

Multicultural Calendar 2024

POWER OF INCLUSION

• Diversity • Inclusion • New Moons • Full Moons • United Nations Days



Bahá'í • Buddhist • Christian • Hindu • Indigenous • Islam Jain
• Jewish • Shinto • Sikh • Wicca • Zoroastrian

“People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.”

Maya Angelou

Inclusion and diversity today encompasses all communities, countries and regions of the world. Patterns of migration, urbanization and technological changes have led companies to include more collaborative ways to respect, value and facilitate teamwork in the workplace. Individual and group differences are valued and it makes diverse employees feel welcomed, integrated and included in the workforce instead of isolated.

Inclusion is a conscious choice to respect diversity and maximize its economic, social, cultural and civil benefits, locally and globally. Inclusion adheres to a broad and comprehensive definition of diversity including gender identity, gender expression, race/ethnicity, socio-economic status, sexual orientation, religion, disability, veteran's status, first-generation status, nationality, citizenship, age and other social identity dimensions. It applies to the workplace, schools, universities and communities where equal opportunity is provided to all regardless of differences so that they can achieve their maximum potential without discrimination.

What does inclusion in the workplace really mean? There seems to be four related, yet discrete elements...

- ✓ People feel included when they are treated “equitably and with respect”.
- ✓ There is a sense of their authentic self being “valued” by others while at the same time feeling “connectedness” to a group.
- ✓ Inclusion is expressed as feeling “safe” to speak up without fear of embarrassment or retaliation thus increasing employee morale.
- ✓ Inclusion is a sense of feeling “empowered” to grow and work more effectively and efficiently.



What are some of the special features of other calendar systems?

Members of the **Islamic** faith observe Fridays as their major day of worship. The fast of Ramadan begins at sundown on the evening before the date given; there is no prohibition on working during Ramadan. The two days of required religious observance are Eid-ul-Fitr (Festival of Fastbreaking) and Eid-ul-Adha (Festival of Sacrifice). Members of the Islamic faith are prohibited from working on those two days. All the dates of Islamic observance are tentative because they are based on the first local sightings of the lunar crescent of the new moon.

The **Jewish** religious day is Saturday - Shabbat - and begins at sundown on Friday until sundown on Saturday. All days of religious significance for the Jewish faith begin at sundown on the evening before the date given.

The **Baha'i** year begins at the spring equinox, on March 21. Their calendar is comprised of 19 months, each 19 days long, and four "intercalary days (February 26 to March 1). The Baha'i day begins at sundown before the date listed and end at sundown on the date listed. The Baha'i Fast is observed every year from March 2 to March 20. Children under the age of 15, the elderly, pregnant and nursing mothers, those who are ill or engaged in heavy labour are exempt from observing the Fast.

Until March 31, 1998, the **Sikhs** used the Hindu lunisolar (Bikrami) calendar to determine their feast days. They now use their own solar Nanakshahi Calendar which started on March 14th, 1999 Gregorian. The era (1 Chet 1 Nanakshahi) is the date of the birth of the first Guru, Nanak Dev, in 1469. Although all

observances are now fixed, Guru Nanak's birthday and Holla Mohalla continue to be moveable feasts based on the lunar calendar.

Most **Buddhists** with the exception of the Japanese Buddhists, use the Lunar calendar. Dates of Buddhist festivals vary between different traditions and from country to country. For example, people from Thailand, Burma and Sri Lanka celebrate their New Year in mid-April, whereas Chinese, Vietnamese and Korean Buddhists follow the lunar calendar and celebrate it in January or February. Tibetan Buddhists usually celebrate a month later.

The **Christian** faith has three separate calendars: The Western or Gregorian calendar is that of the Roman Catholic and Protestant Churches.

The **Orthodox** or Julian Calendar is divided into 12 months of 30 days each, and a 13th month of 5 or 6 days at the end of the year, hence the date for Christmas is on Jan. 7th. It is the same as the Western Calendar for all fixed feasts but uses the Julian calendar for moveable feasts such as Easter and is used primarily by the Greek and Cypriot Orthodox Churches. This calendar is used mainly in eastern Europe, eastern Mediterranean, Russia, Romania, Serbia, Greece, Bulgaria, Georgia, Cyprus, Czech, Slovenia, Poland and Albania.

The **Orthodox Coptic** Calendar is 13 days behind the Julian Calendar and is used by most other Orthodox churches in Egypt, Ethiopia, Entrea, Sudan and the Middle East.

Make this calendar an informational tool to schedule your appointments, meetings and events. We took your suggestions, and have provided the following icons to help you identify and honour significant events and holidays.

- ✓ Schedule consideration: These dates are National holidays or Religious days when individuals may want to take time off to observe their holiday.
- Cultural/National Days: Mark festivals of cultural groups and National days.
- Independence Days of countries.
- UN and International days.
- ▲ Religious days of all major religions of the world.
- * Bahá'í and Jewish observances begin at previous sundown.

Acknowledgements

Creative Cultural Communications wishes to express its appreciation to the following for their assistance with this project:

Umar Hameed • Sona Parikh • Prakash Mody
• Steve Powers • Raheel Raza

Please accept apologies for omissions of any group or important dates.

We would appreciate updates in writing by April 30th to:
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About the publisher

Sheena Singh is living her life on a broad canvas. Sheena immigrated to the United States from India and has made Toronto her home for the past 30 years. She is an artist who has used her gift of art by publishing the Multicultural Calendar through her non-profit company, Creative Cultural Communications founded in 1992.

Her unique and universal themes impress the message that the essence of all human beings are the same.

The calendars are well received by organizations with a diverse workforce, since they highlight dates for all major religions and cultural festivals.

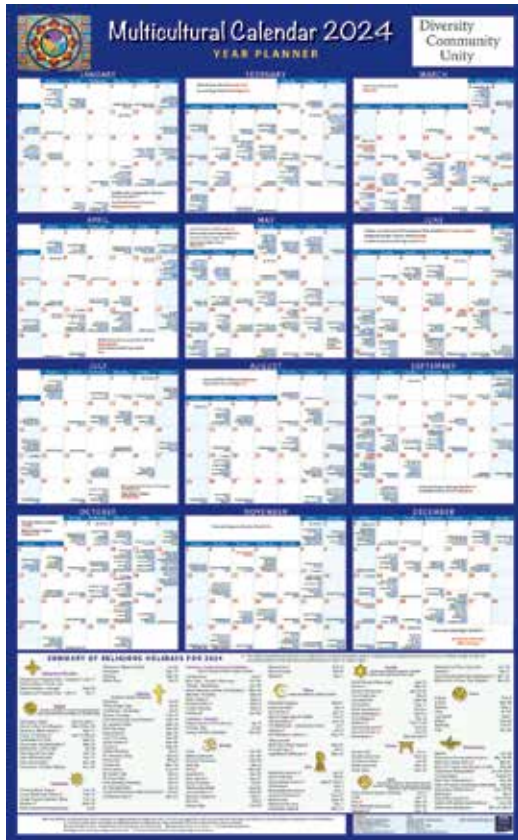


Visit our Web Store now for other 2024 calendar formats, to enable you to effectively engage in a diverse and inclusive workforce. www.multiculturalcalendar.com

Make diversity an important part of your organization's initiative with the online **Multicultural Calendar** placed anywhere on your intra-net



The Planner is designed to provide another practical resource and is invaluable for any office, especially in large traffic areas and in Managers' office for easy viewing of yearly and monthly schedules. **The planner** is available in one size 24" x 38".



Having diversity in the workplace brings together people with different capabilities, cultures and experiences. The 12" x 9" **wall calendar** features 12 original ethnic artworks. Customize flap with your company logo.



Our new App for your phone.

January 2024 Observances

Jan-Feb Iroquois Midwinter Ceremony Indigenous The Iroquois Midwinter Ceremony lasts for 8 days and each day is dedicated to an event, i.e. Tobacco Invocation. Days vary according to community.

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender History Month UK was initiated by Schools OUT in Britain in February 2005. This is an opportunity for all to learn more about the lives and achievements of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people in Britain and Northern Ireland.

Jan 1 Gantan-Sai Japan, Shinto Gantan-sai, also referred to as Shogatu, is the Shinto New Year holiday. The faithful visit shrines, often at midnight, praying for renewal of heart, health, and prosperity. During the seven-day holiday, people wear their best clothing and visit the homes of friends and family to express their wishes for the coming year.

Jan 2 Berchtold's Day Switzerland This day honours Duke Berchtold V, who founded Bern, the capital of Switzerland. He promised to name the city after the first animal he killed on a hunt. The bear (bern in German) then provided the city's name.

Jan 5 Guru Gobind Singh's Birthday Sikh He was the 10th and last living Guru of the Sikh faith. He founded the 'Khalsa' brotherhood where the initiated adopted the five 'K's: Kangha (wooden comb), Kara (steel bracelets), Kirpan (sword), Kaccha (pair of shorts), and Kesh (long hair).

Jan 6 Three Kings' Day Christian In South America, Latin America and parts of Europe, the end of the Christmas season is a traditional time for gift giving.

Jan 6 Epiphany Christian In the Western church, this day celebrates the journey of the three Wise Men to Bethlehem to offer gifts to the infant Jesus. In the Eastern Church it is associated with the baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist. On this day as well, the Armenians celebrate Christmas.

Jan 7 Christmas Christian - Coptic & Eastern Orthodox On this day, some Eastern churches celebrate the birth of Jesus according to the Julian calendar, which is currently 13 days behind the Gregorian or Western calendar.

Jan 8 Seijin No Hi Japan This day celebrates Coming-of-Age of the youth of Japan who are twenty years old. They wear traditional clothes and visit the shrines where the family announce their adulthood to the spirits.

Jan 13 Lohri Sikh, Hindu Bonfires are lit to mark the change from the decrease to the increase of the sun.

Jan 13 St. Knut's Day Finland, Sweden King Knut who ruled Sweden from 1080-1086 is honoured as a saint for his virtue and generosity. He had declared that Christmas should be celebrated for twenty days, officially ending the season on January 13th. The days between Christmas and Saint Knut's Day are filled with parties. After this day, trees are taken down to mark the official close of the season.

Jan 14 Makar Sankranti India, Hindu The transition of the Sun from Sagittarius to Capricorn during the winter solstice in the northern hemisphere is known as Makar Sankranti. The days gradually lengthen in the northern hemisphere.

Jan 15 Martin Luther King Jr. Day USA This day commemorates the leader of the Civil Rights movement in USA. People of all races and religions have benefited from the sacrifices and accomplishments made by this great man. He was a Nobel Prize winner (Peace Prize 1964) and a prominent advocate of nonviolent protest. He was assassinated on April 4, 1968.

Jan 15 Pongol India A three-day rice harvest festival in South India is celebrated with a cultural evening of song and dance.

Jan 19 Timkat/Theophany Christian - Coptic & Eastern Orthodox The Eastern Orthodox Church associates Theophany with the baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist.

Jan 25 Robert Burns' Night Scotland, Ireland Robert Burns' Night honours Scotland's national poet, born in 1759. The night is celebrated by the Scots with a sit down 'Burns Supper' and with speeches, poetry and song.

Jan 25 Thaipusam Cavadee India, Mauritius Celebrated by Hindus of Tamil origin in honour of Kartikeya, Granter of Wishes, and the second son of Shiva. Devotees with their tongues, cheeks and body pierced with needles, hooks and skewers, dance their way trance-like to the temple carrying the 'Cavadee' - a wooden arch covered with flowers with a pot of milk at each end of its base.

