

ASEAN's Next Month: Key Independence Days, Buddhist Festivals, and National

ASEAN Holidays · Answer Key · 10 Questions

1. In the Philippines, what significant national holiday is celebrated on June 12, 2026, commemorating independence from colonial rule?

- A) National Heroes' Day
- B) Independence Day**
- C) Araw ng Kagitingan (Day of Valor)
- D) Ninoy Aquino Day

2. Which ASEAN nation commemorates its independence from Spanish rule on June 12, 1898, with a national holiday on June 12th annually?

- A) Malaysia
- B) Indonesia
- C) Philippines**
- D) Vietnam

3. In Thailand, Visakha Bucha, a significant Buddhist holiday celebrating the birth, enlightenment, and passing of Buddha, falls on which date in 2026?

- A) March 3, 2026
- B) April 13, 2026
- C) May 31, 2026**
- D) June 1, 2026

4. Which country in the ASEAN region celebrates its Independence Day on August 17th, commemorating its declaration of independence from Dutch colonial rule in 1945?

- A) Malaysia
- B) Singapore
- C) Philippines
- D) Indonesia**

5. In 2026, Singapore will celebrate its National Day, marking its sovereignty gained on August 9, 1965. On which date does this national holiday fall?

- A) August 7, 2026
- B) August 8, 2026
- C) August 9, 2026**
- D) August 10, 2026

6. Malaysia celebrates its Independence Day, also known as Hari Merdeka, on which date in 2026, commemorating the Malayan Declaration of Independence in 1957?

- A) August 16, 2026
- B) August 31, 2026**
- C) September 16, 2026
- D) July 4, 2026

7. Which of these ASEAN countries celebrates its National Day on September 2nd, marking its declaration of independence in 1945?

- A) Thailand
- B) Vietnam**
- C) Philippines
- D) Indonesia

8. In Cambodia, Pchum Ben, a significant religious festival honoring ancestors, begins on October 10th in 2026 and lasts for several days. What is the primary focus of this observance?

- A) Harvest celebration
- B) Remembrance of deceased relatives**
- C) National unity and pride
- D) Buddhist New Year

9. Laos observes Boun Ok Phansa, marking the end of Buddhist Lent, on October 5, 2026. This festival often coincides with what other traditional event?

- A) Lao New Year
- B) Boat Racing Festival**
- C) National Teachers' Day
- D) That Luang Festival

10. The Thingyan Festival, Myanmar's traditional water festival and New Year celebration, is typically held from April 13 to April 16. For 2026, these dates remain consistent. What is the symbolic meaning of the water-splashing during Thingyan?

- A) A ritual for good harvest
- B) A purification ceremony to wash away the past year's misfortunes**
- C) A celebration of military strength
- D) A day for religious fasting