

ASTRONOMICAL INFORMATION SHEET No. 96



Prepared by

HM Nautical Almanac Office

THE UNITED KINGDOM HYDROGRAPHIC OFFICE

Admiralty Way, Taunton, Somerset, TA1 2DN



© Crown Copyright 2006

All rights reserved. No part of this information may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise without the prior written permission of the UK Hydrographic Office.

ASTRONOMICAL AND CALENDARIAL DATA SHEET FOR 2012

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.	23	07	39	Jan.	31	04	10	Jan.	9	07	30
Feb.	21	22	35	Mar.	1	01	21	Feb.	7	21	54
Mar.	22	14	37	Mar.	30	19	41	Mar.	8	09	39
Apr.	21	07	18	Apr.	29	09	57	Apr.	6	19	19
May	20	23	47	May	28	20	16	May	6	03	35
June	19	15	02	June	27	03	30	June	4	11	12
July	19	04	24	July	26	08	56	July	3	18	52
Aug.	17	15	54	Aug.	24	13	54	Aug.	2	03	27
Sept.	16	02	11	Sept.	22	19	41	Aug.	31	13	58
Oct.	15	12	03	Sept.	22	03	32	Sept.	30	03	19
Nov.	13	22	08	Oct.	22	03	32	Oct.	29	19	49
Dec.	13	08	42	Nov.	20	14	31	Nov.	28	14	46
				Dec.	20	05	19	Dec.	28	10	21

SEASONS

		d	h	m
Vernal Equinox	— Spring begins	Mar.	20	05 14
Summer Solstice	— Summer begins	June	20	23 09
Autumnal Equinox	— Autumn begins	Sept.	22	14 49
Winter Solstice	— Winter begins	Dec.	21	11 12

SUMMER TIME*

In the United Kingdom BST, one hour in advance of GMT, will be kept from March 25^d 01^h to October 28^d 01^h GMT.

ECLIPSES

1. An annular eclipse of the Sun on May 20-21. The path of annularity begins over the southern coast of China close to the Vietnam border, crosses the northernmost tip of Taiwan, southern parts of Japan, the N. Pacific Ocean, the western United States and ends over N.W. Texas. The partial phase is visible from China, most of Russia, S.E. Asia, the Philippines, Indonesia, Hawaii, Arctic regions and North America except the easternmost part. The eclipse begins at 20^h 56^m and ends at 02^h 49^m; the annular phase begins at 22^h 07^m and ends at 01^h 38^m. The maximum duration of annularity is 5^m 42^s.
2. A partial eclipse of the Moon on June 04 is visible from western and central parts of the Americas, the Pacific Ocean, Antarctica, Australasia, Japan and eastern Asia. The umbral eclipse begins at 09^h 59^m and ends at 12^h 07^m. The time of maximum eclipse is 11^h 03^m when 0.38 of the Moon's diameter is obscured.
3. A total eclipse of the Sun on November 13-14. The path of totality begins over Northern Australia and crosses the southern Pacific Ocean north of New Zealand and ends west of the central Chilean coast. The partial phase is visible from Australasia, Polynesia, the S. Pacific Ocean, parts of Antarctica and the southern half of South America. The eclipse begins at 19^h 38^m and ends at 00^h 46^m; the total phase begins at 20^h 36^m and ends at 23^h 48^m. The maximum duration of totality is 4^m 06^s.

All times are in GMT (UT)

* <http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/Governmentcitizensandrights/LivingintheUK/>

CYH/SAB/JMW

2006 November
Updated 2011 June

CALENDAR 2012

CHRONOLOGICAL CYCLES AND ERAS

Dominical Letter	AG	Julian Period (year of)	6725
Epact	6	Roman Indiction	5
Golden Number (Lunar Cycle)	XVIII	Solar Cycle	5

Era	Year	Begins	Era	Year	Begins
Byzantine	7521	Sept. 14	Grecian (Seleucidæ)	2324	Sept. 14
Roman (AUC)	2765	Jan. 14			(or Oct. 14)
Nabonassar	2761	Apr. 20	Indian (Saka)	1934	Mar. 21
Japanese	2672	Jan. 1	Diocletian	1729	Sept. 11

RELIGIOUS CALENDARS

Epiphany	Jan. 6	Low Sunday	Apr. 15
Septuagesima Sunday	Feb. 5	Rogation Sunday	May 13
Quinquagesima Sunday	Feb. 19	Ascension Day—Holy Thursday	May 17
Ash Wednesday	Feb. 22	Whit Sunday—Pentecost	May 27
Quadragesima Sunday	Feb. 26	Trinity Sunday	June 3
Fourth Sunday in Lent—Mothering Sunday	Mar. 18	Corpus Christi	June 7
Palm Sunday	Apr. 1	First Sunday in Advent	Dec. 2
Good Friday	Apr. 6	Christmas Day (Tuesday)	Dec. 25
Easter Day	Apr. 8		
First Day of Passover (Pesach)	Apr. 7	Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur)	Sept. 26
Feast of Weeks (Shavuot)	May 27	First day of Tabernacles (Succoth)	Oct. 1
Jewish New Year (Rosh Hashanah)	5773 Sept. 17		
First day of Ramadân	July 20	Islamic New Year	1434 Nov. 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. 12	The Queen's Official Birthday	June 16
St Patrick (Ireland)	Mar. 17	Remembrance Sunday	Nov. 11
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

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 our web site at <http://astro.ukho.gov.uk/nao/online/index.html#calendar> for various UK Government links which will give the latest details.

	England and Wales	Northern Ireland	Scotland
New Year	Jan. 1 † Jan. 2	Jan. 1 † Jan. 2	Jan. 1 † Jan. 2, Jan. 3
St Patrick	—	Mar. 17# Mar. 19	—
Good Friday	Apr. 6 ‡	Apr. 6 ‡	Apr. 6
Easter Monday	Apr. 9	Apr. 9	—
Early Spring	May 7	May 7	May 7
Spring	June 4	June 4	June 4
Queen's Diamond Jubilee	June 5	June 5	June 5
Battle of the Boyne	—	July 12	—
Summer	Aug. 27	Aug. 27	Aug. 6
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.