

Water Celebrations Chart (Completed)

Name and Location of Volunteers	Festivity and Date	Description	Significance of Water	Similar Customs or Festivities
Africa Gomare, Botswana Barbara Davis	Independence Day September 30	Celebration honoring local dignitaries, chief, and district council	Competitions such as girls balancing bottle of water on head	Local parades recognizing service of leaders (firefighters, mayors)
Africa Tazarte, Morocco Erica Clark	Ashora	Children ask for pennies or douse you with water	Water dousing	Halloween: a “trick-or-treat”
South America Azogues, Ecuador Stephen Church	Semana Santa Carnival Holy Week—Palm Sunday to Easter Saturday	Semana Santa celebrates the religious aspects of the last days of the Christ's life. (In Mexico this may be reenacted.) Everyone is fair game for getting soaked. Culminates in a large, traditional family meal	Water fights: a general baptism of all, turned playful	Vartevor Thanksgiving
Central America Paris de Parit, Panama. Judy D'Amore	Fat Tuesday (Carnivales) , February Week leading up to Easter	Coronation of queen, formal presentation of queen and important members of community, parades, spraying of water on each other, dancing, and live music	Water fights: an overall baptism of sorts, turned playful	Vartevor
Pacific Kota Tinggi (Johor), Malaysia Barbara Sallettes	Puasa: Month of Ramadan	<i>Puasa</i> is an Islamic practice in which no food or drink is taken during daylight hours for one month, Ramadan. <i>Hari Raya Puasa</i> signifies the end of the fasting season.	Abstaining from water during these warm days shows one's ability to sacrifice and endure.	Lent

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Asia Nakorn Ratchasima (Korat), Thailand Rex Dufour Pathiu (Chumphon), Thailand Leslie Wilson	Songkran , April 13 Lasting 1–5 days during hottest part of year. <i>Songkran</i> is a Thai word meaning “to move” or “change place.” It is the day when the sun changes its position in the zodiac.	People perform a bathing rite for Buddha images and monks. <i>Songkran</i> is a water festival in which everyone is soaked and often topped with baby powder and tapioca. In northern Thailand, it is said that people used to soak a caged cat to bring on the monsoon rains.	People believe that water will wash away bad luck. Family members pour scented water on hands of elders to show respect.	Rain dance of Native Americans; baptisms; christenings
Tungfun (Udorn), Thailand Judith Painter	Loi Krathong mid-April	Cares, worries, bad karma, etc., are symbolically floated away on a small candle-lit raft (or <i>krathong</i>) set on the closest body of water	Water carries or washes away troubles and bad deeds; water cleanses	Baptisms. Also similar to Jewish holiday following Yom Kippur, in which bread is cast into water as a way of casting off sins of past.
Europe Hrazdan, Armenia Rich Bartell	Vartevor “Rose Day” July, on a Sunday	Stems from an old pagan celebration. People playfully douse each other, busses, and automobiles with water; especially enjoyed by children.	Water is used in a playful, prankish way during a hot time of the year.	Halloween Semana Santa Ashora
Europe Marijampole, Lithuania Lisa Burrowes	Jonines “The Feast of St. John’s Day” Merry-making actually begins the night of June 23, the longest night of the year, preceding St. John’s Day, June 24.	Folk tradition celebration of nature’s forces on the longest day of the year. People dress in national costumes; young maidens send flower wreaths downstream; a burning wheel is erected on a hill; other look in the forest for the mythical fern which blooms only mid-summer eve; many drink and sing all night.	Water predicts future; carries hopes and dreams of young girls. The farther a wreath floats, the sooner a girl will marry. If a wreath gets stuck, it does not mean she won’t marry. Washing your face in the morning dew makes the young more beautiful and the old more youthful.	Solstice