

## Olympic Origins



With the 2026 Milano Cortina Winter Olympics fresh in our minds, it seems an opportune time to celebrate the founder of the modern Olympic Games, Baron Pierre de Coubertin. On June 23, 1894, Coubertin created the International Olympic Committee, the group organizing and maintaining the integrity of the Olympic Games.

Before the 1800s, many societies did not see any need for organized athletics. Sports were widely considered to be an unimportant diversion. Born in Paris to a wealthy, aristocratic family, Coubertin was expected to head into politics or a command position in the military. Instead, he went to school and focused on education, particularly physical education and the role of sports in society.

Coubertin believed that engaging school children in sports would physically, morally, and socially strengthen generations of French citizens and make France a more powerful nation. With the country still reeling from its defeat in the Franco-Prussian War, Coubertin thought sports could keep the French better prepared for battle. Sporting events were also democratic. Regardless of background or upbringing, any athlete could be victorious on the playing field.

In Coubertin's mind, ancient Greece was the perfect model of a society that took sport seriously. The gymnasiums of Athens were places where people exercised both their bodies and minds. In 1889, Coubertin gathered a number of athletes and advisers with the purpose of reviving the ancient Olympic Games. While many countries sponsored their own Olympic-style games, the notion of a world games was novel. At the 1894 meeting of his newly formed International Olympic Committee, it was decided that amateur athletics should occur every four years and competition should be in modern sports rather than ancient ones. Two years later, the first modern Summer Olympics was held in Athens, Greece.

## June Birthdays

In astrology, those born between June 1–21 are Gemini's Twins. The Twins represent energetic communication and interaction. Curious Gemini's love to collect and share information. Witty and intellectual, they attract many friends, mentors, and colleagues. Those born between June 22–30 are Crabs of Cancer. Kind and protective, Crabs love to nurture others. While they may be emotional, they are never soft. Cancers are tenacious in their pursuit of domestic harmony.

Jerry Mathers (actor) – June 2, 1948  
 Frank Lloyd Wright (architect) – June 8, 1867  
 Judy Garland (actress) – June 10, 1922  
 Jim Nabors (actor) – June 12, 1930  
 Alois Alzheimer (doctor) – June 14, 1864  
 Moe Howard (comedian) – June 19, 1897  
 Meryl Streep (actress) – June 22, 1949  
 Pearl S. Buck (novelist) – June 26, 1892  
 Mel Brooks (actor) – June 28, 1926  
 Lena Horne (singer) – June 30, 1917

## The Fabric of Freedom



June 14 is Flag Day in the United States, a day commemorating the adoption of the American flag by the Second Continental Congress in 1777. Known as "Old Glory," "Stars and Stripes," and the "Star-Spangled Banner," the

flag has 13 horizontal red and white stripes symbolizing the original 13 colonies. The canton is the rectangle in the upper left corner. It's blue with 50 white stars representing the 50 states, alternating in numbers of six and five per row. Throughout America's history, there have been 27 flag designs, with the canton stars changing each time a state was added. Before the 48-star flag, canton designs had no official arrangement of stars. Sometimes they were in a circular pattern and other times in a star pattern. Since 1777, one thing hasn't changed: the American flag has always stood for freedom.

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## Celebrating June

### Great Outdoors Month

#### Father's Day

*June 21<sup>st</sup>*

## Facility Events

### Friday Jams & Donuts

*June 5<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>*

#### Father's Day

#### Celebration

*June 21<sup>st</sup>*

#### Puppy Party

*June 23<sup>rd</sup>*

### Resident Council

#### Meeting

*June 25<sup>th</sup>*

#### Birthday Bash

*June 26<sup>th</sup>*

## Notes from the Far Pacific

A cruise through the South Pacific has long occupied a special place in the travel imagination—part adventure tale, part musical refrain, part postcard fantasy. Sailing between Tahiti, Bora Bora, and Fiji feels like stepping into a lineage of seafaring lore shaped by Polynesian navigators, European explorers, and generations of travelers drawn by warm water and distant horizons.

Tahiti is often the gateway, where volcanic peaks rise sharply from the sea and harbors hum with modern cruise traffic layered atop ancient maritime traditions. Bora Bora, with its famously luminous lagoon, has become shorthand for paradise—yet its geography tells a deeper story of coral reefs, protected anchorages, and strategic island chains that once guided ocean crossings by the stars. Farther west, Fiji offers a different rhythm: a scattering of islands where sailing routes weave between village shores and where boats remain central to daily life as well as tourism.

These destinations are dreamlike not just for their scenery but for their place in cultural memory. The South Pacific has been mythologized in literature and film, most famously in *South Pacific*, whose songs cemented the region as a symbol of romance, distance, and moral reckoning. Long before cruise itineraries, mariners swapped stories of trade winds, hidden reefs, and weeks-long passages that turned the ocean itself into a proving ground.

That maritime heritage feels especially timely during National Fishing and Boating Week, observed June 6–14, 2026, when attention turns to life on the water and the skills that make ocean travel possible. A South Pacific cruise underscores those fundamentals—navigation, seamanship, respect for weather—while wrapping them in modern comfort. As the summer solstice approaches on June 21, daylight is shorter in the southern hemisphere, but tropical warmth keeps the islands inviting and the waters endlessly navigable.

In the end, cruising Tahiti, Bora Bora, and Fiji isn't just about escape. It's about tracing old sea lanes, revisiting familiar songs and stories, and seeing why the South Pacific continues to anchor the idea of a true journey.