Jan 25 Tu B'Shevat (Arbor Day) Jewish This day celebrates Judaism's roots in the natural world. It is a holiday and known as the New Year for Trees. Special meals include eating the seven fruits of the land - wheat, barley, figs, grapes, pomegranates, olives and dates.

Jan 30 Sadeh Iran, Zoroastrian Sadeh in Persian means "hundred" and refers to one hundred days and nights past the end of a summer in ancient Persia/Iran. Sadeh is mid-winter festival where bonfires are lit to honor fire and to defeat the forces of darkness, frost and cold. People gather and pray, and then they will hold each other's hands, form a circle and dance around the fire.

JANUARY 2024

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																	
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February 2024 Observances

Black History Month Canada In December of 1995, the Parliament of Canada recognized February as Black History Month following a motion introduced by the first African Canadian woman elected to Parliament, Jean Augustine. The presence of peoples of African descent in Canada dates back farther than Samuel de Champlain's first voyage down the St. Lawrence River.

Black History Month USA Black History Month, and more importantly, the study of black history, is greatly owed to Dr. Carter G. Woodson, who first launched "Negro History Week" in 1926. Woodson chose February because it marks the birthdays of two men who greatly impacted the American black population. Abraham Lincoln (president of the United States who freed slaves during the Civil War), and Frederick Douglass (who worked to end slavery) have birthdays in February. The purpose of this month is to recognize the contributions of Black Americans and develop a better understanding of the Black experience.

Jan-Feb Hopi Holy Cycle Indigenous Buffalo dances are performed in Hopi reserves. Days may vary according to community.

Feb 1 Abolition of Slavery Mauritius The struggle for freedom of the slaves in Mauritius during the Dutch period between 1638 and 1710 is remembered and honored.

Feb 2 Imbolg Wicca 'Imbolg' comes from an archaic Gaelic expression 'in the belly', which signaled the first stirrings of life within the womb of mother earth. Corn dolls are burned as offerings to the sun to hasten his return.

Feb 3 Kitchen God Celebration China The custom is based on the traditional farewell ceremony for T'sao Wang, Prince of the Oven, before he leaves for his annual trip to heaven to report on families' good behavior during the year.

Feb 6 Waitangi Day New Zealand This day commemorates the signing of a treaty at Waitangi on 6th February 1840 by a group of Maori chiefs and the British Government. It honours the rights of the British Crown and also the rights of the Maori people, which are now in the process of being reclaimed.

Feb 8 Boy Scout Day Canada, USA William Boyce, a Chicago publisher, founded the Boy Scouts of American on Feb 10, 1910. The purpose was to promote, through organization, and cooperation with other agencies, the ability of boys to do things for themselves and others, to train them in Scoutcraft, and to teach them patriotism, courage, self-reliance and kindred virtues, using the methods which are in common use by Boy Scouts.

Feb 10 Losar (New Year Tibet) Tibet, Buddhist The Tibetan New Year is called Losar and is celebrated for three days by visiting, feasting and the relaxation the monastic discipline.

Feb 10 Chinese / Lunar New Year Buddhist - China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Vietnam Starting the year of the Dragon. This is the year 4722 in the Chinese Lunar calendar and the most important holiday. It is a three-day holiday in China and Hong Kong. The Chinese clean and decorate their homes with the 5 lucky signs of happiness; new are worn and even the poorest buy new shoes, for it is considered bad luck to step down on the ground into old shoes.

Vietnamese call it the 'Tet' Festival.

Feb 10 Seollal Korea The Korean New Year lasts three days. During this time, many Koreans visit family, perform ancestral rites, eat traditional food, and play folk games. Additionally, children often receive money from their elders.

Feb 13 Shrove Tuesday Christian This is the day before Lent. Taken from the old word 'shrive', it means forgiveness. Traditionally it was a time to give up meat and dairy foods.

Feb 13 Carnival Parade Brazil A two-day celebration before Ash Wednesday. It is called the Mardi Gras in Brazil.

Feb 13 Pancake Tuesday UK Shrove Tuesday (Mardi Gras in French which means Fat Tuesday) is the last day before the beginning of Lent. Strict Christian Lenten rules prohibited the eating of all dairy products during Lent, so pancakes were made to use up their supplies of eggs, milk, butter and other fats. Pancake races are held in many parts of England.

Feb 13 Great Prayer Festival Tibet, Buddhist Monks from the Three Great Monasteries of Tibet assemble in Jikhang to pray to Shakyamuni's image as if it were the Living Buddha. Philosophical debates are held among the candidates for the Doctor of Metaphysics.

Feb 14 Basant Panchami Hindu Basant Panchami in Northern India heralds the approach of spring and yellow coloured clothes are symbolically worn. Even the food is coloured yellow by using saffron. This festival honours Saraswati, the Goddess of Learning, Wisdom and the Creative arts.

Feb 14 Ash Wednesday (Lent Begins) Christian This day marks the beginning of Lent. Ash symbolizes sorrow for wrong doings and foreheads of churchgoers are marked with the shape of the cross with ashes as a sign of penitence.

Feb 19 Louis Riel Day Aboriginal, Canada He was the famous Metis leader who in 1885 led a rebellion and lost against the Canadian authorities because he feared more Metis land would be taken away by the settlers. Today his name is a symbol for Native independence.

Feb 22 Girl Guides Thinking Day Canada, USA This is the joint birthday of Robert Baden-Powell, the founder of Boy Scouts and Girl Guides, and his wife Olave who became the World Chief Guide.

Feb 22 Abu Simbel Festival Egypt Built by Ramses II, his temple is angled so that the inner sanctum lights up twice a year - once on the anniversary of his rise to the throne and on Oct 22, celebrating his birthday. Crowds pack in the temple before sunrise to watch the shafts of light illuminate the statues of Ramses, Ra and Amon.

Feb 23 Heisei Emperor's Birthday Japan This is the current Emperor's birthday. His reign has been named Heisei (Succeed at Peace).

Feb 25-Mar 1 Intercalary Days Bahá'í There are four or five days inserted into the calendar called Ayyam-i-ha adjusting the Bahá'í year to the solar cycle. This precedes a month of fasting from March 2-20. Gifts are exchanged, parties and public meetings are held to share the faith.

Feb 28 Kalevala Day Finland Elias Lonnrot, a country doctor, folklorist and philologist compiled the Kalevala, Finland's national epic in 1835. This day is observed country wide with lectures, parades and recitations to honour him.

FEBRUARY 2024

Black History Month **Canada, USA**

Jan-Feb Hopi Holy Cycle **Indigenous**

January 2024

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Foundation Day Japan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lincoln's Birthday USA Kindness Awareness Week International 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Great Prayer Festival Tibet, Buddhist Shrove Tuesday Christian Carnaval Parade Brazil Pancake Tuesday UK, England 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basant Panchami Hindu Ash Wednesday (Lent Begins) Christian Valentine's Day Canada, UK, USA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Flag Day Canada National Day Serbia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Independence Day Lithuania 																																																		
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intercalary Days (thru Mar 1) Bahá'í Anti-Bullying Day Canada People Power Day Philippines National Day Kuwait 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Independence Day Dominican Republic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kalevala Day Finland 																																																				

March 2024 Observances

Women's History Month USA, UK National Women's History Month began as a single week and as a local event. In 1978, Sonoma County, California, sponsored a women's history week to promote the teaching of women's history. The week of March 8th was selected to include 'International Women's Day.' This day is rooted in such ideas and events as a woman's right to vote and a woman's right to work, women's strikes for bread, women's strikes for peace at the end of World War I, and the U.N. Charter declaration of gender equality at the end of World War II. This day is an occasion to review how far women have come in their struggle for equality, peace and development. In 1981, Congress passed a resolution making the week a national celebration, and in 1987 expanded it to the full month of March. In **Canada**, Women's History month is celebrated in October.

- Mar 1 Baba Marta Bulgaria** Bulgarians celebrate spring by exchanging red-and-white yarn designs to symbolize health. They wear the yarn designs on their clothing until they see a stork or a blossoming tree. They then either put the martenitza on a tree branch to bring on spring or hide it under a rock to represent the wish that the evil spirits in nature will go to sleep.
- Mar 2-19 Alá Bahá'í** The nineteenth and final month in the Bahá'í calendar and the time of the 19-day fast in preparation of their new year, Now Ruz. The English translation of Alá (Arabic) is Loftiness.
- Mar 8 Shivratrī Hindu** On Shiva's night, the Hindu deity Lord Shiva performed the Tandav, the cosmic dance of creation and destruction. A 24-hour fast is kept and devotees make pilgrimages to major shrines for worship.
- Mar 10 Mothering Sunday UK, Ireland** Mothering Sunday is the celebration of motherhood in UK, and takes place on the fourth Sunday of Lent. Traditionally children bring gifts of flowers and chocolates to their mothers. Breakfast in bed is also an expectation, as is a relaxing, carefree day. It originated with the Victorian practice of allowing servants to return home to visit their mothers on this day.
- Mar 11 Ramadan Begins Islam** This is the holiest month in the Islamic Year and begins at the sighting of the new moon. It commemorates the period during which Prophet Mohammad received divine revelations. Observing Muslims fast between the hours of sunrise and sunset during the entire month, read the Qu'ran and worship in the mosque or at home. The dates vary by a day depending on whether the Saudi Arabia or the North American Calendar is being observed. This calendar follows the North American dates which is a day later.
- Mar 12 Girl Scout Day Canada, USA** Juliette 'Daisy' Gordon Low assembled 18 girls from Savannah, Georgia, on March 12, 1912, for a local Girl Scout meeting. She believed that all girls should be given the opportunity to develop physically, mentally, and spiritually. With the goal of bringing girls out of isolated home environments and into community service and the open air, Girl Scouts hiked, went on camping trips, learned how to tell time by the stars, and studied first aid.

- Mar 16-20 Gahambar Hamaspathmaedem Zoroastrian** This day celebrates the creation of human beings.
- Mar 17 St. Patrick's Day N. Ireland, Ireland** The death anniversary of their patron saint. He used the three-leaved shamrock to explain the Christian idea of the Holy Trinity, thus the idea of wearing a shamrock.
- Mar 18 Clean Monday (Great Lent Begins) Christian - Coptic & Eastern Orthodox** It is the beginning of the forty-day fast when Christians imitate Jesus' withdrawal into the wilderness before his crucifixion.
- Mar 19 St. Joseph's Day Christian** St. Joseph's Day is celebrated throughout most of Italy and by the Italian communities in North America. He was the foster father of Jesus and is the universal patron of the Catholic Church. According to legend, when a severe drought struck western Sicily in the Middle Ages, the people of that area prayed to St. Joseph, asking him to intercede for them and send rain. Their prayer was granted and since then they honour St. Joseph by helping the needy in their community.
- Mar 20 Eostre Wicca** A fertility festival celebrating the birth of Spring. The word Easter is derived from the Maiden Goddess. Celebrations including lighting fires at sunrise, ringing bells, and decorating hard-boiled eggs, an ancient Pagan custom associated with the Goddess
- Mar 20 Poutuerangi Indigenous Maori, New Zealand** From Aboriginal roots of the Maori in New Zealand Poutuerangi is celebrated. This is the Fall season and Autumn Equinox in the Maori calendar where they harvest their crops. Great feasting and celebration goes on time of year.
- Mar 20 Shunki-Sorei-Sai Shinto** Ancestors are given reverence at home altars and considered active members of the living family. Gravesites are cleaned and purified.
- Mar 20 Shunbun no hi Japan** During the time of the Spring Equinox, Buddhists meditate on the harmony in the universe.
- Mar 20 Now Ruz (New Year) Afghanistan, Iran - Bahá'í, Zoroastrian, Islam Ismaili** Nowruz means "New Day" and is the traditional celebration of the ancient Persian New Year. Iranians celebrate it on March 20th. It is also a holy day for Zoroastrian, Sufi, Ismaili and the Baha'í faiths. Persians (Iranians, Afghans and Tajiks) and other Indo-Irani

an groups (Kurds, Armenians, Azarbaijanis and Balochs) start preparing for the Nowruz with a major spring-cleaning of their houses and the purchase of new clothes to wear for the new year. They visit the elders of their family, then the rest of their family and finally their friends. On the thirteenth day families leave their homes and picnic.

