



Faith Calendar



JANUARY

- 01 Gantan-sai** Start of three day celebrations to mark the New Year.
- 05 Birth of Guru Gobind Singh** Tenth Sikh Guru and the last one in human form; founded the Brotherhood of the Pure (Khalsa).
- 06 Epiphany** Celebrates the visit of the Three Wise Men (Magi) to the infant Jesus.
- 07 Christmas Day (celebrated in Ethiopia)** Celebrated on this day to coincide with Christmas in Ethiopia.
- 07 Christmas Day (Eastern Orthodox)** Celebrated on this day by Eastern Orthodox Christians.
- 12 Birthday of Swami Vivekananda** Celebrates the birth of one of the most celebrated spiritual leaders of India.
- 13 Maghi/Lohri** Celebrates the sacrifice of the 40 Sikhs who fought for Guru Gorbind and is celebrated with bonfires.
- 18 Bodhi Day** Commemorates the day that the historical Buddha, Siddhartha Gautama (Shakyamuni) experienced enlightenment (lunar date).
- 18 Birthday of Sri Ramakrishna** Celebrating the birth of the Hindu incarnation of God.
- 25-27 Tu B'Shevat** Marks the beginning of the 'new year' for trees.
- 27 Holocaust Memorial Day** Remembering the millions of people killed in the Holocaust.

FEBRUARY

- 01-02 Imbolc** Honours the goddess Brigid and marks the return of Spring.
- 02 Candlemas** Commemorates the presentation of the baby Jesus in the Jerusalem Temple and the purification of his mother after giving birth.
- 03 Setsubun** Part of the Spring festival with special ritual to ward off evil.
- 08-09 Isra and Mi'raj** Commemorates the Prophet Muhammad's journey from Mecca to Jerusalem and his ascent into heaven.
- 10 Chinese New Year, Year of the Dragon** Most important of the traditional Chinese holidays.
- 13 Shrove Tuesday** The day of preparation for Lent (the 40 days leading up to Easter), traditionally marked by eating pancakes.
- 14 Saraswati Puja** Celebrating the Goddess Saraswati - the goddess of knowledge.
- 14 Ash Wednesday** First day of Lent. Many Christians receive a cross of ash on their foreheads in church as a symbol of mortality and penance.
- 15 Parinirvana** Celebration to mark the final passing of the Buddha.
- 24 Magha Puja** Takes place on the full moon day commemorating the life of the Buddha, also known as Sangha Day.
- 26-29 Ayyám-i-Há** Intercalary days.

MARCH

- 01 St David's Day** Commemorates the patron Saint of Wales.
- 01-19 Nineteen Day Fast** Adults fast from sunrise to sunset for 19 days; important time for prayer, reflection and spiritual renewal.
- 08 Maha Shivaratri** Festival celebrated in reverence of Lord Shiva.
- 11 Ramadan** Starts the most significant month for Muslims; precise date varies as it is determined by the sighting of the crescent moon. Marks a period of daily fasting from dawn to sunset.
- 17 St Patrick's Day** Commemorates the patron Saint of Ireland.
- 20 Spring Equinox** Celebration of Spring.
- 20 Naw-Rúz** End of the 19 day fast and the beginning of the Baha'i New Year.
- 24-24 Purim** Celebration of Jewish deliverance as told in the Book of Esther.
- 24 Palm Sunday** 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.
- 25 Birthday of Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu** Celebrating the birth of the Hindu mystic and saint.
- 25 Holi** Festival of Colour marking the end of winter.
- 26 Khordad Sal** Celebrating the birth date of Zoroaster.
- 28 Maundy Thursday** Commemorates the Last Supper.
- 29 Good Friday** Commemorates the death of Jesus by crucifixion.
- 31 Easter Day** Christians celebrate Jesus' resurrection from the dead. The Easter season lasts for 50 days to Pentecost.

APRIL

- 05 Laylat al-Qadr** Marks the night in which the Qur'an was first revealed.
- 08 Hanamatsuri** Flower festival celebrating the birthday of Shakyamuni, whose teachings form the basis of Buddhism.
- 10-11 Eid al-Fitr (End of Ramadan)** Celebrates the completion of Ramadan, and is on the first day of the following month, Shawwal.
- 14 Vaisakhi** Marks the creation of Sikhism and the ordination of the Khalsa.
- 17 Ram Navami** Celebrates the founding of the Khalsa, the Brotherhood of the Pure by Guru Gobind Singh.

