

Significant Historical & Public Holidays in Azerbaijan

January 20, 1990 - Martyr's Day

On this day Soviet troops entered the city of Baku and killed more than 180 civilians. This date is celebrated as the rebirth of the Republic of Azerbaijan, as well as serving as a remembrance of the victims of the Nagorno-Karabakh War in 1988. The day is also known as *Qara Yanvar* (Day of National Mourning), *Day of Shehids*, or *Remembrance Day*.

February 25-26, 1992 - Khojaly Massacre (20th Anniversary in 2012)

Hundreds of ethnic Azerbaijani civilians from the town of Khojaly were killed by Armenian armed forces during the Nagorno-Karabakh War.

May 28, 1918 - Republic Day

Azerbaijan declared independence from the Transcaucasian Democratic Federative Republic, thus forming the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic. Azerbaijan became the first democratic parliamentary republic in the Muslim world.

June 15, 1993 - National Salvation Day

Parliament invited Heydar Aliyev to Baku to lead the country.

August 30, 1991 - Declaration of Independence (20th Anniversary in 2011)

Azerbaijan declared its intention to once again become an independent nation.

October 18, 1991 - Independence Day (20th Anniversary in 2011)

Since 1991, this has been the national day of celebration of the country's independence.

November 12, 1995 - Constitution Day

The day the constitution was enacted is a public holiday in Azerbaijan.

December 31, 1989 - International Solidarity Day

Spurred by the fall of the Berlin wall, Azeris called for and led the removal of borders between Soviet Azerbaijan and Iran on December 31, 1989. This date has since been celebrated by Azeris around the world as the International Solidarity Day of Azerbaijanis.