

OFF-BEAT HOLIDAYS YOU CAN CELEBRATE IN OCTOBER

Sure, you can start picking pumpkins and planning your costume early, but there's plenty to celebrate in October even before Halloween rolls around.

October 1st: World Vegetarian Day

It's easy enough to eat meat-free for a day but this celebration is intended to kick off a month of vegetarian awareness and encourage more lasting change.

October 2nd: World Farm Animals Day

This may seem at odds with the prior holiday until you consider that this is actually a day to protest the "farm" in "farm animal" and the cruel conditions it implies. It's an admirable effort, but the founders of World Farm Animals Day were a little heavy-handed in their decision to celebrate the cause on Gandhi's birthday.

October 4th: National Ships-in-Bottles Day

A day to honor the under-appreciated hobby of building really, really small boats.

October 7th: National Forgiveness Day

If you forget to celebrate, it's really okay. Don't worry about it.

October 11th: Southern Food Heritage Day

If you live below the Mason-Dixon line this is probably no different than any other day, but up North I'm always eager for an excuse to partake in some biscuits and gravy.

October 12th: Bring Your Teddy Bear to Work Day

Notice this holiday is for workers, not students. No judgment here if you've entered the working world and have yet to outgrow your teddy bear—in fact, all the more reason to celebrate.

October 12th: Grandmother's Day in Florida

Your grandmother sounds great and all, but on October 12th, only celebrate her if she lives in Florida.

October 19th: Evaluate Your Life Day

Or, an excuse to procrastinate introspection the other 364 days.



October is... Breast Cancer Awareness Month

- 4th National Taco Day
- 5th World Teacher's Day
- 10th World Mental Health Day
- 15th National Pug Day
- 17th Int'l Day for Eradication of Poverty
- 24th United Nations Day
- 29th National Cat Day
- 31st Halloween

October 29th: National Cat Day

If you've been following along with these lists each month, you may have noticed there are quite a few cat-centric holidays. But we here at mental_floss are not complaining one bit.

October 30th: Create A Great Funeral Day

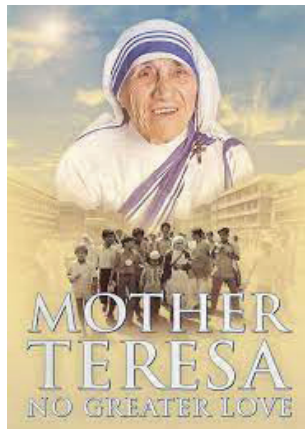
Because you only get one shot at it.

~ Source: Mental Floss

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Movie Madness



Mother Teresa: No Greater Love October 4th

Twenty-five years have passed since the death of Mother Teresa, sparking a renewed interest in this spiritual giant of the 20th century. Filmed on 5 continents and featuring access to both institutional archives and the apostolates of the Missionaries of Charity, this film reveals not just who Mother Teresa was, but how her singular vision to serve Christ continues to be realized through the Missionaries of Charity today. This is far more than a documentary. It is at once a soaring tribute to a spiritual icon, a powerful witness of authentic Christian charity, and a guidepost for all who seek hope in our turbulent times.



Mr. Harrigan's Phone October 5th

A young boy living in a small town befriends an older, reclusive billionaire. The two form a bond over books and an iPhone, but when the man passes away, the boy discovers that not everything dead is gone, and finds himself able to communicate with his friend from the grave through the iPhone that was buried with him.



Lyle, Lyle Crocodile October 7th

Lyle the Crocodile is the happiest crocodile any home ever had until one neighbor insists that Lyle belongs in a zoo.



Cat Daddies ~ October 14th

A heartwarming portrait of men whose lives have been forever changed by their cats. These nine “cat dads” come from all walks of life—a firefighter, a truck driver, a Hollywood stuntman, an ad executive, a police officer, a software engineer, an actor/Instagram influencer, a school teacher and an undocumented disabled immigrant living on the streets of New York City. They couldn’t be any more different, but each of them has a compelling story to tell. This refreshing exploration shows us how being a “cat person” has no gender, and that the unlikely bond between man and cat is here to stay.