- 20-01 Feast of Ridván** Festival commemorating the commencement of Baha'u'llah's prophethood.
- 21 Mahavir Jayanti** Celebrates the birth of Lord Mahavira, the last Tirthankara (saviour).
- 23-30 Passover** Celebrates the Exodus, the freedom from slavery of the Children of Israel from ancient Egypt that followed the Ten Plagues.
- 23 Hanuman Jayanti** Celebrated to commemorate the birth of Hanuman.
- 23 St George's Day** Commemorates the patron Saint of England.
- 28 Ninth Day of Ridván** Day when Baha'u'llah's family joined him at the Najibiyyih Garden, Baghdad.

MAY

- 01 Beltane** Celebration of fertility marking the beginning of Summer.
- 01 Twelfth Day of Ridvan** Close of the festival.
- 05 Easter Day (Orthodox Christianity)** Based on the Julian calendar.
- 06-06 Yom HaShoah** Anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising, serves as a day of remembrance for those who perished in the Shoah (Holocaust).
- 09 Ascension Day** Marks the ascension of Jesus Christ to heaven after he rose from the dead on Easter Sunday.
- 10 Akshaya Tritiya** An auspicious day of the Hindu.
- 19 Pentecost/Whitsun** Marks the appearance of the Holy Spirit.
- 23 Wesak** Celebration of Buddha's enlightenment.
- 23-24 Declaration of the Báb** Celebrates The Bab's declaration of his mission as the messenger of God.
- 28 Ascension of Bahá'u'lláh** Commemorates the death of Bahá'u'lláh.

JUNE

- 12-13 Shavuot** Celebrates the giving of the Torah (Five Books of Moses), the first harvest, and the ripening of the first fruits.
- 14-19 The Hajj** Once in a lifetime pilgrimage to Makkah; is the largest gathering of Muslims anywhere in the world.
- 15 Yawm Arafat** 2nd day of Hajj, day of repentance and acceptance of supplications, many non pilgrims fast on this holiest day in Islam.
- 16 Martyrdom of the Guru Arjan Dev** Commemorates the fifth Sikh Guru and first Sikh martyr.
- 16-20 Eid al-Adha** Marks the sacrifice made by Prophet Abraham, celebrated for three days after Eid.
- 24 Midsummers Day** A celebration of the sun's power on the longest day of the year.
- 29 Feast of Saints Peter and Paul** Observed by Roman Catholics, Anglicans and Lutherans.

JULY

- 07 Jagannath Rath Yatra** Public procession and chariot festival.
- 07-08 Al-Hijra (Islamic New Year)** The Islamic New Year. First day of Muharram. Start of Islamic year 1445.
- 09 Martyrdom of the Bab** Commemorates The Bab's execution in 1850, after which his teachings continued to spread.
- 16-17 Ashura** Marks the tenth day of Muharram as the day Allah saved Moses from the Pharaoh.
- 21 Guru Purnima Day** An Indian and Nepalese festival dedicated to spiritual and academic teachers.
- 21 Asalha-Dharma Day** Commemorates Buddha's first teaching to the five ascetics in the Deer Park near Benares, India.
- 23 Birthday of Emperor Halle Selassie I** A holy day of commemoration for Rastafarians.

AUGUST

- 01 Lughnasadh** Marks the first day of harvest.
- 13 Tisha B'Av** Anniversary of the destruction of the Temple of Solomon by Nebuchadnezzar and of the Second Temple by Titus.
- 15 The Blessed Virgin Mary** Celebration of the mother of Jesus, Catholic Christians keep this day as Mary's Assumption into heaven before death.
- 19 Raksha Bandhan** Celebrates the love and duty between sisters and brothers.
- 26 Janmashtami** Celebrates the birthday of Lord Krishna, believed to have shown himself in human form 5,000 years ago.

