October 2025

Currents at the Cove

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Celebrating October

Ergonomics Month

Organize Your Medical Information Month

Cookbook Month

Balloons Around the World Day
October 1

James Bond Day
October 5

World Day of Architecture
October 6

Pet Peeve Week
October 12–18

Train Your Brain Day
October 13

Chemistry Week
October 19–25

Count Your Buttons Day
October 21

International Artists Day
October 25

Halloween
October 31

The Bright Side of October

Orange is one of the most iconic colors of the fall season. From the changing leaves to ripe pumpkins and Halloween decorations, it's everywhere in October. But beyond its seasonal spotlight, orange has an interesting history and set of associations that make it stand out year-round.

The word *orange* didn't appear in English until around the 1300s, borrowed from the Old French *orenge*, which came from Arabic *nāranj*—originally referring to the fruit. Before that, people in English-speaking areas would describe the color as "yellow-red." It wasn't until the fruit became common in Europe that the word was used to describe the hue. In many cultures today, it represents creativity, change, and enthusiasm.

In nature, orange often signals warmth and energy. It's the color of fire, sunsets, and autumn leaves. In October, orange becomes especially visible. Pumpkins, perhaps the most famous fall symbol, take center stage during Halloween. Originally, jack-o'-lanterns were carved from turnips in Ireland, but when the tradition came to America, pumpkins were more plentiful and easier to carve. Their natural orange color made them perfect for the holiday's spooky glow. Orange also pairs well with black, Halloween's other signature color. While black represents darkness and mystery, orange balances it with brightness and warmth, making the two a striking seasonal combo.

Aside from Halloween, orange pops up throughout fall in decorations, wreaths, seasonal foods, and clothing. It evokes the cozy, crisp feel of the season and reminds us of harvest time. Even sports teams and schools often use orange in their autumn promotions and uniforms to reflect that seasonal energy.

While orange is not everyone's favorite color year-round—only five percent of people choose it as their favorite—it has certainly carved out a place in October's spotlight. Whether you're admiring the leaves, carving a pumpkin, or just sipping something cinnamon-spiced, you're likely soaking in a little bit of orange this season.

The Quiet Crusader

On October 21, 1854, Florence Nightingale and her staff of trained female volunteer nurses set out for Crimea near Ukraine's Black Sea. Reports had reached Britain of injured soldiers still fighting in the Crimean War. When Nightingale arrived, she discovered medicine was scant, infections were rampant, and food was in short supply. The hospital itself was overcrowded, poorly ventilated, and backed up with sewage, so Nightingale pleaded for government help in an article written to Britain's leading newspaper, *The Times*.

The response was overwhelming. The government would build a new hospital in Britain that could be transported to and reconstructed in Crimea. Six months after Nightingale's arrival, the British Sanitary Commission ventured to Crimea to fix the hospital's most pressing problems. Surgeon and biographer Stephen Paget believes Nightingale's actions were responsible for reducing the hospital death rate from 42% to 2%.

Florence Nightingale's persuasive tactics to improve hospital hygiene—with the government's help—are only part of her legacy. During the Crimean War she earned the nickname "The Lady with the Lamp." After the medical officers had left each night, Nightingale would visit all the wounded soldiers, one by one, with a lamp in her hands. This type of round-the-clock care, coupled with her insistence on sanitation, helped revolutionize modern nursing. She returned to Britain a heroine and promptly organized the Nightingale Fund to pay for the improvement of Britain's hospitals and the Nightingale Training School to become the first professional school for nurses. That legacy has endured through the ages. Indeed, the Florence Nightingale Museum in Britain hails its namesake as the most influential woman to have lived in Victorian Britain, Queen Victoria excepted.

From Holy Cows to Home Runs

Holy cow, October 13 is Silly Sayings Day. While this saying's origins are a little obscure, many believe it was an expression used by baseball players in the early 1900s to tamely express disgust while avoiding the ire of umpires. It most likely references the cows held sacred by Hindus.

Perhaps silly sayings and baseball have a special link, for one of the silliest sayers of all was former New York Yankee Yogi Berra. He said of his sport, "Baseball is 90% mental and the other half is physical." When giving directions to his home, he once explained, "When you come to a fork in the road, take it." When he saw Mickey Mantle and Roger Maris repeat their feat of hitting back-to-back home runs, he exclaimed, "It's déjà vu all over again."

When it comes to silly sayings, Mark Twain may offer the best advice: "It is better to keep your mouth closed and let people think you are a fool than to open it and remove all doubt."

Trapped at Sea

It was a pastime practiced by sailors tired of looking at the endless seas day after day after day: building a model ship and putting it inside a bottle. At first, this seems a magical feat. How did that tall ship fit inside the bottle? In reality, the process is rather simple. The ship's masts fold flat across the deck of the miniature ship. Once the ship is fit through the bottle's neck, tiny threads are used to raise the masts and sails. Of course, this "simple" trick requires expert craftsmanship. Miniature model ships can be very elaborate and cost thousands of dollars, with every last detail finished to perfection. On October 4, Ship in a Bottle Day, you can attempt this old seaman's trick yourself—or maybe just marvel at the efforts of an expert.

