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Nov. 3 is National Sandwich Day -- the Best Thing Since Sliced Bread

Jack in the Box® restaurants pay homage to the sandwich with tantalizing trivia on this popular food

SAN DIEGO - From Reubens to BLTs, PB&Js to the all-American hamburger, the humble sandwich has been a mealtime staple for centuries. In fact, Americans consume 45 billion sandwiches a year. So it's no surprise that the oh-so versatile sandwich has been honored with its own day of observance - National Sandwich Day on Nov. 3.

To celebrate, Jack in the Box® restaurants, home of more than 15 different kinds of sandwiches and burgers, has compiled a few fascinating facts about the sandwich.

- John Montagu, the fourth Earl of Sandwich and a nobleman in the court of King George III, is credited with creating the first sandwich. According to legend, the Earl, a notorious gambler, refused to leave the table during an all-night card game. Hungry, he requested his servants to put meat between two slices of bread, so that he could eat with one hand and play cards with the other. National Sandwich Day is observed on the Earl's birthday.
- Though peanut butter was invented in the 1890s, peanut butter and jelly sandwiches did not become popular until the 1940s, when they were included in soldiers' rations during World War II. Today, the average American child eats 1,500 PB&Js before graduating from high school. This classic sandwich is also a favorite of President George W. Bush.
- Jack in the Box created the first fast-food breakfast sandwich in 1969. Today, the Breakfast Jack® is still the chain's top-selling breakfast product. In fact, if you lined up all the Breakfast Jacks sold each year side-by-side, they would span some 6,000 miles - approximately the distance from San Francisco to Vienna, Austria.
- The most popular sandwich in the U.S. is the hamburger, with the average American consuming 100 burgers each year. While the origins of the hamburger are hotly debated, the city of Seymour, Wis., claims to be the home of the hamburger. Seymour residents even built the Hamburger Hall of Fame to prove it. But the city's burger boasting doesn't end there. Seymour also holds "Burger Fest" each August, which includes events like a ketchup slide and a bun-tossing contest.
- Comic strip character Dagwood Bumstead, husband of Blondie, is known for his love of sandwiches stacked high with meat on long hoagie rolls. To this day, some Americans still refer to submarine-style sandwiches as "Dagwoods" in honor of the character's favorite food.
- The Stage Deli in New York City offers more than 30 sandwiches named after celebrities. The Tom Hanks features roast beef, chopped liver and onions, while the Dolly Parton is two rolls stuffed with corned beef, pastrami, coleslaw and Russian dressing.
- Americans, on average, consume 26.3 million hot dogs in major-league ballparks each year. The most are consumed in Dodger Stadium in Los Angeles, with 1.5 million of the tube-like sandwiches being sold.
- For \$5.75 you can eat like The King at Elvis Presley's Memphis Restaurant, which serves up Elvis' favorite - a fried peanut-butter-and-banana sandwich, hold the jelly.
- Though the Philadelphia Cheese Steak is one of the nation's most popular sandwiches, citizens of the city of brotherly love don't refer to their beloved sandwich as such. "Cheesesteak" or just "steak" are the preferred monikers. And don't forget to do the "Philly Lean" when biting into one, or you'll be dripping with juice.
- Which Reuben is it? Restaurateur Reuben Arnold and grocer Reuben Kulakofsky are both credited with creating the famous Reuben sandwich, though it has yet to be determined who is the true namesake of the corn-beef-based sandwich.
- The world's largest PB&J was 64 square feet and weighed a whopping 900 pounds. The sandwich was created at the governor's mansion in Oklahoma City on Sept. 7, 2002 for an event called "Septemberfest."

- Japan's Takeru Kobayashi holds the world record for hot dog eating with 50.5 dogs and buns consumed in 12 minutes.
- The French Dip was created in 1908 by Philippe Mathieu, a French immigrant and restaurateur in Los Angeles. The sandwich was created by accident, when Mathieu dropped a slice of French bread in drippings from a roasting pan.
- While New Orleans might be known for its po-boy sandwiches, the Italian-style muffuletta - made with mortadella, ham, salami, mozzarella and provolone topped with an olive salad - is also a favorite of the Crescent City.

Founded in 1951, Jack in the Box Inc. (NYSE: JBX) is the nation's first major drive-thru hamburger chain. The San Diego-based company operates or franchises more than 1,850 quick-serve restaurants in 17 states and has 43,000 employees.

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