- Mar 24 Palm Sunday Christian** Jesus rode into Jeru salem on a donkey and was cheered by crowds who strew palms branches in his path. It is observed by worship services and parades using palm branches.
- Mar 24 Purim Jewish** Purim is known as the Feast of Lots, which celebrates the deliverance of Jews in Persia from the machinations of Haman. Jews dress in costume and give gifts of food to each other.
- Mar 25 Holi Sikh, Hindu** According to myth, a tyrannical king's son, Pralad, refused to worship his father as God and was condemned to death by burning. However, the boy's aunt, named Holika, transferred her own immunity from fire to Pralad, and burned to death in his place. This festival of colour celebrates Spring, where people play with liquid and powdered colours, light bonfires and blow horns to celebrate the destruction of Holika.
- Mar 25 Annunciation Christian** Annunciation commemorates the day Jesus's mother, Mary was visited by an angel to inform her that she was blessed and chosen to be the mother of Christ.
- Mar 26 Hola Mohalla (Bikarami) Sikh** Mock battles are fought and martial arts are displayed in honour of Guru Gobind Singh, who took to armed struggle against tyranny.
- Mar 26 Birth Of Prophet Zarathustra (Fasli) Zoroastrian** Zarathushtra (Zoroaster in Greek; Zartosht in India and Persia) is the founder of the Zoroastrian religion dating back to sometime between 1500 and 1000 BCE. He lived in Persia, modern day Iran. Zoroastrianism became the state religion of various Persian empires, until the 7th Century CE. When Arabs, followers of Islam, invaded Persia in 650 CE, a small number of Zoroastrians fled to India where most are concentrated today.
- Mar 28 Holy Thursday Christian** On this day, Jesus ate the Last Supper and washed the feet of his disciples prior to his arrest and crucifixion.
- Mar 29 Good Friday Christian** This day commemorates the passion and death by crucifixion of Jesus and is a solemn day. Italian Catholics have a procession called the Way of the Cross.
- Mar 31 Easter Christian** This day celebrates the resurrection of Jesus from his grave. Christians celebrate the day with family meals and attending religious services, some as early as sunrise.

MARCH 2024

Women's History Month
USA, UK

February 2024							April 2024							
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
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4	5	6	7	8	9	10	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	
25	26	27	28	29			28	29	30					

					Friday	Saturday
					1	2
					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Baba Marta (Mar 1-2) Bulgaria ■ Chalanda März Switzerland ■ St. David's Day Wales ■ Independence Day Bosnia ● World Day Of Prayer International 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ Alá (19-Day Fast Begins thru Mar 19) Bahá'í
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	8	9
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Independence Day Ghana 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ Shivratri Hindu ● Int'l Women's Day UN 	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● New Moon DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS International ■ Mothering Sunday UK, Ireland 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓▲ Ramadan Begins Islam 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Girl Scout Day Canada, USA ■ National Day Mauritius 				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ Gahambar Hamaspathmaedem (Mar16-20) Zoroastrian
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SPRING EQUINOX International ✓▲ Now Ruz (New Year) Afghanistan, Iran - Bahá'í Zoroastrian, Islam Ismaili ▲ Eostre Wicca ▲ Shunki-Sorei-Sai Shinto ■ Shunbun no hi Japan ■ Poutuerangi Indigenous/Maori, New Zealand ■ Independence Day Tunisia ● Day of the Francophonie International 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Emancipation Day Puerto Rico ● World Day of Water UN
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ St. Patrick's Day N. Ireland, Ireland 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ Clean Monday (Great Lent Begins) Christian - Coptic & Eastern Orthodox ■ Flag Day Aruba 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ St. Joseph's Day Christian 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Harmony Day Australia ● Int'l Day for Elimination of Racial Discrimination UN 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● World Meteorological Day UN
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BRITISH SUMMER TIME BEGINS ✓▲ Palm Sunday Christian ▲ Purim Jewish 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Full Moon Prenumbral Lunar Eclipse 					
31						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓▲ Easter Christian ● Transgender Day of Visibility LGBT 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓▲ Holi Sikh, Hindu ▲ Annunciation Christian ■ Evangelismou Greece 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ Hola Mohalla (Bikarami) Sikh ▲ Birth Of Prophet Zarathustra (Fasli) Zoroastrian ■ Independence Day Bangladesh 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ Holy Thursday Christian 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓▲ Good Friday Christian 	

April 2024 Observances

Multicultural Communications Month International Multicultural communications may seem difficult at first - differences in languages, backgrounds, customs and the like all seem a challenge. By learning more about our different cultures, it becomes easier to interact. This month has been dedicated to further this cause.

Arab American Heritage Month USA On March 31, 2023, the President of United States declared April as Arab American Heritage Month to learn more about the history, culture, and achievements of Arab Americans and observe this month with appropriate programs and activities.

- Apr 1 Farvardin Iran** It is the 13th day after Nowruz or New Year. The number 13 is considered an unlucky number for the Persians, and therefore everyone leaves home for the day to go on picnics or trips.
- Apr 1 Easter Monday Christian** Easter Monday commemorates the meeting of the women at Jesus' tomb with an angel who assured them that Jesus had been resurrected from death.
- Apr 4 Midori No Hi Japan** This day is also known as Greenery Day to appreciate nature.
- Apr 5 Ch'ing Ming Festival China, Taiwan** A national holiday when family graves are visited to ask for the blessings of the departed spirits.
- Apr 5 Laylat al-Qadr Islam** Night of Power, commemorates the revelation of the Qur'an to Prophet Muhammad in 610 CE. It begins the previous evening.
- Apr 6 Organization of The Church Christian - Mormon** The Church for Latter-day Saints was founded on the sixth of April 1830 at Fayette, New York.
- Apr 6 Chakri Day Thailand** A national holiday to honour King Rama I, who founded the Chakri Dynasty in 1782 and the founder of Bangkok as the capital of Thailand.
- Apr 10 Eid-ul-Fitr Islam** This marks the end of the Ramadan fast and is celebrated for 3 days. Date of observance may vary according to sighting of the new moon. Dates vary by a day depending on whether the Saudi Arabia or the North American Calendar is being observed. This calendar follows the North American dates, which are a day later.
- Apr 13 Baisakhi Bangladesh, Sikh, Hindu** The first day of the solar year, this is an agricultural festival celebrating the harvest, especially in North India. Tamils and Sri Lankans celebrate their New Year on this day. In Kerala, South India this day is called Vishu. Especially important to the Sikhs, it marks this day in 1699, when the tenth Guru, Guru Gobind Singh, established the order of 'Khalsa'. The festival is a mixture of feasting, dancing and worship.
- Apr 13 Ugadi India, Mauritius, Nepal** Ugadi marks the beginning of the new Hindu lunar calendar. Celebrated mainly in the southern states of India, people awake before the break of day, bathe and decorate the entrance of their homes with mango leaves. They eat bitter Neem leaves with sweet jaggery to signify the bitter and sweet of life.
- Apr 13 Songkran/New Year Cambodia, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand** In southeast Asia, Songkran is recognized as the New Year for Buddhists. For Thais, it is a three-day religious festival in which homes are routinely cleaned, and water is sprinkled on monks paying visits and on statues of Buddha.
- Apr 15 Adam's Peak Pilgrimage Sri Lanka** It is an ancient pilgrimage site to the sacred mountain, Sri Pada. According to legend, when Buddha visited Sri Lanka, he planted one foot on the north of the royal city, and the other foot on Sumana-Kuta (Adam's Peak), about a hundred miles distance.
- Apr 17 Ram Navami Hindu** Ram Navami celebrates the birthday of Rama, the seventh incarnation of God Vishnu. Hindus read the Ramayan, a Hindu epic, which tells the story of Rama, during the previous eight days.
- Apr 21 Kartini Day Indonesia** This day commemorates Indonesia's first women's emancipationist. There are parades, lectures and social activities attended by women, all wearing their regional dress. Mothers aren't allowed to work as the family does the house chores. Many go on a pilgrimage to the grave of Kartini who died at age 24.
- Apr 21-May 2 Feast Of Ridvan Bahá'í** 'Ridvan' means paradise and the 12-day festival is the holiest time for the Bahá'ís. It commemorates the 12 days that Baha'u'llah spent in the Garden of Ridvan in the last days of his exile in Baghdad and announced that he was the prophet whose coming had been foretold. The Bahá'ís do not work on the first, ninth and twelfth day of Ridvan.
- Apr 21 Mahavira Jayanti Jain** This day celebrates the birthday of Lord Mahavira who was the 24th leader of the Jain religion and born around 599 B.C.
- Apr 23 St. George's Day Christian** He is the patron saint of England. The Bulgarians and Macedonians celebrate it on May 6. The red cross on St. George's armour and white tunic is now the symbol of the International Red Cross and the flag of England. It also forms part of the Union Jack Flag of Scotland and Ireland.
- Apr 23-30 Pesach /Passover Jewish** Begin previous sundown at 6pm, Pesach lasts for eight days. This time commemorates the Exodus of the Israelites from Egypt. It begins with a ritual meal 'Seder' when no leavened bread is consumed with special prayers and symbolic foods.
- Apr 24 Martyrs Day Armenia** Commemorates the genocide from 1915 to 1923 of Armenians in Ottoman Empire Turkey.
- Apr 25-27 Gathering Of Nations Pow Wow Indigenous, USA** Albuquerque, New Mexico is the venue of over 700 tribes and nations participating in a three-day event where over 3,000 participants share, teach and exchange traditions.
- Apr 25 Anzac Day Australia, New Zealand** Honors those who died in both World Wars as well as in the Korean and Vietnam Wars. Anzac stands for Australia and New Zealand Army Corps.
- Apr 26 Arbor Day USA** Communities across the United States plant trees in an ongoing effort to conserve American forests.
- Apr 27 Freedom Day South Africa** Commemorates the day in 1994 when, for the first time, all South Africans had the opportunity to vote.
- Apr 29 Showa no hi Japan** An annual holiday, it honors the birthday of Emperor Showa (Hirohito), the reigning Emperor before, during, and after World War II (from 1926 to 1989). The official purpose of the holiday is "To reflect on Japan's Showa period when recovery was made after turbulent days, and to think of the country's future."
- Apr 30-May 4 Gahambar Maityozaem Zoroastrian** This day celebrates the creation of the sky.
- Apr 30 Walpurgis Night Sweden** Walpurgis is Sweden's annual feast of the witches. Huge bonfires are lit all over the country to scare them away as they fly overhead, headed for their annual sabbath in Brocken in the Harz Mountains in Germany. Young and old come together all over Sweden to celebrate around a communal bonfire with fireworks, singing and dancing continuing until the early hours of the morning.

