

AUGUST

1

Lammas

Summer transitions toward fall in this old holiday celebrating the early grain harvest.

6

Arrival of the Shakers in America

Our friends at the Sabbathday Lake Shaker Community call this The Glorious Sixth. It's the day they remember the arrival in 1774 of their founder Mother Ann Lee and her small band of followers in America.

13 15

Obon

Japanese festival honoring the dead with food, music, and dancing, concluding with the ancestors returning to their distant shore as illuminated lanterns set sail on the water. Obon is celebrated in July in some regions and in August in others – all based on the local use of solar or lunar calendars.

14

Torta dei Feischi

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

15

Assumption of the Virgin Mary, Ferragosto

It's the height of the summer holiday in Italy, where most folks will close up shop and head to the seaside. It's a tradition dating back to ancient Rome. The Dog Days of Summer end today, too.

16

Il Palio

Ferragosto in Siena brings a famous citywide horse race; this one is the *Palio dell'Assunta*, named for the Assumption. Feasting accompanies the race.

24

St. Bartholomew's Day, Wayzgoose Day

St. Bartholomew, a patron saint of bookbinders, is important to printers and papermakers, too. His feast day, also known as Bartlemas, brings the traditional Wayzgoose celebration, marking the day each waning summer when printers in England resumed setting type by lamplight.

28

St. Augustine's Day

St. Augustine is a patron saint of printers and of brewers. Huzzah and cheers!



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This treehouse, guarded by a garden gnome, is a summer refuge for some kids in Gotzis, Austria. We discovered it on our recent trip to that fine town.
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