

## Valentine's Day Around the World



When we think about Valentine's Day, we think of hearts and cards. We might also think of flowers and candy. These are fun ways we celebrate Valentine's Day in the United States. But do you know how other countries celebrate?

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

In the Philippines, Valentine's Day is about love. The government has a big wedding where many couples get married at the same time.

In Japan, Valentine's Day means chocolate! There is special chocolate called honmei choco for people you love. Giri choco is for friends and family.

In South Africa, Valentine's Day is on February 15th. This is to remember an old Roman festival. Women write the name of the person they love on a paper and pin it to their arm. They are wearing their hearts on their sleeves!

In Italy, they celebrate Valentine's Day in a big way. In Verona, the home of Romeo and Juliet, there are parties for four days. People enjoy 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, women receive gifts. In April, on Black Day, single people eat noodles with black bean sauce.

Wherever you go, learn about the traditions! If someone gives you a bouquet with 108 roses in Taiwan, it means you are getting married!