

ASTRONOMICAL INFORMATION SHEET No. 85



Prepared by

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ASTRONOMICAL AND CALENDARIAL DATA SHEET FOR 2004

PHASES OF THE MOON

New Moon			First Quarter			Full Moon			Last Quarter						
d	h	m	d	h	m	d	h	m	d	h	m				
Jan.	21	21	05	Jan.	29	06	03	Jan.	7	15	40	Jan.	15	04	46
Feb.	20	09	18	Feb.	28	03	24	Feb.	6	08	47	Feb.	13	13	40
Mar.	20	22	41	Mar.	28	23	48	Mar.	6	23	14	Mar.	13	21	01
Apr.	19	13	21	Apr.	27	17	32	Apr.	5	11	03	Apr.	12	03	46
May	19	04	52	May	27	07	57	May	4	20	33	May	11	11	04
June	17	20	27	June	25	19	08	June	3	04	20	June	9	20	02
July	17	11	24	July	25	03	37	July	2	11	09	July	9	07	34
Aug.	16	01	24	Aug.	23	10	12	July	31	18	05	Aug.	7	22	01
Sept.	14	14	29	Aug.	30	02	22	Aug.	30	02	22	Sept.	6	15	11
Oct.	14	02	48	Sept.	21	15	54	Sept.	28	13	09	Sept.	6	10	12
Nov.	12	14	27	Oct.	20	21	59	Oct.	28	03	07	Oct.	6	10	12
Dec.	12	01	29	Nov.	19	05	50	Nov.	26	20	07	Nov.	5	05	53
				Dec.	18	16	40	Dec.	26	15	06	Dec.	5	00	53

SEASONS

		d	h	m
Vernal Equinox	— Spring begins	Mar.	20	06 49
Summer Solstice	— Summer begins	June	21	00 57
Autumnal Equinox	— Autumn begins	Sept.	22	16 30
Winter Solstice	— Winter begins	Dec.	21	12 42

SUMMER TIME

In the United Kingdom BST, one hour in advance of GMT, will be kept from March 28^d 01^h to October 31^d 01^h GMT.

ECLIPSES

1. A partial eclipse of the Sun on 19 April is visible from parts of Antarctica, south-east Atlantic Ocean, southern half of Africa and Madagascar. The eclipse begins at 11^h 30^m and ends at 15^h 39^m. The time of maximum eclipse is 13^h 34^m, when 0.74 of the Sun's diameter is obscured.
2. A total eclipse of the Moon on May 4 is visible from part of Antarctica, Australasia except New Zealand, Asia except the north-eastern part, southern Japan, Africa, Indian Ocean, Europe including the British Isles, eastern part of South America. The umbral eclipse begins at 18^h 48^m and ends at 22^h 12^m. Totality lasts from 19^h 52^m to 21^h 08^m.
3. A partial eclipse of the Sun on 14 October is visible from north-east Asia, Japan, western Pacific Ocean, Hawaiian Islands and the western part of Alaska. The eclipse begins at 00^h 55^m and ends at 05^h 04^m. The time of maximum eclipse is 02^h 59^m, when 0.93 of the Sun's diameter is obscured.
4. A total eclipse of the Moon on October 28 is visible from the Arctic regions, western Russia, Arabia, Africa including western part of Madagascar, parts of Antarctica, Europe including the British Isles, Greenland, North, Central and South America, eastern Pacific Ocean and the eastern tip of Siberia. The umbral eclipse begins at 01^h 14^m and ends at 04^h 54^m. Totality lasts from 02^h 23^m to 03^h 45^m.

