



Faith Calendar



JANUARY

1	Gantan-sai <i>Shinto</i> . Start of three day celebrations to mark the New Year	
5	Birthday of Guru Gobind Singh <i>Sikh (Nanakshahi calendar)</i> Tenth Sikh Guru and the last one in human form; founded the Brotherhood of the Pure (Khalsa)	
6	Epiphany <i>Christianity</i>	
7	Christmas Day <i>Rastafarianism</i> Celebrated on this day to coincide with Christmas in Ethiopia	
	Christmas Day <i>Christianity</i> Celebrated on this day by Eastern Orthodox churches	
12	Birthday of Swami Vivekananda <i>Hinduism</i>	
13	Maghi – Lohri <i>Sikhism</i> . Celebrates the sacrifice of the 40 Sikhs who fought for Guru Gorbind & is celebrated with bonfires	
27	Holocaust Memorial Day <i>Interfaith</i>	
28	Chinese New Year <i>Confucius, Daoist, Buddhism</i> . Most important of the traditional Chinese holidays	

FEBRUARY

1	Saraswati Puja <i>Hinduism</i>	
	Imbolc <i>Paganism</i> . Honours the goddess Brigid and marks the return of Spring	
2	Candlemas <i>Christianity</i>	
3	Setsuban <i>Shinto</i> . Part of the Spring festival with special ritual to ward off evil	
11	Tu B'Shevat <i>Judaism</i> . Marks the beginning of the 'new year' for trees	
	Magha Puja <i>Buddhism</i> . Takes place on the full moon day commemorating the life of the Buddha	
15	Parinirvana <i>Buddhism</i> . Celebration to mark the final passing of the Buddha	
24	Maha Shivaratri <i>Hinduism</i>	
25-28	Ayyám-i-Há (Intercalary Days) <i>Baha'i</i>	
28	Shrove Tuesday <i>Christianity</i> The day of preparation for Lent (the 40 days leading up to Easter), traditionally marked by eating pancakes	
	Birthday of Sri Ramakrishna <i>Hinduism</i>	

MARCH

1	Ash Wednesday <i>Christianity</i> First day of Lent. Many Christians receive a cross of ash on their foreheads in church as a symbol of mortality and penance	
	St David's Day <i>Christianity</i>	
	Baha'i fast <i>Baha'i</i> . Adults fast from sunrise to sunset for 19 days; important time for prayer, reflection and spiritual renewal	
8	Hanamatsuri <i>Shinto</i> Flower festival celebrating the birthday of Shakyamuni, whose teachings form the basis of Buddhism	
12	Purim <i>Judaism</i> . Celebration of Jewish deliverance as told in the Book of Esther. The fast of Esther falls on Thursday while Purim is observed on Sunday	
	Birthday of Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu <i>Hinduism</i>	
13	Holi <i>Hinduism</i> . Festival of Colour marking the end of winter	
17	St Patrick's Day <i>Christianity</i>	
20	Spring Equinox <i>Paganism</i> Celebration of Spring	
	Naw-Ruz <i>Baha'i</i> . End of the 19 day fast and the beginning of the Baha'i New Year	
	Shubun-Sai <i>Shinto</i> A day for visiting graves	
28	Khordad Sal <i>Zoroastrianism</i> Celebrating the birth date of Zoroaster	

APRIL

5	Ram Navami <i>Hinduism</i> Celebrating the birthday of Ram	
9	Palm Sunday <i>Christianity</i> The first day of Holy Week (the seven days leading up to Easter). Palm leaves formed into crosses are distributed in churches, commemorating Jesus' triumphal arrival in Jerusalem before his arrest and death	

9	Mahavira Jayanti <i>Jainism</i> Celebrates the birth of Lord Mahavira, the last Tirthankara (saviour)	
11	First day of Passover <i>Judaism</i> Celebrates the deliverance of the Jewish people from slavery in Egypt	
	Hanuman Jayanti <i>Hinduism</i> . Celebrated to commemorate the birth of Hanuman	
13	Maundy Thursday <i>Christianity</i> . Christians celebrate Jesus' Last Supper with his disciples as they observed the Jewish festival of Passover before his arrest	
14	Good Friday <i>Christianity</i> . Commemorates the death of Jesus by crucifixion	
	Vaisakh <i>Sikhism</i> . Marks the creation of Sikhism and the ordination of the Khalsa	
16	Easter Day <i>Christianity</i> Christians celebrate Jesus' resurrection from the dead. The Easter season lasts for 50 days to Pentecost	
18	Last day of Passover <i>Judaism</i>	
20-1 st	Feast of Ridván (Declaration of Bahá'u'lláh) <i>Baha'i</i> . Start of festival commemorating the commencement of Bahá'u'lláh's prophethood	
23	St George's Day <i>Christianity</i>	
24	Yom HaShoah <i>Judaism</i> Commemorates the lives of Jewish people who died in the Holocaust	
	Isra and Mi'raj <i>Islam</i> Commemorates the Prophet Muhammad's journey from Mecca to Jerusalem and his ascent into heaven	
28	Ninth Day of Ridvan <i>Baha'i</i> Day when Bahá'u'lláh's family joined him at the Najibiyyih Garden	

