

MULTI-FAITH

CALENDAR 2025

HOLY DAYS AND RELIGIOUS FESTIVALS



JANUARY

- 6 Epiphany** commemorates the manifestation of God in human form as Jesus Christ, and the visit of three wise men to infant Jesus.
- 6 Birthday of Guru Gobind Singh Ji** (1666-1708), the tenth and final Sikh Guru, who created the collective body of baptised Sikhs (Khalsa) and declared the Sikh Scriptures (Guru Granth Sahib) to be the Sikh's Guru from that time on.
- 7 Nativity** is the Orthodox celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ, considered by Christians to be the Son of God. Celebrated by Orthodox churches that follow the Julian calendar.
- 13 Maghi** commemorates the sacrifice of forty Sikhs, who sacrificed their lives defending an attack by the imperial army in pursuit of Guru Gobind Singh Ji in 1705 CE.
- 14 Mahayana New Year** ** starts on the first full moon day in January. Celebrated in Mahayana countries like China, Korea, Japan, Taiwan and Vietnam.
- 14-17 Pongal** is a four-day harvest festival celebrated by Tamil people in Southern India and Sri Lanka, dedicated to the Hindu Sun God Surya, thanking Surya for agricultural abundance.
- 19 Feast of Epiphany**, or Theophany, commemorates Christ's baptism by John the Baptist in the River Jordan, and the manifestation of God in human form as Jesus Christ [Orthodox].
- 27 Lailat al Miraj** * is the observance of Prophet Muhammad's Night Journey comprising of two parts: a physical journey from Mecca to Jerusalem (al Isra), and a spiritual journey, his ascension to heaven (al Miraj) and return the same night.
- 29 Lunar (or Chinese) New Year** ** marks the beginning of the new year based on the lunar or lunisolar calendar. Also known as Spring Festival in China, Tet in Vietnam and Seollal in South Korea.

FEBRUARY

- 13 Magha Puja Day** ** commemorates the Buddha's teachings to a spontaneous gathering of 1250 holy men (arahants).
- 14 Lailat al Bara'ah** *, meaning night of salvation, is one of the most sacred nights on the Islamic calendar where practitioners seek forgiveness for sins.
- 15 Nirvana Day** ** celebrates the day when the Buddha is said to have achieved complete enlightenment (Parinirvana) upon the death of his physical body at the age of 80.
- 26 MahaShivaratri** ** celebrates the Hindu deity Lord Shiva who, according to legend, on this night performs the cosmic dance of creation, preservation and destruction.
- 28 Tibetan New Year**, or Losar, is a 15-day festival celebrated on various dates depending on location (Tibet, Bhutan, Nepal, India).

MARCH

- 1-30 Ramadan** * (***) commemorates the revelation of the Qur'an to the Prophet Muhammad. It is the holiest month for Muslims, who dedicate themselves to fasting, prayer and reading of the Qur'an.
- 14 Purim** * is a joyous festival, recalling the saving of the Jewish people living in Persia by a young Jewish woman, Queen Esther.
- 5 Mar - 17 Apr Lent** is the period before Easter, traditionally a time of fasting and reflection. This 40-day period represents the time Jesus spent in the desert overcoming temptation by Satan. [Known as **Great Lent** by Orthodox Christians **3 Mar - 18 Apr**]
- 14 Holi** ** is a joyous Hindu festival celebrating spring, the eternal and divine love of the Hindu deities Radha and Krishna, and Lord Vishnu's triumph of good over evil. Bonfires are lit and people throw coloured water, powder and dyes in celebration.
- 14-16 Holi Mohalla** is a festival started by Guru Gobind Singh Ji, as a gathering of Sikhs for military exercises, mock battles, athletic competitions, and literary contests.
- 20 Naw Ruz** *, meaning 'New Day', is the Baha'i and Persian New Year, which occurs on the date of the vernal equinox.

- 25 Annunciation** marks the visit of the angel Gabriel to the Virgin Mary, during which he told her she would be the mother of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.
- 27 Lailat al Qadr** *, or Night of Power/Destiny, commemorates the first revelation of the Qur'an to Prophet Muhammad in 610 CE.
- 31 Eid ul Fitr** * is a celebration marking the end of Ramadan, the Islamic holy month of fasting. It is a time when families and friends get together, and a time for charity to the poor.

