




New Year festivities around the world

 **U.S. (UTC -5 to -10 hrs)**
Philadelphia's **'Mummers' Parade** sees elaborately costumed people dance to string bands, drawing on European and African heritages




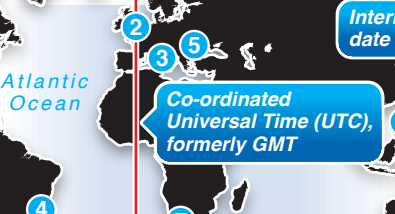
 **Britain (No UTC offset)**
London stages world's **largest New Year's Day parade**, at more than 3km long and with half a million spectators along route




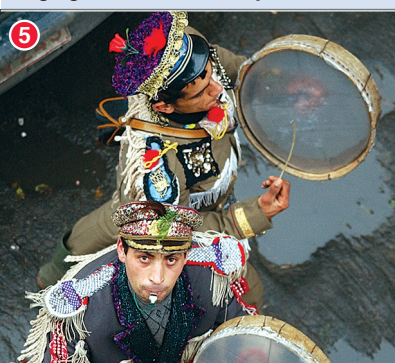
 **Italy (UTC +1 hr)**
Romans dive off **Cavour Bridge** into shallow Tiber River – dangerous tradition established by over-zealous lifeguard in 1946




 **Brazil (UTC -3 to -4hrs)**
Brazilians dance, sing, pray and carry flowers into sea for **Yemanjá** – Goddess of Ocean and protector of fishermen and survivors of shipwrecks




 **Romania (UTC +2 hrs)**
Performers go house-to-house in rural areas (and more recently in cities too), dancing and singing to ward off **evil spirits**




 **Philippines (UTC +8 hrs)**
People buy 12 different **round fruits** – one for each month – to bring them good fortune. Grapes most closely associated with New Year



 **South Africa (UTC +2 hrs)**
17th century slaves were prevented from celebrating on Dec 31 so they did so on Jan 1 instead. **Cape Town's Minstrel Carnival** carries on tradition today



 **Australia (UTC +8 to +10 hours)**
Backyard barbecues and beach parties are big Down Under, with Sydney holding one of the first and arguably most spectacular **firework displays** of New Year



NEW YEAR'S DAY BY DIFFERENT CULTURES (shown on 2016 Gregorian calendar)

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Jan 1: Gregorian calendar (widely adopted)	Feb 8: China/Vietnam/Tibet (Year of Monkey/Tet/Losar)	Mar 14: Sikh (Nanakshahi)	Mar 20: Persian (Norouz) Iran, Baha'i, Kurd, Zoroastrian	Apr 1: Assyrian	Apr 13: Thai (Songkran)	Apr 14: Sri Lanka (Sinhala/Tamil)	Oct 2: Jewish (Rosh Hashanah)	Oct 3: Muslim (Al Hijra/Muharram)			