MAY

1	Beltane <i>Paganism</i> . Celebration of fertility marking the beginning of Summer	
2	Twelfth Day of Ridvan <i>Baha'i</i> Close of the festival	
10	Wesak (Buddha Day) <i>Buddhism</i> Celebration of Buddha's enlightenment	
23	Declaration of the Bab <i>Baha'i</i> Celebrates the Bab's declaration of his mission as the messenger of God	
25	Ascension Day <i>Christianity</i> . Marks the ascension of Jesus into heaven following his resurrection on Easter Day	
27	Ramadan <i>Islam</i> . Beginning of the most significant month for Muslims; exact date depends on sighting or news of the sighting of the crescent. Adult and healthy Muslims fast from dawn until sunset for the whole lunar month	
28	Ascension of Bahauallah <i>Baha'i</i> Commemoration of the ascension of the Baha'i faith's founder	
31	May – 1st June Shavuot (The Feast of Weeks) <i>Judaism</i> . Celebrates the giving of the Torah (Five Books of Moses), the first harvest, and the ripening of the first fruits	

JUNE

4	Pentecost/Whitsun <i>Christianity</i> Celebrates the giving of the Holy Spirit to Jesus' disciples	
16	Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev <i>Sikhism</i>	
21	Laylat al Qadr (Night of Power) <i>Islam</i> On this night the complete Qur'an was sent down by God to the Al-Lawh al-Mahfuz. From there it was revealed to Muhammad through the angel Jibril (Gabriel) over a period of 23 years	
24	Mid-Summer's Day <i>Paganism</i> A celebration of the sun's power on the longest day of the year	
25	Eid-al-Fitr <i>Islam</i> Celebration marking the end of Ramadan	
	Rath Yatra <i>Hinduism</i>	
29	Saints Peter and Paul's Day <i>Christianity</i> One of the oldest saints' days celebrated by many Christians	

JULY

2	Asala-Dharma Day <i>Buddhism</i> Commemorates Buddha's first teaching to the five ascetics in the Deer Park near Benares, India	
9	Dharma Day <i>Buddhism</i> . One of the most important dates in the Buddhist calendar, marking the day the religion was established	
	Guru Purnima <i>Hinduism</i> an Indian and Nepalese festival dedicated to spiritual and academic teachers	
	Martyrdom of The Bab <i>Baha'i</i> Commemorates The Bab's execution in 1850, after which his teachings continued to spread	
23	Birthday of Emperor Halle Selassie I <i>Rastafarianism</i> . A holy day of commemoration for Rastafarians	

AUGUST

1	Lughnasadh <i>Paganism</i> Marks the first day of harvest	
	Tisha B'Av <i>Judaism</i> . Anniversary of the destruction of the Temple of Solomon by Nebuchadnezzar and of the Second Temple by Titus	
7	Raksha Bandhan <i>Hinduism</i> Celebrates the love and duty between sisters and brothers	
14	Janmashtami <i>Hinduism</i> Celebrates the birthday of Lord Krishna, believed to have shown himself in human form 5,000 years ago	
15	The Blessed Virgin Mary <i>Christianity</i> Celebration of the mother of Jesus. Catholic Christians keep this day as Mary's Assumption into heaven before death	
25	Ganesh Chaturthi <i>Hinduism</i>	
30	The Hajj (Pilgrimage) <i>Islam</i> A pilgrimage to Makkah at least once in a lifetime obligatory on all adults who can afford it. Pilgrims also visit Muhammad's grave in Madinah to greet him	
31	Yawm 'Arafah (Day of 'Arafah) <i>Islam</i> 2nd day of Hajj, day of repentance and acceptance of supplications, many non-pilgrims fast on this holiest day in Islam	

