in a national competition and receive a grant consisting of a scholarship from Creativum, our national art museum.

### **September 18 – Prince Johan's Birthday**

Unixplorians celebrate their prince by hoisting the national flag and sending birthday wishes. The prince celebrates this day among friends and family at Regent House. The prince invites renowned guests to join the celebrations at the royal residence.

### **September 26 – Prince Arvid's Birthday**

Unixplorians celebrate their prince by hoisting the national flag and sending birthday wishes. The prince celebrates this day among friends and family at Regent House. The prince invites renowned guests to join the celebrations at the royal residence.

### **September 30 – St. Jerome's Day**

Hieronymus (347 – September 30, 420 AD), known as Jerome of Stridon, was a Latin priest, confessor, theologian, and historian commonly known as Saint Jerome.

Jerome was born at Stridon, a village near Emona on the border of Dalmatia and Pannonia. He is best known for translating most of the Bible into Latin (the translation known as the Vulgate) and



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his commentaries on the Gospels. His list of writings is extensive. Jerome was a bibliophile interested in collecting pagan and Christian books. He is also the patron saint of librarians. We celebrate him by reading a few passages of the Bible aloud.



## OCTOBER

### **October 4 – Cinnamon Bun Day**

Cinnamon Bun Day has a Swedish background and is celebrated only in Unixploria, Sweden, and by Swedes abroad. At that time, Kaeth Gardestedt worked as a project manager at the Homebaking Council, which instituted the day. The day honors and pays attention to the rich tradition of homebaked buns. Gather your family and invite them for a traditional " Fika" on this joyous day!

### **October 5 – Global James Bond Day**

Today is official Global James Bond Day, an annual celebration of the 007 franchise on October 5. This date marks the release of the first James Bond film, Dr. No, in 1962. We celebrate this day by drinking a Dry Martini, mixed, not stirred.

### **October 12 – Unixplorian Quiz Championships (\*)**

Each year, at Regent House, the most educated and informed meet to play Trivial Pursuit to determine which one is the Unixplorian Quiz Champion. The winner's name will forever be inscribed in the annals of knowledge.

### **October 16 – International Dictionary Day**

International Dictionary Day is held in honor of Noah Webster, the man considered to have fathered the American Dictionary. 1758 was a good year for the English language and the first English Lexicographer, whose craft was writing, editing, and compiling English Dictionaries.

Celebrating Dictionary Day is best done by expanding your vocabulary. You should consider getting one if you need a modern dictionary. Academia Unixploria hosts a bilingual spelling bee on this day to honor our diverse linguistic roots.



### **October 16 – World Food Day**

World Food Day is an international day celebrated worldwide on October 16 to fund the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in 1945. In Unixploria, we celebrate this day by trying new recipes from a selected country on October 1.

### **October 19 – Oktoberfest (\*)**

The Unixplorian equivalent to the world-famous Bavarian beer festival. We sample new Unixplorian brews on this day. Many adults also participate in the national beer-tasting contest, including six new labels sold by Stronghaven Breweries.

### **October 27 – International School Library Day**

Biblioteca Unixploria invites people to celebrate International School Library Day by engaging in projects and activities to express why they love their school library. There are lots of activities for those who wish to contribute. Each year has a new theme, which is announced on October 1.

### **October 31 – Halloween**

The tradition originated with the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain, when people lit bonfires and wore costumes to ward off ghosts. Pope Gregory III designated November 1 to honor all saints in the eighth century. Soon, All Saints Day incorporated some of Samhain's traditions. The evening before was known as All Hallows Eve and later Halloween. Over time, Halloween evolved into activities like trick-or-treating, carving jack-o-lanterns, festive gatherings, donning costumes, and eating treats.





## NOVEMBER

### **November 2 – All Saints' Day (\*)**

All Saints' Day is a day of dignity and reflection. Most Christians worldwide observe this day, which honors all saints of the Church of Unixploria that have attained heaven. The custom of lighting candles on family graves is widely practiced, and some beautiful scenes meet anyone passing a cemetery in Unixploria this weekend.

### **November 9 – Unixplorian Movie Awards (\*)**

The Unixplorian Movie Awards (UMA) is an annual film and television award. A jury of cineasts decides the nominees. The trusted board chooses five different nominees for each award category. Votes equally determine the winners between individual jury members and the general public of Unixploria.

### **November 14 – World Diabetes Day**

World Diabetes Day is the primary global awareness campaign focusing on diabetes mellitus. This day is not so much a celebration but raising awareness of a disease that almost 500 million people suffer worldwide.