A P R I L 2 0 2 4

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>March 2024</p> <p>S M T W T F S</p> <p>1 2</p> <p>3 4 5 6 7 8 9</p> <p>10 11 12 13 14 15 16</p> <p>17 18 19 20 21 22 23</p> <p>24 25 26 27 28 29 30</p> <p>31</p>	<p>1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ Easter Monday Christian ■ April Fools' Day Canada, UK, USA ■ Farvardin Iran 	<p>2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ Jalál (2nd Month) Bahá'í ● World Autism Awareness Day UN 	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Midori No Hi Japan ■ Independence Day Senegal 	<p>5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ Laylat al-Qadr Islam ■ Ch'ing Ming Festival China, Taiwan 	<p>6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ Organization of The Church Christian - Mormon ■ Chakri Day Thailand
<p>Sunday</p>	<p>7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● World Health Day UN 	<p>8</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● New Moon Total Solar Eclipse 	<p>9</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Independence Day Georgia 	<p>10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓▲ Eid-ul-Fitr Islam 	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p> <p>DAY OF PINK International</p>
<p>14</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Bown Pinai / New Year Laos 	<p>15</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Adam's Peak Pilgrimage Sri Lanka 	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ Ram Navami Hindu ■ Independence Day Syria 	<p>18</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Family Day South Africa ■ Independence Day Zimbabwe 	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓▲ Baisakhi Bangladesh, Sikh, Hindu ✓▲ Songkran/New Year Cambodia, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand ■ Ugadi India, Mauritius, Nepal
<p>21</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓▲ Mahavira Jayanti Jain ✓▲ Feast Of Ridvan (thru May 2) Bahá'í ■ Kartini Day Indonesia 	<p>22</p> <p>EARTH DAY International</p>	<p>23</p> <p>○ Full Moon</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓▲ Pesach /Passover (Apr 23 - Apr 30) Jewish ■ St. George's Day Christian ■ National Sovereignty & Children's Day Turkey 	<p>24</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Administrative Professionals Day Canada, USA ■ Martyrs Day Armenia 	<p>25</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Gathering of Nations (Apr 25-27) Indigenous, USA ■ Daughter/Son To Work USA ■ Anzac Day Australia, New Zealand ■ Liberation Day Italy 	<p>26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Arbor Day USA 	<p>27</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ Jamál (3rd Month) Bahá'í ■ Freedom Day South Africa ■ Kings Day Netherlands ■ Independence Day Togo
<p>28</p>	<p>29</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Showa no hi Japan 	<p>30</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ Gahambar Maidyozaem (Apr 30 - May 4) Zoroastrian ■ Walpurgis Night Sweden 	<p>Multicultural Communications Month International</p> <p>Arab American Heritage Month USA</p>			<p>May 2024</p> <p>S M T W T F S</p> <p>1 2 3 4</p> <p>5 6 7 8 9 10 11</p> <p>12 13 14 15 16 17 18</p> <p>19 20 21 22 23 24 25</p> <p>26 27 28 29 30 31</p>

May 2024 Observances

Asian Heritage Month Canada The Senate of Canada passed a motion in December 2001, designating May as Asian Heritage month. Canadians take part in festivities commemorating the legacy of Asian and their many contributions which have helped Canada become the multicultural and diverse nation it is today.

Asian Pacific Heritage Month USA Generations of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have strengthened the US as a nation. Many ethnic groups worked tirelessly to build a national railroad, paving the way for western expansion. The first Asian/Pacific Heritage Week was celebrated in 1979, in response to little recognition of this population during the 1976 bicentennial. By 1990, the celebration was one month long and then made official in 1992.

Jewish Heritage Month Jewish May is declared Jewish Heritage Month in Canada and USA. It provides an opportunity to reflect on and celebrate the incredible contributions that Jewish people have made to the country and in communities across North America.

National Older Peoples Month USA It was established by presidential proclamation in 1963. The entire nation is encouraged to pay tribute in some way to older persons in their communities. It is celebrated across the country through ceremonies and events.

May Hopi Kachina Dances Indigenous During late spring and early summer, long lines of Kachina Dancers, representing many spirit-powers, perform dances in Hopi pueblos. Dates of observance vary according to community.

Apr-May Iroquois Strawberry Season Indigenous Thanksgiving and Great Feather Dance.

May 1 Beltane Wicca Greets the summer. It takes its name from the Celtic God Bel who unites with the Earth Goddess on this day. It was a mid-summer fertility festival in Celtic paganism. Maypole dances are presently held.

May 1 Santa Cruzan Day Philippines Filipinos consider this the first day of spring. It commemorates the corresponding day in the 4th century A.D. when St. Helena, the mother of Emperor Constantine of Rome found the holy cross on which Jesus was crucified.

May 1 Matsu Festival China, Taiwan Matsu saved her brother from drowning and at the age of 28 and ascended into heaven. She earned the title of Goddess of the Sea and is the patron of fishermen. There are rites and processions at Matsu temples.

May 2 Maundy Thursday Christian - Coptic & Eastern Orthodox On this day, Jesus ate the Last Supper and washed the feet of his disciples prior to his arrest and crucifixion.

May 3 Holy Friday Christian - Coptic & Eastern Orthodox This day commemorates the passion and death by crucifixion of Jesus and is a solemn day. Eastern Orthodox members fast on this day. Macedonians make a plashtanitsa or picture of the dead Jesus on a large cloth to be carried in a procession.

May 5 Pasha/Easter Christian - Coptic & Eastern Orthodox This day celebrates the resurrection of Jesus from his grave. Most Christians welcome Easter Sunday with a sunrise service.

May 5 Kodomo No Hi Japan Childrens' Day promotes family unity in Japan celebrating the relationship of parents with their sons and daughters.

May 5 Cinco De Mayo Mexico It marks the victory of the Mexican Army over the French at the 'Batalla de Puebla' in 1862. Although the Mexican army was eventually defeated, it came to represent a symbol of Mexican unity and patriotism. It is celebrated on a much larger scale in the United States than it is in Mexico. People of Mexican descent (Chicanos) in the United States celebrate this significant day by having parades, mariachi music, folkloric dancing and other festive activities.

May 6 Easter Monday Christian - Coptic & Eastern Orthodox Easter Monday commemorates the meeting of the women at Jesus' tomb with an angel who assured them that Jesus had been resurrected from death.

May 6 Yom HaShoah Israel, Jewish Holocaust Memorial Day commemorates the death of 6 million Jews by the Nazi regime.

May 9 Ascension Christian This day commemorates the ascension of Jesus into Heaven.

May 12 Mother's Day Canada, USA In 1914, the 2nd Sunday in May was officially declared Mother's Day by President Wilson. Anna Jarvis of Philadelphia first suggested a day on which to honour mothers and motherhood.

May 13 Our Lady of Fatima Portugal On May 13, 1917 in Portugal, three shepherd children saw and conversed with the Virgin Mary in a vision. This event occurred on the 13th day of the month for six months in a row.

May 13 Yom HaZikaron (Memorial Day) Israel This is Israel's Memorial Day honouring soldiers who died fighting for their country.

May 15 San Isidro Labrador Festival Spain Devotees celebrate the feast day of San Isidro Labrador, the revered patron saint of farmers, peasants, agricultural workers, and of Madrid, Spain.

May 19 Pentecost Christian The holy Spirit was felt amongst the 12 apostles after Jesus' death. New members of the church are baptized on this day. It is called White Sunday because white clothes are worn for baptism.

May 20 Victoria Day Canada Queen Victoria's birthday (May 24, 1837-1901) was declared a holiday by the Legislature of the Province of Canada in 1845. United Kingdom celebrates her birthday in June.

May 20 Day of the Patriots-Quebec Canada Commemorates the French patriots of 1837-1838 for their contribution to freedom and national recognition.

May 23 Wesak Buddhist The most important Buddhist festival, Wesak celebrates the birth, enlightenment and death of Buddha as one event. Different cultures observe this day with different customs, for example, Sri Lankans light lanterns, Vietnamese purchase captive animals and release them, and Koreans host a lantern parade.

May 23 Declaration of Báb Bahá'í The Bahá'í faith began in Persia (now Iran) on this day in 1844, by the prophet Báb who announced his mission as the founder. The event is celebrated about two hours after sunset.

May 26 National Sorry Day Australia Also known as Journey of Healing Day commemorates the history of forcible removal of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander children from their families and the painful repercussions that followed that action.

May 27 Memorial Day USA A day of remembrance for those who have died in service to their country. The 3rd U.S. Infantry place small American flags at about 260,000 gravestones at Arlington National Cemetery.

May 29 Ascension of Bahá'u'lláh Bahá'í The prophet-founder of the Bahá'í Faith passed away near Haifa, Israel. The event is observed at the actual time of his passing at 3am.

May 30 Joan of Arc Day France St. Joan of Arc is the patroness of soldiers and of France. A peasant girl who, believing that she was acting under divine guidance, led the French army in a momentous victory at Orléans. She was burned at the stake on May 30, 1431 at the age of nineteen.

M A Y 2 0 2 4

Asian Heritage Month **Canada, US**
 Jewish American Heritage Month **USA**
 National Older Peoples Month **USA**
 May Hopi Kachina Dances
Indigenous
 Iroquois Strawberry Season
Indigenous

April 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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			Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																	
			1	2	3	4																																																	
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ Beltane <i>Wicca</i> ■ Matsu Festival <i>China, Taiwan</i> ■ Mothers' Day <i>Portugal, Spain</i> ■ Vappu Day <i>Finland</i> ■ Santa Cruzan Day <i>Philippines</i> ● Labour Day <i>International</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ Maundy Thursday <i>Christian - Coptic & Eastern Orthodox</i> ■ National Day Of Prayer <i>USA</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓▲ Holy Friday <i>Christian - Coptic & Eastern Orthodox</i> ■ Constitution Day <i>Japan, Poland</i> ● World Press Freedom Day <i>UN</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Memorial Day <i>Netherlands</i> 																																																	
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	8	9	10	11																																																	
5	6	7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● New Moon ● World Red Cross Day <i>International</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ Ascension <i>Christian</i> ■ Victory Day <i>Russia</i> ■ Liberation Day <i>Channel Islands</i> 																																																			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓▲ Pasha/Easter <i>Christian - Coptic & Eastern Orthodox</i> ■ Kodomo No Hi <i>Japan</i> ■ Cinco De Mayo <i>Mexico</i> ■ Liberation Day <i>Netherlands</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ Easter Monday <i>Christian - Coptic & Eastern Orthodox</i> ▲ Yom HaShoah <i>Israel, Jewish</i> 																																																						
12	13	14	15	16	17	18																																																	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Mothers' Day <i>Canada, USA</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Our Lady of Fatima <i>Portugal</i> ■ Yom HaZikaron (Memorial Day) <i>Israel</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Yom HaAtzma'ut (Independence Day) <i>Israel</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ San Isidro Labrador Festival <i>Spain</i> ■ Independence Day <i>Paraguay</i> ● Int'l Day of Families <i>International</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ Ázamat (4th Month) <i>Bahá'í</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Constitution Day <i>Norway</i> ● International Day Against Homophobia <i>LGBT</i> ● World Information Society Day <i>UN</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Armed Forces Day <i>USA</i> 																																																	
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ Pentecost <i>Christian</i> ■ Ataturk Commemoration <i>Greece, Turkey</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓■ Victoria Day <i>Canada</i> ✓■ Day of the Patriots-Quebec <i>Canada</i> ■ National Day <i>Cameroon</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Navy Day <i>Chile</i> ● World Day for Cultural Diversity <i>UN</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ National Day <i>Yemen</i> ● Int'l Day for Biological Diversity <i>UN</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Full Moon ✓▲ Wesak <i>Buddhist</i> ▲ Declaration of Báb <i>Bahá'í</i> ■ Labour Day <i>Jamaica</i> ● African Liberation Day <i>International</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Independence Day <i>Eritrea</i> ■ Bermuda Day <i>Bermuda</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Independence Day <i>Jordan</i> ■ Revolution Day <i>Argentina</i> 																																																	
26	27	28	29	30	31	<p>June 2024</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>S</th> <th>M</th> <th>T</th> <th>W</th> <th>T</th> <th>F</th> <th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> <td>7</td> <td>8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9</td> <td>10</td> <td>11</td> <td>12</td> <td>13</td> <td>14</td> <td>15</td> </tr> <tr> <td>16</td> <td>17</td> <td>18</td> <td>19</td> <td>20</td> <td>21</td> <td>22</td> </tr> <tr> <td>23</td> <td>24</td> <td>25</td> <td>26</td> <td>27</td> <td>28</td> <td>29</td> </tr> <tr> <td>30</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	S	M	T	W	T	F	S							1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30						
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Mother's Day <i>France, Sweden</i> ■ Lag BaOmer <i>Jewish</i> ■ National Sorry Day <i>Australia</i> ■ Independence Day <i>Guyana</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓■ Memorial Day <i>USA</i> ■ Republic Day <i>Azerbaijan, Nepal</i> 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓▲ Ascension of Bahá'u'lláh <i>Bahá'í</i> ● United Nations Peacekeepers Day <i>UN</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Joan of Arc Day <i>France</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● World No-Tobacco Day <i>UN</i> 																																																		

