

# Holy Days and Observances

## 2024 Dates

### August

**Aug. 12, 2024 - Aug. 13, 2024**

**Tisha B'Av (Jewish)** is recognized as a day of memorial to commemorate the tragedies that the Jewish community has faced throughout history.

**Aug. 26, 2024**

**Krishna Janmashtami (Hinduism)** is recognized as the celebration of the birth of Krishna, the eighth avatar (or incarnation) of the god Vishnu, and is worshiped as the supreme god. Krishna is the Hindu god of compassion, protection, and love.

### September

**Sept. 6, 2024 - Sept. 15, 2024**

**Onam (Hinduism)** is an annual harvest and cultural festival that is celebrated for ten days. It commemorates New Year's Day.

**Sept. 6, 2024**

**Ganesh Chaturthi (Hinduism)**, also known as Vinayaka Chaturthi, is a festival celebrating the birth of the Hindu deity Lord Ganesh: the God of New Beginnings, Remover of Obstacles, and god of wisdom.

**Sept. 16, 2024**

**Mawlid (Islamic, Muslim)** is an annual festival that commemorates the birth of Islamic Prophet Muhammad.

**Sept. 21, 2024**

**Mabon (Pagan, Wiccan)** is celebrated during the Fall Equinox, to honor the transition in seasons and hold thankfulness for the harvests.

## October

**Oct. 2, 2024 - Oct. 4, 2024**

**Rosh Hashanah (Jewish)** is recognized as the Jewish New Year.

**Oct. 3, 2024 - Oct. 12, 2024**

**Navratri (Hinduism)**, also spelled Navaratri, is an annual festival that honors the goddess Durga and the divine feminine. Goddesses are worshiped during the festival, celebrating their victories in defeating evil.

**Oct. 11, 2024 - Oct. 12, 2024**

**Yom Kippur (Jewish)**, which stands for “Day of Atonement”, is recognized as the most solemn and holiest day of the year in Judaism.

**Oct. 12, 2024**

**Dussehra (Hinduism)**, also known as Vijayadashami, Dasara or Dashain, is a festival celebrating the victory of good over evil, as represented by the victory of Rama (an incarnation of Vishnu) against the 10-headed demon king Ravana, who had abducted Rama’s wife, Sita.

**Oct. 16, 2024 - Oct. 23, 2024**

**Sukkot (Jewish)** is a festival to honor the fall harvest and bring families together.

**Oct. 23, 2024 - Oct. 25, 2024**

**Shemini Atzeret (Jewish)**, meaning “Eighth Day of Assembly”, directly follows the Sukkot festival as a separate but connected observance. Shemini Atzeret serves as the first day of a two-day celebration and honors the start of the rainy season. The second day of this celebration is Simchat Torah.

**Oct. 24, 2024 - Oct. 25, 2024**

**Simchat Torah (Jewish)** is the second day of the two-day celebration that follows Sukkot, with the first day being Shemini Atzeret. Simchat Torah marks the conclusion of an annual cycle of Torah readings, and the beginning of a new cycle.

**Oct. 31, 2024 - Nov. 1, 2024**

**Diwali (Hinduism, Sikh, Jain, Buddhist)** is a festival of lights symbolizing the victory of light over darkness, good over evil, and knowledge over ignorance.

## November

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**Nov. 15, 2024**

**Guru Nanak Gurpurab (Sikh)**, also spelled Guru Nanak Prakash Utsav, honors the birth of Guru Nanak, the first Sikh guru. This is considered one of the most sacred festival by Sikhs.

## December

**Dec. 8, 2024**

**Bodhi (Buddhism)** is celebrated twice, once on a fixed date (Dec 8) and once on a date based on the Lunar calendar. Bodhi is a celebration of when Buddha achieved enlightenment.

**Dec. 21, 2024**

**Yule (Pagan, Wiccan)** is celebrated during the Winter Solstice and marks the day when the sun is reborn.

**Dec. 25, 2024**

**Christmas (Christian)** is a celebration commemorating the birth of Jesus Christ.

**Dec. 26, 2024 - Jan. 2, 2025**

**Chanukah (Jewish)**, also spelled Hanukkah, is a festival of lights that commemorates the rededication of the Holy Temple in Jerusalem.

## 2025 Dates

### January

**Every Friday, starting Jan. 3, 2025**

**Shabbat (Jewish)** is the Day of Rest in Judaism. During this commemoration, Jewish people remember the story of creation from the Torah where God created the world in 6 days and rested on the 7th day. This commemoration begins before sundown and ends when night begins on the following Saturday.

**Jan. 6, 2025**

**Epiphany (Christian)**, also known as Eid al-Ghitas, Theophany, or Three Kings Day, is a feast day commemorating the day that the three wise men first saw baby Jesus.

