



NEWSLETTER

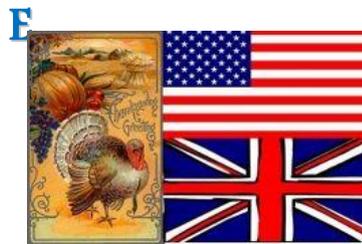


THANKSGIVING DAY 2016

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 24TH

NOVEMBER N°16

ENGLISH



Thanksgiving Day in United States and in UK

THE fourth Thursday of November marks **Thanksgiving**.

Public life

Most government offices, businesses, schools and other organizations are closed on Thanksgiving Day. Many offices and businesses allow staff to have a four-day weekend so these offices and businesses are also closed on the **Friday after Thanksgiving Day**.

Thanksgiving Day it is one of the busiest periods for travel in the USA. This can cause congestion and overcrowding. Seasonal parades and busy football games can cause disruption to local traffic.

Background

The event that Americans commonly call the "First Thanksgiving" was celebrated by the Pilgrims after their first harvest in the New World in 1621. This feast lasted three days, and—as accounted by attendee Edward Winslow—it was attended by 90 Native Americans and 53 Pilgrims. The New England colonists were accustomed to regularly celebrating "thanksgivings"—days of prayer thanking God for blessings such as military victory or the end of a drought.



The exact time is unknown, but James Baker, then Plimoth Plantation vice president of research, stated in 1996, "The event occurred between Sept. 21 and Nov. 11, 1621, with the most likely time being around Michaelmas (Sept. 29), the traditional time."

Seventeenth-century accounts do not identify this as a thanksgiving observance, rather it followed the harvest. It included 50 persons who were on the Mayflower (all who remained of the 100 who had landed) and 90 Native Americans. The feast was cooked by the four adult Pilgrim women who survived their first winter in the New World (Eleanor Billington, Elizabeth Hopkins, Mary Brewster, and Susanna White, along with young daughters and male and female servants).

Thanksgiving, or Thanksgiving Day, is a public holiday celebrated on the fourth Thursday in November in the United States. It originated as a harvest festival. Thanksgiving has been celebrated nationally on and off since 1789, after a proclamation by George Washington. It has been celebrated as a federal holiday every year since 1863, when, during the American Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed a national day of "Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelled in the Heavens," to be celebrated on the last Thursday in November. Together with Christmas and the New Year, Thanksgiving is a part of the broader holiday season.



What do people do?

In the United States, certain kinds of food are traditionally served at Thanksgiving meals. Firstly, baked



or roasted turkey is usually the featured item on any Thanksgiving feast table (so much so that Thanksgiving is sometimes referred to as "Turkey Day"). Stuffing, mashed potatoes with gravy, sweet potatoes, cranberry sauce, sweet corn, various fall vegetables (mainly various kinds of squashes), and pumpkin pie are commonly associated with



Thanksgiving dinner. All of these are actually native to the Americas or were introduced as a new food source to the Europeans when they arrived. Turkey may be an exception. In his book *Mayflower*, Nathaniel Philbrick suggests that the Pilgrims might already have been familiar with turkey in England, even though the bird is native to the Americas. The Spaniards had brought domesticated turkeys back from Central America in the early 17th century, and the birds soon became popular fare all over Europe, including England, where turkey (as an alternative to the traditional goose) became a "fixture at English Christmases".



Yum ... Let us give thanks for pumpkin and pastry to make pie.



John F. Kennedy unofficially spares a turkey on November 19th, 1963. The practice of "pardoning" turkeys in this manner becomes a permanent tradition in 1989.



Thanksgiving in UK

Thanksgiving isn't a celebration in the UK - the nearest equivalent is Harvest Festival where we give our thanks for food and the years' harvest. With so many Americans living in the UK and the close alliance this country feels for its American cousins, Thanksgiving in the UK is certainly gaining momentum.

A surprising number of restaurants around the country serve a Thanksgiving dinner and there are a number of festivals taking place. If you prefer to stay at home and prepare dinner yourself, here are some recipes and info to help you on your way to Thanksgiving in the UK.

Roast Turkey with a Sage and Onion Stuffing and Gravy

The mainstay of the Thanksgiving Dinner is roast turkey. This is a typical British recipe usually served at Christmas but works well for any dinner. This recipe may look complicated but is actually quite straight forward. If you are concerned about how long to cook your turkey use the handy choosing and roasting guide and don't forget the essential : Mashed Potatoes.

Thanksgiving Day is traditionally a day for families and friends to get together for a special meal. The meal often includes a turkey, stuffing, potatoes, cranberry sauce, gravy, pumpkin pie, and vegetables. Thanksgiving Day is a time for many people to give thanks for what they have.

Thanksgiving Day parades are held in some cities and towns on or around Thanksgiving Day. Some parades or festivities also mark the opening of the Christmas shopping season. Some people have a four-day weekend so it is a popular time for trips and to visit family and friends.



THE FOLLOWING DAY, IT IS Black Friday



Black Friday in New York is the biggest discount shopping day of the year. This is the time when it is common for shoppers to expect sales of up to 80% off of regular prices! This only takes place once a year, so read on to find out more about Black Friday...



What is Black Friday?

Black Friday is the day after Thanksgiving Day. For many, it signals the 'official' start to the holiday shopping season. Every Thanksgiving, the American retail industry tries their best to lure shoppers into their stores or to go online with the hope of spending big bucks by offering the best bargains.

When is Black Friday?

Since Thanksgiving doesn't fall on one set date, but changes each year, people should instead look at the calendar for the last Friday in November in order to find out when Black Friday will take place. In 2016, Black Friday is on November 25th.

Originally, the sales began in the very early morning hours on Black Friday, but in the past few years retailers have begun the big sales in the evening of Thanksgiving Day (Thursday).

Why is it named Black Friday?

Since the retail industry is often operating "in the red," not turning a profit, the name Black Friday reflects that this is the period of time when companies actually garner large earnings.

Because Black Friday sales mainly involve large department stores and chains, the event has spawned a separate, related day called Small Business Saturday. This takes place on the day after Black Friday and encourages shoppers to spend some of their cash at their local businesses in the community. So, if you are in New York on Small Business Saturday, why not stop by a local boutique or neighbourhood gift shop to support the local New York businessman.

What to expect on Black Friday?

BIG sales! Some amazing discounts on hot items from top brands clothes, (Apple) tablets and phones, high-definition TVs, popular toys, and much more. These products are on sale at their lowest prices of the year.

Also count on long lines, big crowds, and a shopping frenzy like no other—this is the busiest shopping day of the year in New York. Items, however, sell out fast, so it is advisable to set those alarm clocks to be among the first to take advantage of the deals and get the clothes in the sizes you want.