June 2024 Observances

National Indigenous History Month Canada June is National Indigenous History Month as declared by the Canadian Parliament in 2009. It is a fitting tribute to the heritage and diversity of First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities across Canada. Indigenous History Month is an opportunity not only to recognize the historic contributions of Indigenous peoples to the development of Canada, but also the strength of present-day Indigenous communities and their promise for the future.

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Pride Month Canada, USA, Australia Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered (LGBT) Pride Events are celebrated by communities across Canada and United States on different dates during June through to early August. There is a Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras in Sydney, Australia annually in February/March. During this time people find that they are not alone and can take pride in their community's history. The most significant date in LGBT history occurring in June, was the 3-day protest in 1969 at the Stonewall Inn in New York City, an event that marked the first time the gay community joined together to fight for its rights, thereby gaining national attention. Anniversary of this event was one of the reasons June was chosen as the nationally proclaimed month to celebrate LGBT Pride.

National Caribbean American Heritage Month USA Proclaimed in May 2011 by the US President, it commemorates a time to celebrate the history and culture of Caribbean Americans.

Jun 1-3 Red Earth Fair Indigenous, Canada, USA

Cultural Festival takes place in Oklahoma City for 3 days. Over 150 Native tribes from U.S. and Canada gather in downtown Oklahoma City to share and participate in their rich and diverse heritage through highest quality original art, drum and dance juried competitions.

Jun 1 Gawai Dayak Malaysia This day marks the traditional rice harvest. Rituals are performed to express thanks to the spirits of the paddy with requests for a better harvest during the next planting season. It is an open house for friends and relatives with celebrations usually lasting three days.

Jun 5 Yom Yerushalayim Israel This day marks the anniversary of the reunification of Jerusalem.

Jun 10 Dragon Boat Festival China, Hong Kong This day honours the patriot poet Chu Yuan who drowned himself in the Milo River, south of China in protest of the political injustice in 277 B.C. The villagers raced to the river and jumped into dragon boats but never found him. As they searched, they beat drums to scare off fish and dragons that might attack his mortal remains. It is a holiday celebrated by boat races in the shape of dragons.

Jun 10 Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev Sikh He was the fifth Guru (1563-1606) and the first Sikh martyr executed by the Mughal emperor Jehangir. He built the Golden Temple in Amritsar with doors facing all four directions to emphasize that the Sikh way was open to all, regardless of caste.

Jun 12-13 Shavuot Jewish Feast of Weeks or Pentecost which means 50 and therefore celebrated on the 50th day at the end of Pass over. Shavuot celebrates the time when the Ten Commandments were given to Moses on Mount Sinai. This feast lasts for 2 days.

Jun 16 Day of Hajj (Day of Arafat) Islam Muslims perform the annual pilgrimage to Mecca. The pilgrimage is one of the five Pillars of Islam. All Muslims are expected to perform the Hajj at least once in their lifetime if they have the physical and financial capacity. About 6 million Muslims from over 70 countries journey to the holy city of Mecca in Saudi Arabia. In one of the rites of the Hajj, pilgrims move in a circular, counter, clockwise procession around the Ka'bah.

Jun 16 Father's Day Canada, UK, USA The origins of the day to honor fathers began in 1910, when Louise Dodd of Spokane, Washington, suggested to her minister that a day be set aside. Her own father was a Civil War veteran who raised his six children on the family farm after his wife died in childbirth. Interest in the day grew, and in 1966 a presidential proclamation established Father's Day as the third Sunday in June.

Jun 17 Eid-ul-Adha Islam It concludes the Hajj and is a three-day festival celebrating Abraham's test of obedience to Allah when he was asked to sacrifice his son Ismael. At the last minute, Allah replaced Ismael with a lamb. Since Eid is determined by the first sighting of the new moon, the date varies by a day depending on whether the Saudi Arabian or North American sighting is being observed. This calendar follows the North American dates which is a day later.

Jun 19 Juneteenth USA June 19, 1865, also known as National Freedom Day, is considered the official end of slavery in the United States. Slaves in Oklahoma, Texas, Louisiana and Arkansas were not told about their freedom until this day, even though other Southern states had known since April, 1863. Today, the holiday is observed in African-American communities throughout the country with rallies, concerts and fairs.

Jun 21 National Indigenous Peoples Day Canada (Aboriginal/Native Canadian, Aboriginal Peoples) This is an event growing in importance in Canada when the outstanding contributions of First Nations, Inuit and Metis are recognized.

Jun 21 Litha Wicca Litha falls on the summer solstice. The Latin word solstice means 'the sun stood still'. Wiccans celebrate the Sun at the height of its power for providing good harvests.

Jun 21 Inti Raymi Peru Inti Raymi is celebrated in Cusco, and is the second biggest festival in Latin America. This Inca festival celebrates the winter solstice, where the God of the Sun, Wiracocha, is honoured.

Jun 23 Pentecost Christian - Coptic & Eastern Orthodox The holy Spirit was felt amongst the 12 apostles after Jesus' death. New members of the church are baptized on this day. It is called White Sunday because white clothes are worn for baptism.

Jun 24 Matariki Aboriginal/Maori, New Zealand When the star cluster Matariki (Pleiades) appears in the dawn sky, Maori New Year starts. Festivities begins with the new moon after the first appearance of Matariki and last for a month. It is a time for connecting with, and giving thanks to the land, sea and sky, for the community to come together to farewell the dead and to begin planning ahead for the coming year.

Jun 24 Dia de San Juan Puerto Rico This day commemorates the island's patron saint, St. John the Baptist. People gather at the beaches in the afternoon. Then at midnight, they jump into the ocean backwards three times to symbolize baptism, immersion and new life. The celebration continues with families gathering to enjoy music, food and dancing.

Jun 24 St. Jean Baptiste Day (Quebec) Canada He is the patron saint of French-Canadians in Quebec, Canada. It is a national holiday and there are parades, bonfires and fireworks to celebrate his birthday.

Jun 27 Multiculturalism Day Canada The Government of Canada officially recognized June 27th as Canadian Multiculturalism Day on November 13, 2002. This day acknowledges the contributions that various communities make to Canadian society and to celebrate the country's richness and diversity.

Jun 28 Stonewall Rebellion Day LGBT This day commemorates the U.S. anniversary of the protest against police harassment in New York City's Greenwich Village in 1969. The event has been commemorated by a Pride Parade each year in New York City on the last Sunday in June.

Jun 29-Jul 3 Gahambar Madyoshem Zoroastrian This day celebrates the creation of animals. It is also a time for the equitable sharing of food.

J U N E 2 0 2 4

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender
 Pride Month **USA, Canada, Australia**
 Indigenous Peoples' History Month **Canada**
 Caribbean American Heritage Month **USA**

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Saturday

1

- Red Earth Native American Fair
- Aboriginal/Native American
- Gawai Dayak Malaysia
- Children's Day Laos
- Independence Day Samoa
- Labour Day Bahamas
- Global Day of Parents UN

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 ■ Republic Day Italy	3 ■ June Bank Holiday Ireland	4 ▲ Núr (5th Month) Bahá'í ● Int'l Day Of Innocent Children Victims Of Aggression UN	5 ▲ Yom Yerushalayim Israel ■ Constitution Day Denmark ● World Environment Day UN	6 ● New Moon ■ National Day Sweden	7	8 ● World Oceans Day UN
9	10 ▲ Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev Sikh ■ Dragon Boat Festival China, Hong Kong ■ Portugal Day Portugal	11	12 ✓▲ Shavuot (Jun 12-13) Jewish ■ Independence Day Philippines ■ Russia Day Russia ● World Day Against Child Labour UN	13	14 ■ Flag Day USA	15
16 ✓▲ Eid-ul-Adha Islam ▲ Day of Hajj (Day of Arafat) Islam ■ Father's Day Canada, UK, USA	17 ■ Independence Day Iceland ● World Day To Combat Desertification & Drought UN	18	19 ■ Juneteenth USA ■ Labour Day Trinidad & Tobago	20 SUMMER SOLSTICE International ● World Refugee Day UN	21 ✓▲ National Indigenous Peoples Day Canada ▲ Litha Wicca ■ Inti Raymi Peru ■ National Day Greenland ● Intn'l Day of Yoga UN	22 ○ Full Moon
23 ▲ Pentecost Christian - Coptic & Eastern Orthodox ▲ Rahmat (6th Month) Bahá'í ■ National Day Luxembourg ● Public Service Day UN	24 ✓■ St. Jean Baptiste Day (Quebec) Canada ■ Matariki Aboriginal/Maori, New Zealand ■ Dia de San Juan Puerto Rico	25	26 ■ Independence Day Madagascar, Somalia ● Int'l Day Against Drug Abuse & Illicit Trafficking UN ● Int'l Day In Support Of Victims Of Torture UN	27 ■ Multiculturalism Day Canada	28 ■ Stonewall Rebellion Day LGBT	29 ▲ Gahambar Mailyoshem (Jun 29 - Jul 3) Zoroastrian ■ St. Peter and Paul Day Chile
30 ■ Independence Day Congo						

July 2024 Observances

July-August Sun Dance Ritual Indigenous For many tribes of the Plains Indians, the Sun Dance was a major communal religious ceremony. Generally held in early summer, the four-day dance ceremony involves sacrifice and supplication to insure harmony between all living beings. Iroquois - late spring; Cree, Arapaho, Cheyenne, Sioux and other Plains Peoples - summer.

July-August Green Corn Ceremony Indigenous Performed by some Oklahoma tribes as a time of renewal. The ceremony involves participation in sweatlodge ceremonies, dances, offerings and fasting.

Jul 1 Canada Day Canada On July 1, 1867, the British North America Act created the Canadian federal government. The BNA proclaimed 'one Dominion under the name of Canada,' hence the original title of the holiday, 'Dominion Day.' Dominion Day was officially renamed 'Canada Day' by an act of Parliament on October 27, 1982.

Jul 3 NAIDOC Australia NAIDOC stands for "National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee". A week-long celebration around Australia during the first week in July to focus on the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

Jul 4 Independence Day USA In 1776, the 13 Colonies signed the declaration of Independence proclaiming their separation from England and formed the United States of America. It is celebrated with picnics, fireworks, parades and outdoor activities.

