



Celebrating National Hispanic Heritage Month

October 7, 2020

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September 15th - October 15th

In 1968, Congress authorized Democrat President Lyndon B. Johnson to proclaim National Hispanic Heritage Week, which began on September 15 — the date of the independence of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua — and spanned September 16 and 18 — the dates when Mexico and Chile also celebrate their national holidays. The President’s proclamation urged the people of the United States to observe the week with appropriate ceremonies and activities. And to further encourage participation, President Gerald R. Ford issued a proclamation in 1974 urging schools and human rights organizations to actively participate in the week.

But a single week for such a large “minority” group was not enough. Twenty years later, on August 17, 1988, Republican President Ronald Reagan reiterated Ford’s call for even broader recognition of Hispanic Americans. To that end, Congress passed Act 100-402, which extended the celebration for 31 days, calling it [National Hispanic Heritage Month](#) and dedicating it to celebrating the history, language, future, and past of Latinos in the United States.



At the time of Johnson’s Proclamation in 1968, just over nine million Latinos were residing in the United States. Today, there are [almost 60 million](#) people who identify their roots with Cuba, Mexico, Puerto Rico, and Central and South America, as well as some other Hispanic-Latino culture, regardless of race.



The rich history and culture of Latin American people should be celebrated year-round, but National Hispanic Heritage Month provides an excellent opportunity for in-depth exploration.

Hispanic Heritage Month: HBO Max celebrates Latinos

<https://www.digitaltrends.com/movies/hbo-max-hispanic-heritage-month-2020/>

Hispanic Heritage Month on Netflix: All the alternatives

<https://www.digitaltrends.com/movies/netflix-hispanic-heritage-month-lineup-2020/>

25 Best Books By Hispanic And Latinx Authors To Read Right Now

<https://www.womenshealthmag.com/life/g34076592/books-by-hispanic-authors/>

The American Latino Experience: 20 Essential Films Since 2000

<https://www.nytimes.com/article/latino-movies.html?referringSource=articleShare>

OTHER LINKS:

- [Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month with Alexa](#)
- [Hispanic Heritage Month: Most influential Latinas in tech](#)
- [Hispanic Heritage Month on Plex: More Spanish-language channels debuting](#)
- [Hispanic Heritage Month: Here’s how Comcast is celebrating](#)