

ASTRONOMICAL INFORMATION SHEET No. 89



Prepared by

HM Nautical Almanac Office

THE UNITED KINGDOM HYDROGRAPHIC OFFICE

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ASTRONOMICAL AND CALENDARIAL DATA SHEET FOR 2008

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.	8	11 37	Jan.	15	19 46	Jan.	22	13 35	Jan.	30	05 03
Feb.	7	03 44	Feb.	14	03 33	Feb.	21	03 30	Feb.	29	02 18
Mar.	7	17 14	Mar.	14	10 46	Mar.	21	18 40	Mar.	29	21 47
Apr.	6	03 55	Apr.	12	18 32	Apr.	20	10 25	Apr.	28	14 12
May	5	12 18	May	12	03 47	May	20	02 11	May	28	02 57
June	3	19 23	June	10	15 04	June	18	17 30	June	26	12 10
July	3	02 19	July	10	04 35	July	18	07 59	July	25	18 42
Aug.	1	10 13	Aug.	8	20 20	Aug.	16	21 16	Aug.	23	23 50
Aug.	30	19 58	Sept.	7	14 04	Sept.	15	09 13	Sept.	22	05 04
Sept.	29	08 12	Oct.	7	09 04	Oct.	14	20 02	Oct.	21	11 55
Oct.	28	23 14	Nov.	6	04 03	Nov.	13	06 17	Nov.	19	21 31
Nov.	27	16 55	Dec.	5	21 26	Dec.	12	16 37	Dec.	19	10 29
Dec.	27	12 22									

SEASONS

			d	h	m
Vernal Equinox	—	Spring begins	Mar.	20	05 48
Summer Solstice	—	Summer begins	June	20	23 59
Autumnal Equinox	—	Autumn begins	Sept.	22	15 44
Winter Solstice	—	Winter begins	Dec.	21	12 04

SUMMER TIME*

In the United Kingdom BST, one hour in advance of GMT, will be kept from March 30^d 01^h to October 26^d 01^h GMT.*

ECLIPSES

1. An annular eclipse of the Sun on February 7 is visible as a partial eclipse from Antarctica except the northern part of the Antarctic Peninsula, New Zealand, the south-eastern part of Australia, Vanuatu, Fiji and Western Samoa. The eclipse begins at 01^h 38^m and ends at 06^h 12^m. The annular phase begins in the southern part of the Antarctic Peninsula at 03^h 24^m, crosses Marie Byrd Land and ends at 04^h 27^m in the south-western Pacific Ocean. The maximum duration of the annular phase is 2^m 11^s.
2. A total eclipse of the Moon on February 21 is visible from the Arctic, western parts of Russia, most of Arabia, Africa except Madagascar, Europe including the British Isles and the Americas. The umbral eclipse begins at 01^h 43^m and ends at 05^h 09^m. Totality lasts from 03^h 01^m to 03^h 51^m.
3. A total eclipse of the Sun on August 1. The path of totality begins in northern Canada, crosses northern Greenland, Novaya Zemlya, central Russia, western Mongolia and ends in eastern China. The partial phase is visible in the northern and eastern parts of North America, Greenland, northern Europe, including the British Isles, and Asia except Japan. The eclipse begins at 08^h 04^m and ends at 12^h 38^m; the total phase begins at 09^h 23^m and ends at 11^h 20^m. The maximum duration of totality is 2^m 30^s.
4. A partial eclipse of the Moon on August 16 is visible from Antarctica, Australasia except New Zealand, Asia except the north-eastern part, Europe including the British Isles, Africa and South America except the north-eastern part. The umbral eclipse begins at 19^h 36^m and ends at 22^h 45^m. The time of maximum eclipse is 21^h 10^m when 0.81 of the Moon's diameter is obscured.

All times are in GMT (UT)

* www.berr.gov.uk/employment/bank-public-holidays/bst/page12528.html

CYH/SAB

2003 October
Updated 2008 May

CALENDAR 2008

CHRONOLOGICAL CYCLES AND ERAS

Dominical Letter	FE	Julian Period (year of)	6721		
Epact	22	Roman Indiction	1		
Golden Number (Lunar Cycle)	XIV	Solar Cycle	1		
Era	Year	Begins	Era	Year	Begins
Byzantine	7517	Sept. 14	Grecian (Seleucidæ)	2320	Sept. 14
Roman (AUC)	2761	Jan. 14			(or Oct. 14)
Nabonassar	2757	Apr. 21	Indian (Saka)	1930	Mar. 21
Japanese	2668	Jan. 1	Diocletian	1725	Sept. 11

RELIGIOUS CALENDARS

Epiphany	Jan. 6	Low Sunday	Mar. 30
Septuagesima Sunday	Jan. 20	Rogation Sunday	Apr. 27
Quinquagesima Sunday	Feb. 3	Ascension Day—Holy Thursday	May 1
Ash Wednesday	Feb. 6	Whit Sunday—Pentecost	May 11
Quadragesima Sunday	Feb. 10	Trinity Sunday	May 18
Fourth Sunday in Lent—Mothering Sunday	Mar. 2	Corpus Christi	May 22
Palm Sunday	Mar. 16	First Sunday in Advent	Nov. 30
Good Friday	Mar. 21	Christmas Day (Thursday)	Dec. 25
Easter Day	Mar. 23		
First Day of Passover (Pesach)	Apr. 20	Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur)	Oct. 9
Feast of Weeks (Shavuot)	June 9	First day of Tabernacles (Succoth)	Oct. 14
Jewish New Year (Rosh Hashanah)	5769 Sept. 30		
Islamic New Year	1429 Jan. 10	First day of Ramadân	Sept. 2
	1430 Dec. 29		

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. 10	The Queen's Official Birthday*	June 14
St Patrick (Ireland)	Mar. 17	Remembrance Sunday	Nov. 9
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.berr.gov.uk/employment/bank-public-holidays, or the Scottish Executive, www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2005/01/bankholidays, 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	Mar. 21 ‡	Mar. 21 ‡	Mar. 21
Easter Monday	Mar. 24	Mar. 24	—
Early Spring	May 5	May 5	May 5
Spring	May 26	May 26	May 26
Battle of the Boyne	—	July 12# July 14	—
Summer	Aug. 25	Aug. 25	Aug. 4
Christmas	Dec. 25 ‡	Dec. 25 ‡	Dec. 25
Boxing Day	Dec. 26	Dec. 26	Dec. 26

‡ 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.