APRIL

- 6 Rama Navami** ** celebrates the birth of Lord Rama, the seventh incarnation of the Hindu God Vishnu and hero of the religious epic poem 'The Ramayana'.
- 10 Mahavir Jayanti** celebrates the birth of Lord Mahavira, the 24th and last enlightened spiritual Master (Tirthankar) in Jainism.
- 13-15 Theravada New Year** is celebrated for three days from the first full moon day in April, in Theravadin countries like Thailand, Burma, Sri Lanka, Cambodia, and Lao.
- 13-20 Pesach** *, or Passover, is an eight-day festival when Jews commemorate the Exodus from their slavery in Egypt. The festival begins with the Seder meal during which time the story of their deliverance is told.
- 13-19 Holy Week** is the last week before Easter. It begins with Palm Sunday (entry of Jesus Christ into Jerusalem) and includes Maundy Thursday (Last Supper), Good Friday (Crucifixion) and Easter Saturday (final day of Christ's death).
- 14 Baisakhi** is a spring harvest festival that marks the founding of the collective body of all baptised Sikhs (Khalsa) by Guru Gobind Singh Ji.

- 18 Good/Holy Friday** is a solemn day of mourning and reflection, commemorating the suffering and crucifixion of Jesus Christ, considered by Christians to be the Son of God.
- 20 Easter**, or Pascha, is a celebration commemorating the resurrection of Jesus Christ, three days after his death by crucifixion.
- 20 Apr-1 May Ridvan** * commemorates the twelve-day period that Baha'u'llah, the founder of the Baha'i faith, spent in the Garden of Ridvan in the last days of his exile in Baghdad, and declared himself the Promised One, as prophesied by the Bab.
- 24 Yom HaShoah** *, or Holocaust Remembrance Day, remembers the victims of the Holocaust, emphasizing respect for human dignity. Observed by Jewish and other faiths.

MAY

- 12 Vesak / Buddha Day** ** is a major Buddhist festival, celebrating the birth, enlightenment and death of the Buddha.
- 23 Declaration of the Bab** * commemorates when The Bab heralded the arrival of Baha'ullah, the founder of the Baha'i faith.
- 28 Ascension of Baha'ullah** * observes the anniversary of the death of Baha'u'llah, founder of the Baha'i faith on May 29 1892 CE.

JUNE

- 2-3 Shavuot** * celebrates the revelation of the Torah on Mount Sinai. Also known as Feast of Weeks.
- 7-10 Eid Al Adha** * is a major festival commemorating Ibrahim's (Abraham) willingness to sacrifice his son as an act of submission to God's command. Also known as 'Feast of Sacrifice'.
- 8 Pentecost** commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples of Jesus, fifty days after Easter, and marks the beginning of the Christian Church.
- 11 Saga Dawa Duchen** is an important holy day for Tibetan Buddhists commemorating the birth, enlightenment, and death of the Buddha.

- 16 Martyrdom of Guru Arjun Dev Ji** commemorates the death of the fifth Sikh Guru, who was the first martyr Guru. He was responsible for the compilation of the Sikh scriptures (Guru Granth Sahib) and helped to build the Golden Temple at Amritsar.
- 27 Hijra** * commemorates the journey that Muhammad made from Mecca to Medina in 622 CE to flee persecution and set up the first Muslim community founded on Islamic principles. Also signifies the becoming of the Islamic New Year.

JULY

- 5 Ashura** *, for Sunni Muslims, commemorates when Prophet Moses (Musa) and his followers were saved by crossing the Red Sea. For Shia Muslims, it is a day of mourning for the martyrdom of Imam Husayn, grandson of Prophet Muhammad, in 680 CE.
- 9 Martyrdom of the Bab** * commemorates the anniversary of the execution of The Bab (Siyyid 'Ali- Muhammad), the prophet-herald of the Baha'i Faith, in 1850 CE.
- 10 Asalha Puja** **, or Dharma Day, commemorates the Buddha's first teaching and is recognised as the beginning of Buddhism and the monastic community of monks and nuns (Sangha)

AUGUST

- 3 Tisha B'Av** * is a day of mourning to remember events such as the destruction of the First Temple and Second Temple in Jerusalem.
- 9 Raksha Bandhan** **, or Rakhi, is a festival celebrating a brother-sister like relationship between relatives or biologically unrelated.
- 15 Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary** commemorates when the Blessed Virgin Mary, mother of Jesus, was taken (assumed) into heaven, body and soul.
- 16 Krishna Janmashtami** ** commemorates the birth of the Hindu deity Krishna, considered to be the eighth incarnation (avatar) of the Hindu God Vishnu.
- 21-28 Paryushana** ** is an eight-day festival signifying a time of fasting, reflection and repentance for nuns, monks and Jain practitioners from the Svetamber sect.
- 27 Ganesh Chaturthi** ** celebrates the birthday of the Hindu deity Lord Ganesh, who has the head of an elephant and known as the remover of obstacles.
- 28 Samvatsari** ** is a day where Jains from the Svetamber sect offer and seek forgiveness for any wrong actions committed knowingly or unknowingly.
- 29 Aug - 7 Sep Daslakshana** ** is a ten-day festival celebrated by Jains from the Digambara sect, honouring the ten cardinal virtues of the soul.