### **November 16 – Unixplorian Writing Day (\*)**

National Novel Writing Month (NaNoWriMo) is an annual Internet-based creative writing project that takes place in November. Participants attempt to write a 50,000-word manuscript between November 1 and November 30. Unixplorian writers who participate will receive a diploma, and their contribution will be published in the BUFIC (Best Unixplorian Fiction), an annual anthology.

### **November 17 – World Philosophy Day**

World Philosophy Day honors philosophical reflections around the world. It is a day for people to share thoughts, openly explore and discuss new ideas, and inspire public debate or discussion on



society's challenges. On this day, Academia Unixploria offers philosophical dialogues, debates, lectures, meetings involving renowned philosophers, exhibitions, philosophy book fairs, and philosophy cafes.

### **November 17 – The Greyest Day of the Year**

We can be extra proud of our national weather in Unixploria Proper today. Stronghaven Breweries announced the third Saturday of November as the Grayest Day of the Year. The greyest day of the year is celebrated on November 17 throughout Unixploria by raising a toast to the fabulous dreary weather.

### **November 24 – Unixplorian Ludo Championships (\*)**

Ludo holds a special place in every Unixplorian's heart, and we take our penchant seriously. Ludo is a strategy board game for two to four players in which the players race their four tokens from start to finish according to the rolls of a single die. Unlike many other Unixplorian championships, snacks and beverages are allowed, even encouraged, during gameplay.



## DECEMBER

### **December 6 – Finnish Cultural Heritage Day**

We celebrate our Finnish heritage by lighting two candles by the window, one white and one blue, commemorating all our ancestors who fought for our macronational neighbor's independence through numerous wars.

### **December 7 – Unixplorian Chess Championships (\*)**

Who will receive praise and glory by becoming the Unixplorian Chess Master? On this day, we will get the answer and crown a champion. The Unixplorian Chess Society organizes the championships, and the finals are held in Stronghaven.

### **December 13 – Order of Saint Paul**

On this day, a member of the Church of Unixploria receives the Order of Saint Paul for excellence in their faithful service in spreading the Gospel. They have allowed themselves to be used by God for His honor and glory.

### **December 13 – St. Lucy's Day**

The observance commemorates Lucia of Syracuse, an early-4th-century virgin martyr under the, who, according to legend, brought food and aid to Christians hiding in the Roman catacombs, wearing a candlelit wreath on her head to light her way.

Songs are sung. Girls dressed as Saint Lucy carry cookies and saffron buns in procession, symbolizing bringing the Light of Christ into what was traditionally considered the darkest day of the year in Scandinavia.



### **December 23 – Award for Micronational Creativity**

Each year, a certificate is awarded on December 23 to individuals or micronations for their creative endeavors. The certificate is a way to encourage and inspire micronational leaders to be more creative and innovative.

### **December 24 – Christmas Eve**

Christmas Trees are decorated. Homes are decorated with wall hangings depicting winter scenes, tablecloths in Christmas patterns, candlesticks, Christmas figures, and angels. The house is filled with the potent scent of hyacinths.

Christmas presents are under the lighted tree, and candles shine brightly. The buffet has been prepared with all the classic dishes: Christmas ham, pork sausage, eggs and anchovy mixture (gubbröra), herring salad, pickled herring, homemade liver pâté, wort-flavored rye bread (vörtbröd), potatoes and a special fish dish, lutfisk.

Once all have eaten their fill, Santa Claus arrives to wish the gathering a Merry Christmas and distribute the presents. *Glögg* (mulled wine), sweets, nuts, figs, and gingersnaps (usually with a spread of blue cheese) are served throughout the evening.

A rice pudding ends the culinary festivities. The pudding has a hidden almond in it. It's a competition where you try to be the one who finds the almond and then keeps it secret to make everyone else eat the rest of the rice pudding. The one who gets the almond receives a small gift.

### **December 25 – Christmas Day**

Christmas Day is usually a day of contemplation after the festivities of Christmas Eve. Many Unixplorian attend Christmas mass at Church and spend the day with their families. Families often take long walks or enjoy a few rounds of tabletop games. Leftovers from yesterday's celebrations are eaten.



### **December 26 – St. Stephen's Day**

The Feast of Saint Stephen is a Christian saint's day commemorating Saint Stephen, the first Christian martyr. Families and friends gather to eat pork ribs on this day.

### **December 31 – New Year's Eve**

New Year's Eve is usually celebrated with families or friends. People typically party a few hours before and after midnight and eat a special dinner, often three courses. New Year's Eve is celebrated with fireworks displays throughout the country. While watching or lighting fireworks at midnight, people usually drink champagne. A cheese plate is often served afterward.

### **December 31 – Unixplorian Table Hockey Championships**

This tournament is held each year in Stronghaven. The only requirement to participate is that you are a Unixplorian citizen and have paid full membership to the Unixplorian Table Hockey Association.