All times are in GMT

CYH/SAB

2000 January
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CALENDAR 2004

CHRONOLOGICAL CYCLES AND ERAS

Dominical Letter	DC	Julian Period (year of)	6717		
Epact	8	Roman Indiction	12		
Golden Number (Lunar Cycle)	X	Solar Cycle	25		
Era	Year	Begins	Era	Year	Begins
Byzantine	7513	Sept. 14	Grecian (Seleucidæ)	2316	Sept. 14
Roman (AUC)	2757	Jan. 14			(or Oct. 14)
Nabonassar	2753	Apr. 22	Indian (Saka)	1926	Mar. 21
Japanese	2664	Jan. 1	Diocletian	1721	Sept. 11

RELIGIOUS CALENDARS

Epiphany	Jan. 6	Low Sunday	Apr. 18
Septuagesima Sunday	Feb. 8	Rogation Sunday	May 16
Quinquagesima Sunday	Feb. 22	Ascension Day—Holy Thursday	May 20
Ash Wednesday	Feb. 25	Whit Sunday—Pentecost	May 30
Quadragesima Sunday	Feb. 29	Trinity Sunday	June 6
Fourth Sunday in Lent—Mothering Sunday	Mar. 21	Corpus Christi	June 10
Palm Sunday	Apr. 4	First Sunday in Advent	Nov. 28
Good Friday	Apr. 9	Christmas Day (Saturday)	Dec. 25
Easter Day	Apr. 11		
First Day of Passover (Pesach)	Apr. 6	Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur)	Sept. 25
Feast of Weeks (Shavuot)	May 26	First day of Tabernacles (Succoth)	Sept. 30
Jewish New Year (Rosh Hashanah)	5765 Sept. 16		
Islamic New Year	1425 Feb. 22	First day of Ramadân	Oct. 15

All Jewish and Islamic dates above are tabular dates, which begin at sunset on the previous evening and end at sunset on the date tabulated. In practice, the dates of Islamic fasts and festivals are determined by an actual sighting of the appropriate new Moon.

CIVIL CALENDAR—UNITED KINGDOM

Accession of Queen Elizabeth II	Feb. 6	Coronation Day	June 2
St David (Wales)	Mar. 1	Birthday of Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh	June 10
Commonwealth Day	Mar. 8	The Queen's Official Birthday*	June 12
St Patrick (Ireland)	Mar. 17	Remembrance Sunday	Nov. 14
Birthday of Queen Elizabeth II	Apr. 21	Birthday of the Prince of Wales	Nov. 14
St George (England)	Apr. 23	St Andrew (Scotland)	Nov. 30

*Date subject to confirmation

HOLIDAYS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

The following list contains bank holidays, (compiled from the *Banking and Financial Dealings Act 1971*), common law holidays and days to be given in lieu for holidays which fall on a weekend. Dates given in *italic* are those which are subject to Royal proclamation or for Northern Ireland proclamation by the Secretary of State. There is no statutory requirement for a day to be given in lieu if one of the days falls at the weekend and is not covered by the act. In such cases probable dates are given in *italic* when they have not yet been authorised. Consult The Department of Trade and Industry (www.dti.gov.uk/er/bankhol.htm) or the Scottish Executive (telephone 0131 244 2180) or www.scotland.gov.uk/faq/bankhol.asp) for the latest details.

	England and Wales	Northern Ireland	Scotland
New Year	Jan. 1	Jan. 1	Jan. 1 Jan. 2
St Patrick	—	Mar. 17	—
Good Friday	Apr. 9 ‡	Apr. 9 ‡	Apr. 9
Easter Monday	Apr. 12	Apr. 12	—
Early May	May 3	May 3	May 3
Spring	May 31	May 31	May 31
Battle of the Boyne	—	July 12	—
Summer	Aug. 30	Aug. 30	Aug. 2
Christmas	Dec. 25 ‡# Dec. 28	Dec. 25 ‡# Dec. 28	Dec. 25# Dec. 28
Boxing Day	Dec. 26 † Dec. 27	Dec. 26 † Dec. 27	Dec. 26 † Dec. 27

‡ Common Law Holiday # Holiday falls on a Saturday † Holiday falls on a Sunday

Warning: Clauses in the *Banking and Financial Dealings Act* allow the Government to alter dates at short notice.