SEPTEMBER

- 01 First reading of Guru Granth Sahib** The Sikh scripture is installed at the Golden Temple for the first time.
- 07 Ganesh Chaturthi** Festival that commemorates God Ganesha's birthday.
- 08 Samvatsari** Holiest day of the Jain calendar; the day is spent in prayers and contemplation.
- 11 Enkutatash (Ethiopian New Year)** Marking the new year with celebrations of prayer and colourful processions.
- 15-16 Mawlid** Observance of the birthday of prophet Muhammed.
- 21 International Day of Peace** A day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace among and within all nations.
- 22 Autumn Equinox** Ritual of thanksgiving.
- 23 Shubun-Sai** A day for visiting graves.

OCTOBER

- 02-17 Mahalaya** Marks the beginning of Navratri and Durga Puja.
- 03-04 Rosh Hashanah** Jewish New Year, marks the start of ten days of repentance, ending on Yom Kippur.
- 03-11 Navratri** Ten days of ceremonies, rituals, fasts and feasts in honour of the supreme mother of Goddess.
- 08-12 Durga Puja-Dussehra (End of Navratri)** End of Navratri.
- 12 Yom Kippur** Holiest day of the Jewish calendar, marked by a 25-hour fast and solemn prayer to repent for the previous year's sins.
- 16 Lakshmi Puja** Most important day of Diwali devoted to Goddess Lakshmi.
- 17-23 Sukkot** Tabernacles or Feast of Booths.
- 24 Shemini Atzeret** Eighth day of Solemn Assembly.
- 25 Simchat Torah** Celebrates and marks the conclusion of the annual cycle of public Torah reading.
- 31-01 Samhain** Marks the end of the harvest season and the beginning of winter.

NOVEMBER

- 01 All Saints Day** Honours all Saints in Christian history.
- 01-06 Diwali** Festival of lights symbolising the victory of light over darkness and knowledge over ignorance.
- 02-04 Birth of the Báb** Celebrates the birthday of The Bab, forerunner, who prepared their way for Baha'u'llah.
- 02 All Souls Day** Commemorates the faithful departed, family members and friends who have died.
- 03-04 Birth of Bahá'u'lláh** One of the twin founders of the Baha'i faith, who was born in 1817.
- 10 Remembrance Sunday** Commemorating the contribution of military service people in the two World Wars and later conflicts.
- 10-17 Inter Faith Week** A week to focus on inter faith understanding and cooperation.
- 12 Bandi Chhor Divas** Commemorates the peaceful release of 52 kings and princes by sixth Sikh Guru (Guru Hargobind) darkness and knowledge over ignorance.
- 15 Shichi-Go-San** Festival celebrating the growth and well-being of young children.
- 15 Guru Nanak Gururab** Celebrates the birth of the first Sikh guru.
- 24 Martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur** Commemorates the 9th Sikh guru who undertook the sacrifice for protection of the oppressed.
- 25-26 Day of the Covenant** When Bahá'ís celebrate the appointment of `Abdu'l-Bahá as the Centre of Baha'u'llah's Covenant.
- 27 Ascension of `Abdu'l-Bahá** Commemorates the death of `Abdu'l-Bahá.
- 30 Saint Andrew's Day** Feast day of the patron saint of Scotland.

DECEMBER

- 01 Advent Sunday** The first day of the season of Advent.
- 08 Bodhi Day** Commemorates the day that the historical Buddha, Siddhartha Gautama (Shakyamuni) experienced enlightenment (some cultures celebrate this alternative date).
- 11 Geeta Jayanti** Commemorates the birthday of Bhagvad Gita, the sacred text of Hindu.
- 22 Birthday of Holy Mother Sarada Devi** Commemorates the birthday of the Hindu mystic and saint.
- 24 Christmas Eve** Time for preparation for Christmas.
- 25 Christmas Day** Commemorates the birth of Jesus Christ and is widely celebrated by the exchanging of gifts.
- 26-02 Chanukah** 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.

Dates used are correct to the best of our knowledge. Some may vary regionally because they are determined by the lunar calendar. Some may be subject to confirmation of sighting of the moon. Some may begin the evening before the listed date. Sikh dates are based on Nanak Shahi calendar.



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