**Jan. 7, 2025**

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**Jan. 14, 2025 - Jan. 17, 2025**

**Pongol (Hinduism)** is a festival celebration of gratitude for the Sun, Mother Nature, and the animals that contributed to a plentiful harvest.

### February

**Feb. 26, 2025**

**Shivaratri (Hinduism)**, also spelled Maha Shivaratri meaning “Great Night of Shiva”, is a festival honoring the deity Shiva. Shivaratri is honored with an all-night vigil to upsurge spiritual energies and remember the importance of overcoming darkness.

**Feb. 28, 2025 - March 30, 2025**

**Ramadan (Islam)** is a month to commemorate the revelation of the Qur’an to the Prophet Muhammad and to cultivate self-control, gratitude, and compassion. Ramadan typically consists of fasting from food and drink, gathering with friends and family, and doing special prayers.

## March

### March 5, 2025

**Ash Wednesday (Christian)** signifies the first day of Lent, a religious observance to commemorate the 40 days that Jesus was fasting and enduring temptation by Satan. Ash Wednesday serves as a day of remembrance and reconciliation.

### March 13, 2025 - March 14, 2025

**Purim (Jewish)** is a day to commemorate when the Jewish were saved from the threat of a massacre in ancient Persia. This day celebrates and affirms Jewish survival throughout history.

### March 14, 2025

**Holi (Hinduism)** is a celebration of the start of the Spring season. It is known as the "Festival of Colors".

### March 20, 2025

**Nowruz (Bahá'í/Baha'i)**, also spelled Naw-Rúz, is the Bahá'í new year.

### March 21, 2025

**Ostara (Pagan, Wiccan)** is celebrated during the Spring Equinox, to honor the arrival of the spring season.

### March 29, 2025 - March 30, 2025

**Eid al-Fitr (Islam)**, also spelled Eid ul-Fitr, is a Muslim celebration marking the end of Ramadan. It is known as the "Festival of Breaking the Fast".

## April

**April 10, 2025**

**Mahavir Janma Kalyanak (Jainism)**, also called Mahavir Jayanti, celebrates the birth of Lord Mahavir, who established the core tenets of Jainism.

**April 12, 2025 - April 20, 2025**

**Passover (Jewish)**, also called Pesach, commemorates the Exodus story, a story of redemption and escape from slavery.

**April 13, 2025**

**Palm Sunday (Christian)** commemorates when Jesus entered Jerusalem, greeted by people waving palm branches.

**April 14, 2025**

**Vaisakhi (Sikh)**, also called Baisakhi, celebrates the founding of the Sikh community (the Khalsa) in 1699.

**April 18, 2025**

**Good Friday (Christian)** is a holy day for remembering the crucifixion of Jesus and Jesus' death.

**April 20, 2025**

**Easter (Christian)**, also called Pascha or Resurrection Sunday, is a commemoration of the resurrection of Jesus.

## May

**May 5, 2025**

**Buddha Purnima (Buddhism)**, also called Buddha Day, Buddha Jayanti, and Buddha Pournami, is a celebration of Buddha's birthday, the birth of Siddhartha Gautama, who became Gautama Buddha, who also founded Buddhism. The date of this celebration varies by region: in some areas, it lands on **May 11** or **May 12**.

**May 29, 2025**

**Ascension Day (Christian)**, also called "The Feast of the Ascension of Jesus Christ", is a day to celebrate Jesus ascending into Heaven.

## June

**June 1, 2025 - June 3, 2025**

**Shavuot (Jewish)**, also called Shvues, meaning "Festival of the Weeks", is a holiday that marks the biblical wheat harvest. It is also a commemoration of when the Torah was revealed to Moses on Mount Sinai.

**June 6, 2025 - June 7, 2025**

**Eid-Al-Adha (Islam)**, meaning "Festival of Sacrifice", is a commemoration of the willingness of the Prophet Ibrahim (Abraham) to sacrifice his son, Ishmael, as a symbol of obedience when ordered to do so by God.

**June 8, 2025**

**Pentecost (Christian)**, coming from the Greek word "pentekoste" meaning fiftieth to represent 50 days since Easter, is commemoration of when the Holy Spirit descended upon the Apostles of Jesus.

**June 21, 2025**

**Litha (Pagan, Wiccan)**, also called Midsummer, marks the Summer Solstice when the sun is at its maximum power. This is also the longest day of the year.

**June 27, 2025**

**Ra's as-Sanah (Islam)**, meaning "Head of the Year", marks the beginning of the new year on the Islamic calendar.

## July

**July 5, 2025**

**Ashura (Islam)**, is a celebration held by Sunni Muslims, to honor the day that the Prophet Nuh (Noah) left the Ark and when the Prophet Musa (Moses) parted the Red Sea to allow the Israelites to safely leave Egypt. For Shia Muslims, this date is more solemn and mourns the killing of Imam Hussein, grandson of the Prophet Muhammad.

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