Jul 6 Dalai Lama's Birthday Tibet, Buddhist His Holiness the XIVth Dalai Lama, Tenzin Gyatso, is the spiritual and temporal leader of the Tibetan people. Born to a peasant family in northeastern Tibet, he was recognized as the 14th Dalai Lama (Mongolian for 'Ocean of Wisdom'). In Tibetan Buddhism, the Dalai Lama is believed to be an incarnation of Avalokitesvara, the Buddha of Compassion.

Jul 7 Tanabata Japan Meaning "Seven Evenings" is a Japanese star festival, derived from Obon traditions and the Chinese star festival, Qi Xi. The festival is usually held on July 7, and celebrates the meeting of Orihime (Vega) and Hikoboshi (Altair). The Milky Way, a river made from stars that crosses the sky, separates these lovers, and they are allowed to meet only once a year. This special day is the seventh day of the seventh lunar month.

Jul 7 1st Muharram - Islamic New Year Islam Islamic New Year, 1446 AH. The first of Muharram marks the first day of the first month (Muharram) of the Islamic year. Muharam lasts for 29-30 days depending on the moon sighting. It begins at sundown the previous day. The dates vary by a day depending on whether the Saudi Arabia or the North American Calendar is being observed. This calendar follows the North American dates which is a day later.

Jul 10 Martyrdom of The Báb Bahá'í The Báb was executed at the age of 31 by a firing squad in Tabriz in 1850 C.E. The event is observed at noon. Work and commerce are suspended on this day.

Jul 11 Imam Day Islam Ismaili Imam Day is celebrated every year by Ismailis on the day that the Imam or religious leader transferred from the past Imam to the present Aga Khan.

Jul 11 Nadaam Festival Mongolia The festival lasts for three days where the men compete in the Three Manly national sports of archery, wrestling and horse riding.

Jul 12 Battle of Boyne N. Ireland England's William III defeated the deposed King of England and Scotland at the Battle of Boyne in Ireland. After the battle, which took place on July 1, 1690 James was forced to flee to France.

Jul 14 Bastille Day France Commemorates the event that launched the French Revolution. On this date in 1789, the Bastille, which held political prisoners and became a symbol of oppression by the monarchy, was stormed and prisoners freed. In France, the day is called Fête Nationale.

Jul 15 Umi no hi Japan Japanese honour the importance of the sea and its role in Japanese history on this day.

Jul 16 Ashura Islam The tenth day of the first Islamic month (Muharram). For Shi'ite Muslims, this day mourns the martyrdom of Hazrat Imam Husain, the grandson of Prophet Muhammad. Devout Shi'a commemorate this day of sadness with retelling the story of the battle fought in Kerbala.

Jul 20 Munoz-Rivera Day Puerto Rico This day celebrates the anniversary of Luis Munoz-Rivera, a Puerto Rican patriot, poet and journalist.

Jul 21 Guru Purnima Jain, Hindu Is celebrated by disciples to revere and honour their Gurus (spiritual masters).

Jul 21 Wassana / Dhamma Day Buddhist This day marks the beginning of the 3-month 'Rains Retreat' for self-examination and peace making for monks and nuns. It also celebrates Buddha's first teaching.

Jul 24 Pioneer Day Christian - Mormon This day honours the U.S. pioneers led by Brigham Young, who first settled in Utah in 1847. This day is celebrated with parades to remember their pioneering ancestors.

Jul 24 Simon Bolivar Day Venezuela, Ecuador Simon Bolivar (1783-1830) was one of South America's greatest generals. His victories over the Spaniards won independence for Bolivia, Panama, Columbia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela. He is called El Libertador and the 'George Washington' of South America.

Jul 30 Oh-Harai-Taisai Shinto During the Grand Purification Ceremony, Japanese worshippers walk through a large ring of woven grass and reeds that are placed at the entrance of the shrines as an act of inner purification for sins and offenses committed during the first half of the year. This sacred ritual is observed twice yearly.

Jul 31 Feast of St. Ignatius Loyola Spain Commemorates the life of St. Ignatius Loyola (1491-1556), who founded the Society of Jesus, the Roman Catholic religious order members are known as Jesuits.

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<p>June 2024</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td></tr> <tr><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td></tr> <tr><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td></tr> <tr><td>30</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	S	M	T	W	T	F	S							1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30							<p>1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ ■ Canada Day <i>Canada</i> ■ HKSAR Establishment Day <i>Hong Kong</i> ■ Independence Day <i>Rwanda, Burundi</i> ■ Constitution Day <i>Cayman Islands</i> 	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Emancipation Day <i>USA</i> ■ NAIDOC <i>Australia</i> 	<p>4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ ■ Independence Day <i>USA</i> 	<p>5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● New Moon ■ Independence Day <i>Venezuela</i> 	<p>6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Dalai Lama's Birthday (Tibet) <i>Buddhist</i> ● Int'l Day of Cooperatives <i>UN</i>
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<p>28</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Independence Day <i>Peru</i> 	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ Oh-Harai-Taisai <i>Shinto</i> 	<p>31</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ Kamál (8th Month) <i>Bahá'í</i> ■ Feast of St. Ignatius Loyola <i>Spain</i> ■ Emancipation Day <i>Bermuda</i> 	<p>Jul-Aug Green Corn Ceremony Indigenous</p> <p>Sun Dance Ritual Indigenous</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">August 2024</th> </tr> <tr> <th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td></tr> <tr><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td></tr> <tr><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td></tr> <tr><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td></tr> </tbody> </table>			August 2024							S	M	T	W	T	F	S					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
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August 2024 Observances

August Native Wild Rice Harvest Indigenous Northern Cree, Ojibwa, Algonkians. Celebrates last full moon in August.

August Hopi Snake Dance Indigenous This dance requires two weeks of ritual preparation and snakes are gathered and kept watch over by children. The dancers then take an emetic and dance with the snakes in their mouths, with an Antelope priest in attendance. After the dance, the snakes are released to carry their prayers.

Aug 1 Lughnasadh Wicca Its name is taken from the Celtic God Lugh, or Samildanach, which means 'he of many gifts'. It celebrates the ancient festival of the first harvesting of grain in August.

Aug 1 Confederation Day Switzerland Decreed in 1891, but the origins of this holiday date to 1291, when the foundation of the Swiss Confederation was laid.

Aug 2 Ilinden Macedonia Commemorates the Macedonians revolt against the Ottoman army on August 2, 1903, on Ilinden, or St. Elijah's Day.

Aug 6 Hiroshima Day Canada, Japan, USA This solemn day commemorates the day that United States dropped the first atomic bomb in Hiroshima, Japan in 1945. People from different backgrounds unite on this day to declare their commitment to never letting another nuclear bomb be used against humans again.

Aug 8-17 Fravardeghan Zoroastrian Fravardeghan lasts ten days in preparation for Now Ruz for those who follow the Shenshai calendar. Ancestors are memorialized during this time.

Aug 12 Int'l Youth Day UN A day to increase awareness of the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond, which calls for action in 10 areas: education, employment, hunger and poverty, health, environment, drug abuse, juvenile delinquency, leisure-time activities, girls and young women, and full and effective participation of youths 15-24 years old in society.

Aug 13 Tish'a B'Av Jewish Jews mourn the destruction of the First and Second Temples in Jerusalem in 586 B.C.E. and 70 C.E. It is a day of mourning and fasting.

Aug 15 Assumption Christian This refers to Mary's death and ascent to heaven and is celebrated by Catholic and Orthodox Churches. Special mentions: Sicilian - Canadians hold an outdoor procession for the Madonna del Assunta, Polish Canadians celebrate the Feast of the Mother of God of the herbs, an early harvest festival, Armenian Orthodox bless the first grapes of the season, Ukrainians take flowers to the church to be blessed.

Aug 19 Raksha Bandhan Hindu According to legend, God Indra was warring with demons. His wife tied a silk charm around his wrist to protect him and he was able to defeat his enemies. Hindu girls now tie a threaded amulet or 'rakhi' on their brothers for protection against evil.

Aug 24 Birth of Prophet Zarathustra (Shenshai) Zoroastrian Zarathushtra (Zoroaster in Greek; Zarthosht in India and Persia) is the founder of the Zoroastrian religion, dating back to sometime between 1500 and 1000 BCE. He lived in Persia, modern day Iran. Zoroastrianism became the state religion of various Persian empires, until the 7th Century CE. When Arabs, followers of Islam, invaded Persia in 650 CE, a small number of Zoroastrians fled to India where most are concentrated today.

Aug 24 Independence Day Ukraine Observes independence from the former Soviet Union in 1991.

Aug 26 Janmashtami Hindu Celebrates the birth of Lord Krishna and his rescue from potential death by the demon Kansa. Lord Krishna was born in a prison, then carried by his father to another village where he was secretly exchanged with a cow herder's daughter for his safety.

Aug 30 Victory Day Turkey Honors the warriors who died in the 1922 Battle of Dumlupinar, the final battle in the war of independence. The Mehtar band, the world's oldest military band, plays, and celebrations include military parades and fireworks.

Aug 30 St. Rosa of Lima Peru Commemorates a Peruvian saint who lived in Lima. Her home is now a pilgrimage site, where every 30th of August, people come to pray and throw coins, messages and icons into a water well near her home.

Aug 31 Merdeka (Freedom) Day Malaysia Marks the independence of Malaya from British rule in 1957. The Federation of Malaysia was subsequently inaugurated in 1963, containing Malaya, North Borneo, Sarawak, and Singapore. Singapore later withdrew.

Aug 31-Sept 8 Paryushana-Parva Jain Celebrated for eight days, Paryushana-Parva is the holiest time of the year and is marked by fasting and worship of the 24 realized teachers of the Jain faith known as Tirthankaras or Jinas.

AUGUST 2024

Native Wild Rice
Harvest **Indigenous**
Hopi Snake Dance
Indigenous

July 2024							September 2024						
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28	29	30	31				29	30					

				Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ Lugnasad Wicca ■ Confederation Day Switzerland 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ Ilinden Macedonia 	
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	8	9	10
4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● New Moon 	5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ ■ Civic Holiday Canada ■ Summer Bank Holiday Scotland, Ireland ■ Emancipation Day Turks & Caicos Islands 	6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Hiroshima Day Canada, Japan, USA ■ Independence Day Bolivia, Jamaica 	7	8 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ Fravardeghan (Aug 8-17) Zoroastrian 	9 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ National Women's Day South Africa ■ National Day Singapore ● Int'l Day Of The World's Indigenous People UN 	10 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Independence Day Ecuador
11	12 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● International Youth Day UN 	13 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ Tish'a B'Av Jewish 	14 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Independence Day Pakistan 	15 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ Assumption Christian ■ Independence Day India ■ Korean Liberation Day Korea 	16	17 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Independence Day Indonesia
18 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓▲ Now Ruz (Shenshai) Zoroastrian 	19 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Full Moon ▲ Raksha Bandhan Hindu ▲ Asmá (9th Month) Bahá'í ■ Independence Day Afghanistan ● World Humanitarian Day UN 	20	21	22	23 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Int'l Day for Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition UN 	24 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ Birth of Prophet Zarathustra (Shenshai) Zoroastrian ■ Independence Day Ukraine
25 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Independence Day Uruguay 	26 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓▲ Janmashtami Hindu ■ Summer Bank Holiday UK 	27 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Independence Day Moldova 	28	29	30 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ St. Rosa of Lima Peru ■ Victory Day Turkey 	31 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓▲ Paryushana-Parva (Aug 31 - Sep 8) Jain ■ Merdeka (Freedom Day) Malaysia ■ Independence Day Trinidad & Tobago

September 2024 Observances

National Hispanic Heritage Month USA Initiated in 1968 as 'National Hispanic Heritage Week' but was established in 1988 by the U.S. Congress, and includes the days between September 15 through October 15. Hispanic Heritage Month begins on September 15 because this day marks the anniversary of independence for five Hispanic countries – Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala and Nicaragua. In addition, Mexico achieved independence on September 16, and Chile on September 18. Latinos from all across the nation take a moment to reflect upon their history, customs and culture, as well as the contributions their people have made to the U.S.

