

Valentine's Day Around the World



When you think of Valentine's Day, you might think of hearts and cards. You may picture flowers and candy. Giving these things is how we usually celebrate Valentine's Day in the United States. But what do other countries do?

In Finland, Valentine's Day is called Friendship Day. On February 14th, people in Finland celebrate Ystävänäpäivä. They give their friends small gifts to show that they care.

In the Philippines, Valentine's Day is all about love and getting married. The government has a big wedding ceremony. Many couples who want to get married do so at the same time.

In Japan, Valentine's Day means chocolate! There are two types. Honmei choco is for someone you love, and giri choco is for friends and family.

In South Africa, Valentine's Day is celebrated on February 15th. This is because of an old Roman festival called Lupercalia. Women write the name of their loved ones on a piece of paper and pin it to their arm. This way, they are showing their love.

In Italy, they still celebrate Valentine's Day, even though they don't celebrate Lupercalia anymore. In Verona, the city of Romeo and Juliet, people have parties for four days. The parties include music, heart-shaped lanterns, and contests to write love letters.

In South Korea, Valentine's Day is a special day for men. Women give them gifts and chocolates. A month later, on White Day, the men give gifts to the women. Then in April, there is Black Day, where single people eat noodles with black bean sauce.

No matter where you go, it's good to know the traditions. If you receive a bouquet of 108 roses in Taiwan, it means you are getting married!