SEPTEMBER

- 6 Ullambana** **, or Ancestor Day or Obon, is a Mahayana Buddhist ritual of making merit for the deceased.
- 8 Kshamavani** ** is a day where Jains from the Digambara sect offer and seek forgiveness for any wrong actions committed knowingly or unknowingly. Also known as 'Forgiveness Day'.
- 22 Sep - 1 Oct Navaratri** ** is a nine-day festival worshipping and honouring the Goddess and her energy (Shakti). Festival includes dancing as people celebrate various aspects of the feminine.
- 23-24 Rosh Hashanah** *, the Jewish New Year festival, is the beginning of the holiest time of the year for Jews, and the anniversary of the creation of the world.

OCTOBER

- 2 Dussehra** commemorates the triumph of the Hindu deity Lord Rama over the demon king Ravana, symbolizing the victory of good over evil.
- 2 Yom Kippur** *, or Day of Atonement, is the holiest day of the year for the Jewish people, characterized by fasting, intensive prayer, repentance and forgiveness.

- 7-13 Sukkot** *, or Feast of Booths, is an eight-day harvest festival which recalls the 40 years the Jews spent in the wilderness on the way from slavery in Egypt to freedom in the Promised Land.
- 7 Kathina** ** is a Theravadin Buddhist festival which comes at the end of the three-month rainy season retreat (Vassa). It is a time where the laity express gratitude to the monks and nuns by offering them new robes and other necessities. Also, a time for Buddhists to give charity to the poor, called giving alms.
- 14 Shemini Atzeret** * marks the end of Sukkot and the beginning of the rainy season in Israel and, therefore includes the year's first prayer for rain.
- 15 Simchat Torah** * is a joyous festival in which the annual cycle of reading the Torah is over, and the next cycle begins. The celebration typically includes singing, dancing, and parading Torah scrolls around the synagogue.
- 20 Conferment of Guruship to Guru Granth Sahib** celebrates Guru Gobind Singh Ji's declaration in 1708 CE that, instead of having another human Guru, from now on Sikhs would regard the scripture, the Guru Granth Sahib, as their Guru
- 21 Diwali** **, or Festival of Lights, is one of the most celebrated Hindu festivals, commemorating the victory of good over evil.

- 21 Bandi Chhor Divas**, or 'The Celebration of Freedom', commemorates the release in 1619 CE from prison of Sri Guru Hargobind Ji, the sixth Sikh Guru.
- 21 Mahavira Nirvana** marks the day Lord Mahavira, the 24th and last enlightened spiritual Master (Tirthankar), gave his last teachings and attained ultimate liberation (Nirvana).
- 22 Birth of the Bab** * is the birth anniversary of The Bab, born Siyyid 'Ali- Muhammad in 1819 CE, regarded as the prophet-herald of the Baha'i faith.
- 23 Birth of Baha'ullah** * is the birth anniversary of Baha'u'llah, born Mirza Husayn-'Ali in 1817 CE, the founder of the Baha'i faith.

NOVEMBER

- 1 All Saints Day** honours exemplary Christians who achieved sainthood, especially those not having a special day.
- 5 Birth of Guru Nanak Dev Sahib Ji** observes the birth of Sri Guru Nanak Dev Sahib, the founder of the Sikh religion, born in 1469 CE.
- 24 Martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji** commemorates the execution of Guru Tegh Bahadur (1621-1675 CE), the ninth Sikh Guru, for his defense of the Sikh faith and for upholding the right to practice religious freedom.
- 25 Day of the Covenant** * commemorates Baha'u'llah's appointment of his eldest son, Abdu'l-Baha, as the leader of the Baha'i community after his passing.

- 27 Ascension of Abdu'l-Baha** * commemorates the passing of Abdu'l-Baha in 1921 CE, the eldest son and successor of Baha'u'llah, the founder of the Baha'i faith.

- 30 Nov - 24 Dec Advent** is the period leading up to Christmas (Jesus Christ's birth), which also marks the beginning of Christian liturgical year in Western churches.

DECEMBER

- 8 Bodhi Day** ** commemorates the day the Buddha, Siddhartha Gautama, reached enlightenment under the Bodhi tree around 596 BCE. Also celebrated on lunar date which can fall in January.
- 15-22 Hanukkah** *, or Feast of Lights, is an eight-day festival commemorating the recapture and rededication of the Temple in Jerusalem over occupying forces in 165 BCE.
- 25 Christmas** is the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ, considered by Christians to be the Son of God. Celebrated January 7th by Orthodox Churches which follow the Julian calendar.

This calendar presents the major holy days and religious festivals for Baha'i, Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Jainism, Judaism and Sikhism. Whilst this list is not exhaustive, it is comprehensive to represent each of the religions in good faith.

* Holy days (Jewish, Islamic and Baha'i) which begin at sundown on the previous day listed.
 ** Local or regional customs may use a variation of this date.

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