

ASTRONOMICAL INFORMATION SHEET No. 99



Prepared by

HM Nautical Almanac Office

THE UNITED KINGDOM HYDROGRAPHIC OFFICE

Admiralty Way, Taunton, Somerset, TA1 2DN



© Crown Copyright 2009

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 2015

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.	20	13 14	Jan.	27	04 48	Jan.	5	04 53	Jan.	13	09 46
Feb.	18	23 47	Feb.	25	17 14	Feb.	3	23 09	Feb.	12	03 50
Mar.	20	09 36	Mar.	27	07 43	Mar.	5	18 05	Mar.	13	17 48
Apr.	18	18 57	Apr.	25	23 55	Apr.	4	12 06	Apr.	12	03 44
May	18	04 13	May	25	17 19	May	4	03 42	May	11	10 36
June	16	14 05	June	24	11 03	June	2	16 19	June	9	15 42
July	16	01 24	July	24	04 04	July	2	02 20	July	8	20 24
Aug.	14	14 53	Aug.	22	19 31	Aug.	29	18 35	Aug.	7	02 03
Sept.	13	06 41	Sept.	21	08 59	Sept.	28	02 50	Sept.	5	09 54
Oct.	13	00 06	Oct.	20	20 31	Oct.	27	12 05	Oct.	4	21 06
Nov.	11	17 47	Nov.	19	06 27	Nov.	25	22 44	Nov.	3	12 24
Dec.	11	10 29	Dec.	18	15 14	Dec.	25	11 11	Dec.	3	07 40

SEASONS

			d	h	m
Vernal Equinox	—	Spring begins	Mar.	20	22 45
Summer Solstice	—	Summer begins	June	21	16 38
Autumnal Equinox	—	Autumn begins	Sept.	23	08 21
Winter Solstice	—	Winter begins	Dec.	22	04 48

SUMMER TIME*

In the United Kingdom BST, one hour in advance of GMT, will be kept from March 29^d 01^h to October 25^d 01^h GMT.*

ECLIPSES

1. A total eclipse of the Sun on March 20. The path of totality begins over the Atlantic Ocean south of Greenland and crosses the Faeroe Islands and Svalbard and ends over the North Pole. The partial phase is visible from most of Greenland, Iceland, Europe (including the British Isles), North Africa and north-western Asia. The eclipse begins at 07^h 41^m and ends at 11^h 50^m; the total phase begins at 09^h 10^m and ends at 10^h 21^m. The maximum duration of totality is 2^m 50^s.
2. A total eclipse of the Moon on April 4 is visible from the western half on North America, Oceania, Australasia and Eastern Asia. The umbral phase begins at 10^h 15^m and ends at 13^h 45^m. Totality lasts from 11^h 54^m to 12^h 06^m.
3. A partial eclipse of the Sun on September 13 is visible from parts of southern Africa, the southern half of Madagascar, the southern Indian Ocean and the eastern part of Antarctica. The eclipse begins at 04^h 42^m and ends at 09^h 06^m. The time of greatest eclipse is 06^h 54^m, when 0.79 of the Sun's diameter is obscured.
4. A total eclipse of the Moon on September 28 is visible from western Asia, Africa, Europe (including the British Isles), the Americas excluding the western half of Alaska. The umbral phase begins at 01^h 07^m and ends at 04^h 27^m. Totality lasts from 02^h 11^m to 03^h 24^m.

All times are in GMT (UT)

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

CYH/JW/SAB

2009 December

At the time this sheet was produced, HMNAO believes the information to be accurate.

CALENDAR 2015

CHRONOLOGICAL CYCLES AND ERAS

Dominical Letter	D	Julian Period (year of)	6728
Epact	10	Roman Indiction	8
Golden Number (Lunar Cycle)	II	Solar Cycle	8

Era	Year	Begins	Era	Year	Begins
Byzantine	7524	Sept. 14	Grecian (Seleucidæ)	2327	Sept. 14
Roman (AUC)	2768	Jan. 14			(or Oct. 14)
Nabonassar	2764	Apr. 20	Indian (Saka)	1937	Mar. 22
Japanese	2675	Jan. 1	Diocletian	1732	Sept. 12

RELIGIOUS CALENDARS

Epiphany	Jan. 6	Low Sunday	Apr. 12
Septuagesima Sunday	Feb. 1	Rogation Sunday	May 10
Quinquagesima Sunday	Feb. 15	Ascension Day—Holy Thursday	May 14
Ash Wednesday	Feb. 18	Whit Sunday—Pentecost	May 24
Quadragesima Sunday	Feb. 22	Trinity Sunday	May 31
Fourth Sunday in Lent—Mothering Sunday	Mar. 15	Corpus Christi	June 4
Palm Sunday	Mar. 29	First Sunday in Advent	Nov. 29
Good Friday	Apr. 3	Christmas Day (Friday)	Dec. 25
Easter Day	Apr. 5		

First Day of Passover (Pesach)	Apr. 4	Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur)	Sept. 23
Feast of Weeks (Shavuot)	May 24	First day of Tabernacles (Succoth)	Sept. 28
Jewish New Year (Rosh Hashanah)	5776 Sept. 14		

First day of Ramadân	June 18	Islamic New Year	1437 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. 9	The Queen's Official Birthday*	June 13
St Patrick (Ireland)	Mar. 17	Remembrance Sunday	Nov. 8
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 for Business, Enterprise & Regulatory Reform, 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	Apr. 3 ‡	Apr. 3 ‡	Apr. 3
Easter Monday	Apr. 6	Apr. 6	—
Early Spring	May 4	May 4	May 4
Spring	May 25	May 25	May 25
Battle of the Boyne	—	July 12 † July 13	—
Summer	Aug. 31	Aug. 31	Aug. 3
Christmas	Dec. 25 ‡	Dec. 25 ‡	Dec. 25 ‡
Boxing Day	Dec. 26# Dec. 28	Dec. 26# Dec. 28	Dec. 26# Dec. 28

‡ 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.