

Fried, but Not French

July 13 is French Fries Day, but are these delicious fried potatoes actually French?

Potatoes did not originate in Europe, but in South America. Spanish explorers brought them back to Europe, where they became beloved for their versatility, especially in France.

Fried potatoes became a common street food in Paris—sold not as long fries but in chunks. It is said that Thomas Jefferson grew so fond of the food while acting ambassador to France that he introduced fries to America via his kitchen in Monticello. It is in Belgium, however, that the history of *frites*

began a century before France's fried potatoes. Frites (pronounced *FREETES*) are so dear a food to Belgium that in 2014 the country petitioned UNESCO to make the frite the official symbol of its cultural heritage. So when did Belgian frites become French fries? The story goes that American soldiers marching through French-speaking Belgium during World War I discovered the tasty fried potatoes. In the Americans' confusion, or perhaps in their gastronomic ecstasy, they dubbed the delicious newfound food *French fries*.

July Birthdays

In astrology, those born between July 1–21 are Crabs of Cancer. Crabs are deeply emotional and nurturing. They create deep bonds and comfortable homes and are always willing to welcome people into their circle. Those born between July 22–31 are Lions of Leo. Leos are natural-born leaders: confident, charismatic, and creative. Leos also use humor and loyalty to unite people.

Celebrating in July

National Ice Cream Month
Independence Day July 4
Tell an Old Joke Day July 24
National Friendship Day July 30



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The Village Voice

July 2018

1100 S. Courtenay Parkway Merritt Island, FL 32952

(321) 452-1233

Karaoke Time!



Musical Performance by the First United Methodist Church Youth Choir.



Celebrating Dad's Day with accordion music, Beer & Pretzels!



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