The Loneliest Boy in the World October 18th

A modern fairy tale—except with zombies. When the sheltered and unsocialized Oliver is tasked with making new friends after the sudden and devastating death of his mother, he discovers that his newly acquired friends have mysteriously come to life overnight, launching them all into a series of misadventures as they try to keep their secret safe from neighbors, classmates and social workers alike.



Ticket to Paradise October 21st

A divorced couple journeys to Bali to stop their daughter from getting hitched.

Culinary Creations

Frightfully Fun Halloween Treats!

Mummy Brie

Ingredients:

- All-purpose flour, for surface
- 1 sheet puff pastry, thawed
- 1 (7-oz.) wheel of brie
- 1 large egg
- 1 tbsp. milk
- 2 mini pepperoni
- 2 sliced black olives

Directions:

Preheat oven to 400°. On a floured work surface, unroll puff pastry and cut into 1" strips. Wrap strips around brie like a mummy. Whisk together egg and milk and brush over pastry. Transfer brie to a parchment-lined baking sheet. Bake until brie is warmed through and gooey and puff pastry is deeply golden, 20 minutes. For eyes, place two mini pepperonis into two sliced olives. Serve with crackers. ~ Source: *Delish*



Dracula Dentures

Ingredients:

- 1 tube chocolate chip cookie dough
- 1 can vanilla frosting
- Red food coloring
- Mini marshmallows
- Slivered almonds

Directions:

Preheat oven to 350°. Line two large baking sheets with parchment paper. Roll cookie dough into 1 ½" balls and place on baking sheets. Bake until golden, about 12 minutes. Let cool completely then cut in half. Add a few drops of red food coloring into vanilla frosting and stir until smooth. Spread a thin layer of red frosting onto each cookie half. Place mini marshmallows around the round edges of half of the halves. Place the remaining halves on top, then stick a slivered almond on each side to create fangs.

~ Source: *Delish*



Creepy Shirley Temple Drink

Ingredients:

- Ginger Ale
- A splash Grenadine syrup (that makes the red color)
- Maraschino cherries.

Directions:

Fill a beaker with ginger ale with a few maraschino cherries. Add the grenadine to a jello shot syringe inserted into the mocktail. Serve them and let guests shoot the grenadine into the drink themselves. ~ Source: *boulderlocavore.com*



TRICK OR TREAT SAFETY TIPS

Many families will be heading out to go door-to-door for candy with their kids at the end of the month. While trick or treating is a fun Halloween tradition, it's important to abide by some ground rules to ensure safety.

Stay on the Sidewalk

You will often see crowds of families walking through the streets on Halloween night, especially in neighborhoods. While it may seem safe, it's better to stay on the sidewalk with your kids. You don't want to risk the chance of being overlooked by a driver.

Go in Groups

Plan a group outing for Halloween this year. There's always safety in numbers, so gather as many friends and family members as you can and go trick or treating together. It's always safer when you have more people to look out for cars and keep an eye on little ones. Plus, the more the merrier!

Go Out Before Dark

There is plenty of time in the early evening to trick or treat before the sun goes down. Take the kids before it gets dark, and then have a gathering at someone's house if you don't want the fun to end. A family-friendly Halloween party is the perfect way to end the night on a safe note.

Be Attentive

It's easy to assume drivers will be paying attention and looking out for trick or treaters on Halloween night. But it's best to be extra cautious and attentive while you're out with the kids. Put away the phones and electronics while you're out and about just to be safe.

Avoid Obstructions to Vision

Dressing up is a lot of fun, and there are endless opportunities for costumes. But try to avoid bulky masks that may obstruct your vision or your child's vision. It's important to maintain a full line of sight while you're walking around at night.

For those of you who are picking out costumes and getting ready for a fun-filled evening of trick or treating with the family, always remember to put safety first!



Coloring Fun!



A Special Place Just for Kids!

