

## Festivals Around the World

### Naadam Festival

Where: Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia When: July

The Naadam Festival celebrates Mongolia's unique culture, with events that were popular in the 13th century. The festival features three sports competitions: wrestling, archery, and horse racing. In the wrestling competition, hundreds of male players participate. In the archery competition, each athlete is given four arrows to hit targets 65 to 75 meters away. A horse race can be as long as 30 kilometers. The participants in the horse race are children 5 to 13 years old.

### Día de los Muertos

Where: Mexico When: end of October to early November Día de los Muertos is commonly known as the "Day of the Dead." It is one of the most important holidays in Mexico, where people believe that the souls of the dead can return to the living world for a reunion with their loved ones as the gates of heaven are opened during this holiday. To celebrate Día de los Muertos, Mexicans gather to pay respect to and remember friends and family members who have passed away. In their homes, they build stands where they put photos of the dead along with their favorite foods and other meaningful objects.

### Hogmanay

Where: Scotland When: December 31 to January 1 Hogmanay is a Scottish way of celebrating the new year. The origin of Hogmanay is unclear, but some people believe it comes from Northern Europe. Hogmanay features a fire-lit parade and singing of traditional songs at night. The most popular custom is the practice of "first footing." At night, neighbors visit one another and share traditional food gifts such as black fruit cake and drink. Interestingly, being visited by a male visitor with dark hair is considered good luck.