Mind Diet Autumn Meal

Haddock Florentine

Serving Size: 12 Prep: 5 mins Cook: 15 mins Total: 20 mins

Ingredients

- 12 5 oz thick pieces of skinless Haddock
- 3 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
- 3 cup red bell pepper chopped
- 6 cloves garlic minced
- 27 ounces fresh baby spinach, from two bags
- 6 ounces 1/3 less fat cream cheese, I like Philadelphia
- 0.75 cup half & half cream
- 9 tablespoons grated Parmesan cheese
- kosher salt
- fresh black pepper

Instructions

- In a large skillet over medium heat add 1/2 tablespoon of olive oil, red bell pepper and garlic and cook for about 4 minutes.
- Add spinach season with a pinch of salt and pepper mix until the spinach wilts down.
- Add cream cheese, half & half and parmesan cheese mix well until cream cheese is melted and resembles creamed spinach.
- Heat a separate skillet on medium high heat, add remaining oil and butter.
- Season fish on both sides with salt and pepper and place on the hot pan.
- Cook 6 minutes on first side and flip fish over and cook other side an additional 5 minutes, until cooked through and browned.
- Divide the spinach mixture on the bottom of each plate and top with piece of fish.

Street Eats Hit the Road

While Oscar Mayer's hot-dog-shaped Wienermobile may be the best-recognized food-themed truck around, it's the food made on trucks that brings customers to the curb. Rather than make a reservation at a fancy restaurant, hungry foodies visit parking lots to find open-sided trucks serving sushi, tacos, Brazilian barbecue, Jamaican chicken, brick-oven pizza, pancakes, cupcakes, cookies, and even vegan and gluten-free menus. October is a great time to visit your favorite food trucks before they close or reduce hours for the winter.

Residents enjoyed a foliage ride

The Peanut Gallery

On October 2, 1950, cartoonist Charles Schulz debuted his *Peanuts* comic strip. Schulz actually hated the name *Peanuts*. He had originally named the strip *L'il Folks*, but his publishers feared that this title was too similar to a comic strip called *Little Folks*. Schulz then decided to call it *Good Old Charlie Brown* after its lead character, but once again his publishers intervened. Without even seeing the strip, they named it *Peanuts*, which was a common term for children in the 1950s, thanks to *The Howdy Doody Show's* "Peanut Gallery." The name stuck, and Charlie Brown, Snoopy, Lucy, Linus, Sally, and the whole *Peanuts* gang have become international stars, appearing in 2,600 newspapers all around the world.

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Leafy Legend

Kale is no ordinary leafy green. It's one of the healthiest foods on the planet. It's so dense with nutrients that one cup, at only 33 calories, has vitamins A, K, C, B1, B2, B3, and B6, as well as minerals calcium, manganese, potassium, magnesium, copper, and more iron per ounce than beef. With all this good news about the vegetable, it's no wonder kale has its own holiday, Kale Day, which falls on October 1 this year.

Why else is kale hailed as a superfood? It's high in antioxidants, which provide powerful anti-inflammatory benefits and can lower blood pressure. Kale has also been studied for its effects on lowering cholesterol and is loaded with substances known to fight cancer. Perhaps this is why kale is taking kitchens by storm. People have even taken to putting "Eat More Kale" bumper stickers on their cars and wearing kale T-shirts.

But kale is no passing fad. The healthiest way to enjoy kale is raw—in a salad or as a wrap for hot foods. But for those who may not like the slight bitterness of the greens, there are other ways to enjoy kale's many benefits. Steaming it softens the leaves. Baking the leaves in the oven with olive oil and spices produces kale chips. Or you can hide the kale. Blend it with fruit for a nutritious smoothie. Mince it finely, and add it to hamburgers or meat loaf. Do you like pesto with your pasta? Substitute kale for half of the basil.

Kale is also easy to grow in the fall, since it thrives in cool temperatures. It became a staple in Britain during World War II as a supplement to rationed diets. Today, kale enjoys its place as the centerpiece of many dinner tables.

October Birthdays

In astrology, those born between October 1–22 balance the scales of Libra. Libras seek harmony and value fairness and justice. Although they'd rather avoid conflict, they are excellent team players—tactful and polite at soothing those embroiled in an argument. If you're born between October 23–31, you are a Scorpio. Scorpios are powerful investigators who stay abreast of all the comings and goings of their peers, take control, and lead the way to success. Celebrities born in October include:

Groucho Marx (comedian) – Oct. 2, 1890
Margaret Thatcher (PM) – Oct. 13, 1925
Roger Moore (actor) – Oct. 14, 1927
Evel Knievel (daredevil) – Oct. 17, 1938
Jennifer Holliday (performer) – Oct. 19, 1960
Joyce Brothers (doctor) – Oct. 20, 1927
Mickey Mantle (ballplayer) – Oct. 20, 1931
Annette Funicello (performer) – Oct. 22, 1942
Jonas Salk (scientist) – Oct. 28, 1914

Handle with Flair

Purses, pocketbooks, satchels, totes, clutches—whatever the handbag, it's worth celebrating on October 10, Handbag Day. Technically, a purse is only supposed to hold coins, whereas a handbag is a complete carryall. These days, anything goes in a handbag: wallet, keys, sunglasses, cell phone, mints, gum, pen, umbrella, baby toys.... Truly, some handbags carry as much as a small suitcase. The first handbags were made of leather, metal, or fabric studded with ornaments. The oldest surviving bag, dating back to c. 2500 BC, features beadlike rows of canine teeth on fabric. At just 700 years old, the bag pictured above (reputed to be a horseman's saddlebag) is intricately inlaid with gold and silver, depicting scenes of an enthroned couple, musicians, and hunters. It's kept for display at London's Courtauld Gallery.