September Sunrise Dance Indigenous, Apache, USA This is an ancient rite of passage for 14-year old girls and lasts four days. After a girl's first menstruation, the girl is massaged and prayed for by an elder female relative. Then, the girl's family decides which ceremony will be sponsored, which medicine man to choose, and whom to ask to be her godparents and co-sponsors of the ceremony.

Sep 7 Ganesh Chaturthi Hindu It is in honour of one of Hindu's major deity, Ganesh, the elephant-headed god. He is known as the 'remover of all obstacles' and is invoked at the beginning of all new undertakings.

Sep 8 Samvatsari Jain This day is dedicated to introspection, confession and penance, especially for the Shvetambara sect.

Sep 8 Dashalakshani-Parva Jain Celebrated by the Digambara sect and lasts ten days, each day dedicated to a virtue: humility, honesty, purity, forgiveness, truthfulness, selfrestraint, asceticism, study, celibacy and detachment.

Sep 11 Day Of Remembrance USA The effects of the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon in 2001 impacted Americans and most other nations and has brought us to focus on the devastation terrorism has caused in the world.

Sep 11 Meskerem (New Year) Ethiopia Coptic Orthodox Christians are found in all of Africa. They include Egypt, Libya, Sudan and Ethiopia. During the time of Pharaohs 4,000 years ago, the appearance of Soothis (Dog Star) marked the signal that the Nile River would rise, flooding the fertile plains so that planting could begin. The end of the rainy season became known as the New Year.

Sep 12-16 Gahambar Paitishahem Zoroastrian This day celebrates the creation of earth.

Sep 14 Onam India Onam is a Hindu festival celebrated by the people of Kerala in India. Lasting for four to ten days, it is a harvest festival commemorating the homecoming of the legendary Emperor Mahabali from Patala (the underworld) who visits every Malayali home and during this time.

Sep 15 Eid-Maulad-un-Nabi Islam Anniversary of the birth of Prophet Muhammad. Some Muslims mark this occasion by special prayers, whilst other Muslims may mark the occasion by dedicating more time to reading the Koran.

Sep 16 Dia de la Independencia Mexico Celebrates independence from Spain on this date in 1820. Celebrations begin at 11 p.m. the previous day to honor the time in 1810 when Father Miguel Hidalgo made the call to freedom (Grito de Dolores) that began the rebellion.

Sep 16 Keiro No Hi Japan Respect of the Aged Day, or Keiro no Hi, was established as a national holiday in 1966 to express respect for the elders in the community, and to recognise and thank them for their contributions to society and last but not least, celebrate their long lives.

Sep 17 Ananta-Chaturdasi Jain 'Festival of Ten Virtues' is a 10-day fast and meditation for the Jains.

Sep 18 Harvest Moon Festival China, Hong Kong, Taiwan The festival is celebrated with family reunions, moon gazing and eating of moon cakes. In **Vietnam**, it is called 'Trung Thu'. On that night children form a procession and travel through the streets with bright lanterns, singing and dancing to the beat of drums. In **Korea** it is called 'Chusok'. It is observed by paying homage to ancestors and expressing gratitude for rich crops.

Sep 18 Ksamavani Jain Ksamavani is the 'day of universal forgiveness' for wrongs committed by them and to them.

Sep 21 Oktoberfest Germany Originally it was meant to be just a simple horse race event but the bavarian character quickly took over and it became a happy gathering of cheerful beer drinkers. The Oktoberfest attracts approximately 7 million visitors each year and lasts for three weeks.

Sep 22 Mabon Wicca This day celebrates the fall equinox and the end of the harvest season. Apples are juiced for cider and grapes for wine.

Sep 22 Shuki sorei sai Japan, Shinto On this Autumnal Equinox Day, the Japanese honour family ancestry, visiting ancestral graves and having family reunions.

Sep 22 Chichen Itza Festival Mexico During the Autumn Equinox, thousands gather at the Mayan Temple of Kukulkan to see the interplay of sun and shadow as it forms the impression of a long-tailed serpent leading downward to the stone head of the serpent Kukulkan.

Sep 24 Our Lady of Las Mercedes Dominican Republic, Peru In Carhuaz, Peru celebrations are held in honor of the virgin, with traditional processions, bands of musicians, bullfights and fireworks. In the Dominican Republic, a procession is held at the site of the 16th-century shrine of Our Lady of Las Mercedes, where Columbus fought a battle against the Indians and the Virgin Mary appeared to him.

Sep 24 Heritage Day South Africa Celebrates cultural diversity and serves as a time for South Africans of various heritages to strengthen bonds.

Sep 28 Fiesta San Miguel Mexico The festival of the Archangel San Miguel is in honor of the Patron Saint of the city of San Miguel. Cultural, social, artistic and sporting events are held throughout the city, along with bullfights.

Sep 30 San Geronimo Day Indigenous USA Named after St. Jerome (1829-1909), an Apache fighter, this day is celebrated by the Native Americans in Taos Pueblo, New Mexico. Among the ceremonies are the morning races, the sacred clowns and the pole climb.

Sep 30 National Day of Truth and Reconciliation Indigenous, Canada This day honours the survivors of the residential school system, their families, and communities.

SEPTEMBER 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																		
1 ■ Independence Day Vietnam	2 ✓ ■ Labour Day Canada, USA	3 ● New Moon	4	5 ● International Day of Charity UN	6 ■ Defence Day Pakistan	7 ▲ Ganesh Chaturthi Hindu ■ Independence Day Brazil																																																																																																		
8 ▲ Ízzat (10th Month) Bahá'í ▲ Samvatsari Jain ▲ Dashalakshani-Parva Jain ● International Literacy Day UN	9	10	11 ■ Day Of Remembrance USA ■ Meskerem (New Year) Ethiopia	12 ▲ Gahambar Paitishahem (Sep 12-16) Zoroastrian	13	14 ■ Onam India																																																																																																		
15 ✓ ▲ Eid-Maulad-un-Nabi Islam ■ Hispanic Heritage Month (until Oct. 15) USA ■ Independence Day Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua	16 ■ Keiro No Hi Japan ■ Dia de la Independencia Mexico ● Int'l Day For Preservation Of The Ozone Layer UN	17	18 ○ Full Moon Partial Lunar Eclipse ▲ Ksamavani Jain ■ Harvest Moon Festival China, Hong Kong, Taiwan ■ Trung Thu Vietnam ■ Chuseok Korea ■ Independence Day Chile	19 ■ Independence Day Saint Kitts/Nevis	20	21 ■ Oktoberfest Germany ■ Independence Day Armenia, Malta ● Int'l Day Of Peace UN																																																																																																		
22 AUTUMN EQUINOX International ▲ Mabon Wicca ■ Shuki sorei sai Japan, Shinto ■ Chichen Itza Festival Mexico ■ Independence Day Bulgaria, Mali	23 ■ Unification Day Saudi Arabia	24 ■ Our Lady of Las Mercedes Dominican Republic, Peru ■ Heritage Day South Africa ■ Republic Day Trinidad & Tobago	25	26	27 ▲ Mashiyyat (11th Month) Bahá'í	28 ■ Fiesta San Miguel Mexico																																																																																																		
29	30 ■ National Day of Truth & Reconciliation Indigenous, Canada ■ San Geronimo Day Indigenous, USA ● World Maritime Day UN	<p style="text-align: center;">National Hispanic Heritage Month USA</p> <p style="text-align: center;">September Sunrise Dance Indigenous</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">August 2024</th> <th colspan="7">October 2024</th> </tr> <tr> <th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th> <th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td> <td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td> <td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td> <td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td> </tr> <tr> <td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td> <td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td> </tr> <tr> <td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td> <td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>					August 2024							October 2024							S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S					1	2	3			1	2	3	4	5	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	27	28	29	30	31		
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October 2024 Observances

Disability Employment Awareness Month USA In 1945, in an effort to assist disabled veterans, Congress designated the first week of October as National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week. In the 1970s, a historic shift in disability public policy occurred. For the first time, the exclusion of people with disabilities was viewed as discrimination. The efforts of disability activists led to significant changes in laws, such as the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act in 1990 and the designation of a full month to recognize the potential of America's millions of working-age people with disabilities.

Women's History Month Canada Established in 1992 by the Government of Canada, this special month provides an opportunity to learn more about women's historic accomplishments and their contributions to Canadian society.

Black History Month UK In Britain, Black History Month was first celebrated in October 1987 as part of African Jubilee Year. The decision to make this an annual event each October was endorsed by the Association of London Authorities. It has since grown to recognise and embrace the contributions and traditions of other black communities.

Latin American Heritage Month Canada Proclaimed by the Parliament of Canada on June 21, 2018, this month is an opportunity for Canadians to recognize the valuable contribution of members of the Latin American community to this country's social, economic, political and cultural fabric.

Oct 2 Mehragan Iran, Zoroastrian The word 'Mehr' in Persian means kindness, love and friendship. Mehragan is celebrated by Zoroastrian and Persian (Iranian) people and was based on the concept that all of the farmers would bring their harvest in the middle of the town square and split it up evenly.

Oct 2 Gandhi's Birthday India Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi (1869-1948) is known as Father of the Nation in India, adopted 'non - violence' in fighting for the country's freedom.

Oct 3 Navratri Hindu It means 'nine nights' beginning on the new moon and ending on Dussehra. It is dedicated to the goddess Durga who had nine incarnations and has the power of good to destroy demons.

Oct 4 Feast of St. Francis of Assisi Italy St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals was born in 1182 at Assisi. He abandoned his dream of becoming a knight, donned the clothes of a poor farmhand and began caring for the sick. He founded the Franciscan Order, which today has about 33,000 members. He died on 3rd October 1226.

Oct 9 Han-Gul Day Korea This day commemorates the creation of the Korean alphabet of 29 phonetic symbols called han-gul by King Sejong between 1443 and 1446.

Oct 10 Durga Puja Hindu This day celebrates the divine creative force of the universe and honours the 10-armed goddess Durga, wife of Shiva, and the destroyer of demons.

Oct 11 Chung Yeung Festival China, Hong Kong, Taiwan Families visit the graves of their ancestors.

Oct 11 Chulalongkorn Day Thailand This day commemorates the birth of Rama V, a progressive ruler who lived in 1868-1910.

Oct 12-16 Gahambar Ayathrem Zoroastrian This day celebrates the creation of plant life.

Oct 12 Día de la Raza Argentina, Mexico 'Day of Respect for Cultural Diversity' in many South American countries It celebrates the Hispanic influence and Latino heritage in the Americas.

Oct 12 Nossa Senhora de Aparecida Brazil In 1717, a group of Brazilian fisherman pulled up a wooden statue of the Virgin Mary which was followed by an abundant catch after a fruitless fishing day. They enshrined the statue and in 1929, the Brazilian nation declared Nossa Senhora De Aparecida the Patroness of Brazil.