SEPTEMBER

1	Eid-ul-Adha <i>Islam</i> . Marks the sacrifice made by Prophet Abraham	
	First Reading of the Guru Granth Sahib <i>Sikhism</i> . The Sikh scripture is installed at the Golden Temple for the first time	
11	Ethiopian New Year's Day <i>Rastafarianism</i>	
18	Samvatsari <i>Jainism</i> . Holiest day of the Jain calendar; the day is spent in prayers and contemplation	
19	Mahalaya <i>Hinduism</i>	
21-22	Rosh Hashanah <i>Judaism</i> Jewish New Year, marks the start of ten days of repentance, ending on Yom Kippur	
21	International Day of Peace <i>Interfaith</i>	
	Al-Hijra <i>Islam</i> . Beginning of the Islamic New Year, 1st Muharram, 1439 AH dated from the year when Muhammad and his followers were forced to migrate from Makkah to Madinah, a turning point in the history of Islam	
21-30	Durga Puja/Navarati/Dussehra <i>Hinduism</i> . Ten days of ceremonies, rituals, fasts and feasts in honour of the supreme mother Goddess. Until 29th September	
22	Autumn Equinox <i>Paganism</i> Ritual of thanksgiving	
30	Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement) <i>Judaism</i> Holiest day of the Jewish calendar, marked by a 25-hour fast and solemn prayer to repent for the previous year's sins	

OCTOBER

1	Ashura <i>Islam</i> . Many Sunni Muslims fast on this day as thanksgiving to God and to ask forgiveness for their sins of the past year. Muslims also remember the martyrdom of Husayn, grandson of Muhammad, and his family and companions in Karbala, mourning the tragedy for forty days (Arba'in)	
5-11	Sukkot <i>Judaism</i> Tabernacles or Feast of Booths	
13	Simchat Torah <i>Judaism</i> . Celebrates and marks the conclusion of the annual cycle of public Torah readings	
19	Diwali <i>Hinduism</i> . Jainism Festival of lights symbolising the victory of light over darkness and knowledge over ignorance	
	Bandi Chhor Divas <i>Sikhism</i> Commemorates the peaceful release of 52 kings & princes by sixth Sikh Guru (Guru Hargobind) darkness and knowledge over ignorance	
21	Birth of the Báb <i>Baha'i</i> . Celebrates the birthday of The Bab, forerunner, who prepared their way for Bahá'u'lláh	
22	Birth of Bahá'u'lláh <i>Baha'i</i> One of the twin founders of the Baha'i faith, who was born in 1817	
31	Samhain <i>Paganism</i> . Marks the end of the harvest season and the beginning of winter	

NOVEMBER

1	All Saints Day <i>Christianity</i>	
2	All Souls Day <i>Christianity</i> . Officially commemorates the faithful departed, but is more popularly a day to remember all family and friends who have died	
4	Sangha Day <i>Buddism</i> . Celebration in honour of the Sangha, and a chance for people to reaffirm their commitment to Buddhist practices and traditions	
	Guru Nanak Birthday <i>Sikhism</i>	
12	Remembrance Sunday <i>Interfaith</i> Interfaith Week (12th-29th November) <i>Interfaith</i>	
15	Shichi-Go-San <i>Shinto</i> Festival celebrating the growth and well-being of young children	
24	Martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadar <i>Sikhism</i> . Commemorates the 9th Sikh guru who undertook the sacrifice for protection of the oppressed	
25	Day of the Covenant <i>Baha'i</i>	
27	Ascension of 'Abdu'l-Bahá <i>Baha'i</i>	
30	Saint Andrew's Day <i>Christianity</i> Geeta Jayanti <i>Hinduism</i>	

DECEMBER

1	Mawlid n-Nabiyyi <i>Islam</i> Birthday of Muhammad	
3	Advent Sunday <i>Christianity</i> . Beginning the fourth Sunday before Christmas Day this marks the season of preparation for the celebration of Jesus' birth	
8	Bodhi Day <i>Buddhism</i> . Commemorates the day that the historical Buddha, Siddhartha Gautama (Shakyamuni) experienced enlightenment	
13-20	Chanukah (Festival of Lights) <i>Judaism</i> Celebrates the rededication of Jerusalem's Second Temple and the miracle of its menorah, which was kept alight for eight days with one day's oil	
21	Midwinter/Yule <i>Paganism</i> . Celebration of light takes place on the shortest day of the year	
22	Birthday of Holy Mother Sarada Devi <i>Hinduism</i>	
24	Christmas Eve <i>Christianity</i>	
25	Christmas Day <i>Christianity</i> Commemorates the birth of Jesus and is widely celebrated by the exchanging of gifts. Many Christians attend a church service at midnight as the day begins	

Dates used are correct to the best of our knowledge. Some dates may vary regionally because they are determined by the lunar calendar. *All Muslim festivals are subject to confirmation of sighting of the crescent moon.*
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