



August

SUMMER AND ITS BOUNTY ARE MATURING. THE DAYS IN THE NORTHERN HEMISPHERE ARE LONG AND HOT BUT DAYLIGHT DIMINISHES A BIT WITH EACH PASSING DAY.

Obon is a festival that concludes in dark of night. The many lanterns bring magic to the air: lanterns in the trees, lanterns at the center of festivity... and countless lanterns are set upon the water at the festival's end. Each carries the soul of an ancestor who had come to pay an Obon visit... carries them home, back to their distant shore.

DOG DAYS OF SUMMER CONTINUE THROUGH AUGUST 15

1 LAMMAS

Traditional festival of the first grain harvest. Summer is beginning to wane and we, in turn, begin to think of gathering in.

6 ARRIVAL OF THE SHAKERS IN AMERICA

Our friends at the Sabbathday Lake Shaker Community in Maine honor this day when Mother Ann Lee arrived in New York harbor in 1774 with a small band of followers from England.

13-15 (ABOUT) OBON

This Japanese festival honors the dead with food, music & dancing. The ancestors return to their distant shore at the festival's conclusion as illuminated lanterns afloat on the water.

14 TORTA DEI FEISCHI

In Italy, August abounds with festivals like this one: a wedding anniversary celebration in Lavagna that dates back to 1230, featuring a cake that stands 21 feet tall.

15 ASSUMPTION OF THE VIRGIN MARY, FERRAGOSTO

Most Italians close up shop and head to the seaside for the Ferragosto holiday; it dates back to ancient Rome.

16 IL PALIO

Ferragosto in Siena brings the famous horse race that is run through the city, along with celebrations and great quantities of food.

24 ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S DAY

"If Bartlemy's Day be fair and clear, hope for a prosperous Autumn this year." St. Bart is a patron saint of bookbinders and book artists. His day brings the traditional celebratory Printers' Wayzgoose, marking the day each summer when printers in England resumed the need for candlelight for setting type.

28 ST. AUGUSTINE'S DAY

Augustine is the patron saint of brewers.



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