

2023 Holy Days and Religious Holidays

** Dates marked with an asterisk begin the evening prior*

January

6th – Feast of the Epiphany: The day that commemorates the first manifestation of Jesus to the Gentiles for Christians. It is celebrated on January 6th as it marks 12 days after Christmas when the three kings arrived in Bethlehem.

7th – Coptic Orthodox Christmas: The date that Orthodox Christians celebrate Jesus's birth in the Julian calendar.

14th – Coptic Orthodox New Year: The "Old New Year" celebrates the start of the Julian calendar.

15th – World Religion Day: A day in the Baha'i faith that celebrates common themes for faiths across the world.

20th – Birthday of Guru Gobind Singh's Birthday: – The date used to celebrate the tenth Sikh Guru and spiritual master.

February

2nd – Candlemas: A holiday in the Christian church that blesses the candle supply for that year.

5th – Tu Bishvat: The "New Year of Trees" in the Jewish faith.

15th – Parinirvana: Also known as Nirvana Day in Mahāyāna Buddhism, this date marks Buddha's death and attainment of final nirvana.

18th – Lailat al Miraj: A Muslim holiday commemorating Muhammad's journey from Mecca to Jerusalem where he ascended into heaven.

22nd – Ash Wednesday: The day in the Christian Church that marks the start of Lent, the 40-day period of prayer and fasting before Easter.

24th – Festival of Ayyam-i-Ha: A multiple-day festival in the Baha'i faith that prioritizes gift-giving, hospitality, charity, and preparation for fasting ahead of the New Year.

March

6th to 7th – Purim: The Feast of Lots in the Jewish faith that honours the survival of ancient Persian Jews who were marked for death.

8th – Holi: A Hindu festival of colours that welcomes spring and a new harvest in India.

8th to 10th – Hola Mohalla: The 3-day Sikh festival honouring valour, skill, and defence preparedness.

19th – Feast Day of St. Joseph: A day that commemorates the husband of Jesus's mother Mary and surrogate father on Earth.

21st – Naw Ruz: The New Year for the Baha'i faith, marking the end of the Baha'i fast.

22nd to 31st – Navaratri: A festival in the Hindu faith that celebrates the Goddess Durga.

22nd to 21st April – Ramadan: The holy month of fasting, introspection, and prayer celebrated by Muslims.

25th – The Annunciation: The day in the Christian religion when the Angel Gabriel announced that Mary would become the mother of Jesus.

April

4th – Mahavir Jayanti: A Jain holiday celebrating the birth of Lord Mahavira, the founder of Jainism.

5th* to 13th – Passover: A 7-day holiday in the Jewish faith that honours the freeing of the Israeli slaves.

9th – Easter: The most important day in the Christian faith when they celebrate the resurrection of their Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

14th – Vaisakhi: An ancient festival for Hindus that simultaneously celebrates that Solar New Year and spring harvest.

16th – Feast of the Divine Mercy: A feast day on the second Sunday of Easter when Christians seek Christ's forgiveness and grace.

21st* to 22nd – Eid al-Fitr: An Islamic holiday that marks the end of Ramadan. As it ends fasting, its primary event is a big meal.

May

5th – Birthday of Buddha: The day that Buddhists celebrate the Buddha's birthday.

5th* – Vesak: The most important Theravada Buddhist festival that signifies the birth, enlightenment, and death of the Buddha

18th – Ascension Day: A Christian holiday that marks the 40th day following Easter when Jesus ascended into Heaven.

23rd – Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev Sahib: A day observed by Sikhs to commemorate an individual who laid down his life for their people.

25th* to 27th – Shavuot: A Jewish holiday that combines a grain harvest and the giving of the Torah on Mount Sinai.

June

4th – Trinity Sunday: A day in the Christian faith that celebrates the three personifications of God (the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit).

8th – Feast of Corpus Christi: The feast day that commemorates the real presence of Jesus's body in the Eucharist in the Roman Catholic Church.

11th – Race Unity Day: A day that promotes racial harmony and understanding in the Baha'i faith.

16th – Feast of the Sacred Heart: A feast day in the Roman Catholic Church that celebrates Jesus's physical heart as a representation of his love for all humanity.

18th to 29th – Eid al-Adha: A Muslim holiday that marks the end of the Hajj pilgrimage.

26th to July 1st – The Hajj: The name for the annual pilgrimage to the Holy City of Mecca required for all Muslims at least once.

July

9th – Martyrdom of the Bab: The day of the execution of the co-founder of the Baha'i faith.

23rd – Birthday of Haile Selassie: A holiday in Rastafarianism that celebrates Emperor Haile Selassie, an individual believed to be the incarnation of God.

24th – Pioneer Day: A Utah state holiday that celebrates the settling of the Mormon pioneers in the Great Salt Lake area where they established the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.

26th to 27th – Tisha B'Av: A Jewish holiday that remembers the destruction of the Jewish temple, once in 586 BCE and once in 70 CE in Jerusalem.

August

15th – Feast of the Assumption: A holy day that commemorates the Virgin Mary being assumed, body and soul, into heaven.

29th* – Hijiri: Also known as Islamic New Year, this is the start of the Islamic lunar calendar, which begins when the crescent moon is sighted

September

5th* to 6th – Arbaeen: A day of observance for Muslims that concludes the 40-day mourning period after the Day of Ashura

11th – Coptic New Year: Also known as Nayrouz, this is a feast day that commemorates both martyrs and confessors in the Coptic Orthodox Christian Church.

15th* to 17th – Rosh Hashanah: The Jewish New Year beginning at sundown that encourages reflection.

25th* – Yom Kippur: A Jewish day of atonement to reflect on sins and seek forgiveness from God.

27th* – Mawlid: An Islamic holiday celebrating the birthday of the Prophet Muhammad.

29th* to Oct 6th – Sukkot: A day in the Jewish faith that remembers when the Jews journeyed to the desert on the way to the promised land.

29th to Oct 14th – Pitru Paksha: A time when Hindus pay homage to their ancestors.

October

16th* – Birthday of the Bab: A day honouring the birthday of God’s messenger in the Baha’i faith.

17th – Birthday of Baha’u’llah: A day honouring the birthday of the prophet-founding of the Baha’i faith

24th – Dussehra: The tenth and final day of the Hindu festival honouring Asuj Navratras.

November

1st – All Saints Day: Also known as Day of the Dead or Día de los Muertos, this day honours the saints who have attained heaven in the Christian faith.

2nd – Anniversary of the Crowning of Haile Selassie: celebrated by Rastafarians.

12th – Diwali: A 5-day festival celebrated by Hindus, Sikhs, and Jains. It honors gods, goddesses, harvests, New Years, etc.

27*th – Birthday of Guru Nanak Ji: A day honouring the birth of the founder of Sikhism.

27th – Jain New Year: A holiday always following Diwali; Jains celebrate their new year on the first day after the month of Kartika.

30th – Feast of St. Andrew: A day honouring the patron saint of Scotland, Greece, Russia, Ukraine, Barbados, and Romania in the Roman Catholic Church.

December

8th – Feast of the Immaculate Conception: A feast day celebrated by Roman Catholics that celebrate Mary’s conception without original sin.

7th* to 15th – Chanukah: The 8-day celebration of the “Festival of Lights” that honours the victory of Jews over Syrian Greeks.

25th – Christmas: The holiday that celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ.

26th – The Feast of St. Stephen: Also called Boxing Day, this day commemorates the life of a saint known for his service to the poor who became the first Christian martyr.

**dates provided by <https://www.diversityresources.com/interfaith-calendar-2022>*