Oct 12 Yom Kippur Jewish The Day of Atonement is the holiest and most solemn of all days in the year. They believe that once you atone for your mistakes, you can be 'at one' with God. Jews do not work, and they fast, from sunset to sunset.

Oct 12 Dussehra Nepal, Hindu Dussehra means 'the tenth' and celebrates the triumph of Lord Ram over the demon Ravan who stole his wife Sita. The great Hindu epic poem, the Ramayana, is read and enacted, called Ram Lila. A big effigy of Ravan is burnt accompanied by fireworks. In Nepal it is called Dashain and is a major holiday.

Oct 14 Thanksgiving Canada Early Canadian settlers gave thanks for good harvests by decorating their churches with fruits and vegetables and celebrated dinner with venison and waterfowl.

Oct 14 Indigenous Peoples' Day USA, Aboriginal Many cities in USA are replacing Columbus Day with Indigenous Peoples' Day This day honours Native American heritage.

Oct 14 Taiiku no hi Japan Also known as Health-Sports Day or Sports Day, is a national holiday in Japan held annually on the second Monday in October. It commemorates the opening of the 1964 Summer Olympics being held in Tokyo, and exists to promote sports and an active lifestyle.

Oct 16 Pavarana Buddhist Buddha went into intensive practice during the rainy season. This marks the end of the retreat.

Oct 17 Kathina Buddhist New robes and necessities given to ordained monks and nuns.

Oct 17-23 Sukkot Jewish Begins previous sundown at 6pm. The Feast of Booths is a joyful harvest festival lasting 9 days. A little hut called 'sukkah' is built outdoors where families eat to remember the time Israelites wandered in the desert for 40 years, sleeping and eating under the stars.

Oct 20 Karva Chauth Hindu A one-day fast kept by married Hindu women for the well-being and longevity of their husbands. The husbands feed the first bite to their wives only after they see the moon.

Oct 22 Abu Simbel Festival Egypt Built by Ramses II, his temple is angled so that the inner sanctum lights up twice a year: on the anniversary of his rise to the throne and, once again, on his birthday. Crowds pack the temple before sunrise to watch the shafts of light illuminate the statues of Ramses, Ra and Amon. The other date for this event is Feb. 22.

Oct 24 Shemini Atzeret Jewish On the eighth day of Sukkot, special prayers for rain are offered.

Oct 25 Simchat Torah Jewish Simchat Torah or Re-joining in the Torah is the beginning of the synagogue's annual reading cycle. It begins at previous sundown.

Oct 31 Samhain Wicca Traditionally, animals were slaughtered for winter provisions and the spirits of those who have died in the last year are invited to a final celebration.

Oct 31 Halloween Canada, USA This tradition goes back to the Celtic people 2,000 years ago who celebrated their New Year in late autumn and honoured Samhain or Lord of the Dead. They put candles on windows and lit bonfires to scare the disembodied spirits off. They wore disguises so as not to be recognized and always carried a lantern. The Irish traditionally carved lanterns out of turnips or potatoes, but in North America they used pumpkins which were more readily available.

OCTOBER 2024

		Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Women's History Month Canada Disability Employment Awareness Month USA Black History Month Canada, UK		1	2 ☉ New Moon ☉ Annular Solar Eclipse	3	4	5
Sunday	Monday	■ National Day <i>China</i> ■ Independence Day <i>Cyprus, Nigeria</i> ● Int'l Day For The Elderly <i>UN</i>	■ Gandhi's Birthday <i>India</i> ■ Mehragan <i>Iran, Zoroastrian</i> ● Int'l Day of Non-Violence <i>UN</i>	✓▲ Rosh Hashana (Oct 3-4) <i>Jewish</i> ▲ Navratni <i>Hindu</i> ■ Foundation Day <i>Korea</i> ■ Day of German Unity <i>Germany</i>	■ Feast of St. Francis of Assisi <i>Italy</i>	■ Republic Day <i>Portugal</i> ● World Habitat Day <i>UN</i> ● World Teachers' Day <i>UN</i>
6 ■ Armed Forces Day <i>Egypt</i> ■ Constitution Day <i>Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico</i>	7	8 ■ Independence Day <i>Croatia</i>	9 ■ Han-Gul Day <i>Korea</i> ■ Independence Day <i>Uganda</i> ● World Post Day <i>UN</i>	10 ▲ Durga Puja <i>Hindu</i> ■ Fiji Day <i>Fiji</i> ■ Independence Day <i>Cuba</i> ■ Double Tenth Day <i>Taiwan</i> ■ Curacao Day <i>Curacao</i> ● World Mental Health Day <i>UN</i>	11 ■ Chung Yeung Festival <i>Taiwan, China, Hong Kong</i> ■ Chulalongkorn Day <i>Thailand</i> ■ Coming Out Day <i>LGBT</i> ■ National Boss Day <i>USA</i> ● Int'l Day of the Girl <i>UN</i>	12 ✓▲ Yom Kippur <i>Jewish</i> ✓▲ Dussehra <i>Nepal, Hindu</i> ▲ Gahambar Ayathrem (Oct 12-16) <i>Zoroastrian</i> ■ Dia de la Raza <i>Mexico, Argentina</i> ■ Nossa Senhora de Aparecida <i>Brazil</i> ■ Discovery Day <i>Bahamas</i> ■ National Day <i>Spain</i>
13	14 ✓■ Thanksgiving <i>Canada</i> ✓■ Indigenous Peoples' Day <i>USA</i> ✓■ Columbus Day <i>USA</i> ■ Taiiku no hi <i>Japan</i> ● Int'l Day for Natural Disaster Reduction <i>UN</i>	15 ▲ 'Ilm (12th Month) <i>Bahá'í</i>	16 ▲ Pavarana <i>Buddhist</i> ■ National Heroes Day <i>Jamaica</i> ● World Food Day <i>UN</i>	17 ☾ Full Moon ✓▲ Sukkot (Oct 17 - Oct 23) <i>Jewish</i> ● Int'l Day For Eradication Of Poverty <i>UN</i>	18 ■ Independence Day <i>Azerbaijan</i>	19
20 ▲ Karva Chauth <i>Hindu</i>	21	22 ■ Abu Simbel Festival <i>Egypt</i>	23 ■ Labour Day <i>New Zealand</i>	24 ✓▲ Shemini Atzeret <i>Jewish</i> ■ Suez Victory Day <i>Egypt</i> ■ Independence Day <i>Zambia</i> ● United Nations Day <i>UN</i> ● World Development Information Day <i>UN</i>	25 ✓▲ Simchat Torah <i>Jewish</i> ■ Republic Day <i>Kazakhstan</i>	26 ■ National Day <i>Austria</i>
27	28 ■ Bank Holiday <i>Ireland</i> ■ National Day <i>Czech Republic</i> ■ National Day 'Ochi' <i>Greece</i>	29 ■ Republic Day <i>Turkey</i>	30	31 ▲ Samhain <i>Wicca</i> ■ Halloween <i>Canada, USA</i> ■ Reformation Day <i>Chile</i>	September 2024 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 November 2024 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	

November 2024 Observances

National Indigenous Month USA. Since 1900, many have sought to recognize the great influence American Natives have had on the history, cultural development, and continuing growth of the US. Various dates and weeks were acknowledged until 1976, when Congress authorized a week in October as Native American Awareness Week. Finally, in 1990, the month of November was chosen because it is traditionally a time when many American Natives gather for fall harvest festivals, world-renewal ceremonies, and pow wows.

Oct-Nov Iroquois Harvest Ceremony Indigenous This a day-long ceremony to give thanks to earth spirits for providing now and in the future.

- Nov 1 Diwali Sikh, Hindu** It means 'row of lights' and is the Hindu New Year. Diwali lasts for 5 days: Day 1 - New Year for business, Day 2 - the triumph of god Vishnu over the evil demon, Day 3 - Lakshmi, the goddess of prosperity visits homes lit by lamps, Day 4 - Bali worship day, Day 5 - devoted to brothers and sisters.
- Nov 1 Mahavira Nirvana Jain** This day celebrates the attainment of Moksha by Lord Mahavira and is the 'Festival of Lamps'.
- Nov 1 All Saints' Day Christian** This day is for honouring saints, known and unknown.
- Nov 2 All Souls Day Christian** Catholic Christians day of prayers of intercession for the dead. Prayers of the faithful are seen as helping to cleanse the souls of the departed.
- Nov 2 Birthday Of The Báb Bahá'í** Born Siyyid 'Ali Muhammad in Southwestern Iran in 1819. His title, in Arabic, means 'The Gate'. Work is suspended and Bahá'ís come together for prayer and festivities.
- Nov 2 Día de los Muertos Mexico** This day is also known as the Day of the Dead, and is celebrated in parts of the United States and Central America. Families build altars in their homes surrounded with flowers, food and burning candles.
- Nov 2 Dia de Finados Portugal** This holiday is celebrated by people visiting the deceased. They bring hearts and crowns made of flowers to the graves.
- Nov 3 Bunka No Hi Japan** A national holiday dedicated to the love of freedom and promotion of Japanese culture.
- Nov 3 Birth Of Bahá'u'lláh Bahá'í** Born Mirza Husayn 'Ali into one of the leading noble families of Persia in 1817. His name is a title, in Arabic, meaning 'The Glory of God'.
- Nov 5 Guy Fawkes Day UK, England** This is also known as Bonfire Night. Guy Fawkes was a leader of a group of Catholic men who were plotting to blow up the king and Parliament but were arrested in time. The English and Irish burn bonfires topped by a figure known as the guy. West Indians from the Bahamas and Barbados celebrate it as well.
- Nov 11 Remembrance Day Australia, Canada, UK** This day commemorates the soldiers killed in World Wars I and II and is in remembrance for all those who have given their lives in service of their country. Canadians always set aside this day in memory of those who gave their lives for freedom. Many observers wear red poppies as a symbol of this day.
- Nov 11 Veterans Day USA** It was first proclaimed as Armistice Day in 1919 to commemorate the termination (at 11 AM on November 11, 1918) of World War I.
- Nov 15 Shichi-Go-San Japan** Prayers are offered for children's growth. The ages of three and five for boys, three and seven for girls--are celebrated. On this day, children dress up in their gala dresses and go with their parents to a Shinto shrine to pay a visit to the tutelary deity. Children are given thousand-year candy which is red and white with crane and turtle illustrations (symbols of long life).
- Nov 15 Guru Nanak's Birthday (Bikarami) Sikh** Born in 1469 CE, he was the first of the Ten Gurus of the Sikh faith and founded Sikhism. An accomplished poet, 974 of his hymns are in the Sikh scriptures, the Sri Guru Granth Sahib.
- Nov 15 Lokashah Jayanti Jain** This day commemorates the birth of a famous 15th century reformer, Lonka Saha, who opposed temple worship and use of images.
- Nov 19 Discovery Day Puerto Rico** Celebrates the day Christopher Columbus found Puerto Rico on his second voyage to the New World in 1493.
- Nov 20 Transgender Day of Remembrance LGBT** Begun in 1999, vigils, services and a variety of other events are held to memorialize those who were killed due to anti-transgender hatred or prejudice.
- Nov 23 Kinro Kansha No Hi Japan** This is the Japanese Labour Thanksgiving Day when people express gratitude to each other for their labours throughout the year.
- Nov 24 Martyrdom of Guru Teg Bahadur Sikh** This day commemorates his martyrdom (1621-1675). He was the ninth of the Ten Sikh Gurus and executed in Delhi by the Mughal emperor. He died for the Sikh faith and also for religious liberty.
- Nov 25 St. Catherine's Day Canada, France** She is the patron saint of virgins and philosophers, lived in Alexandria in the 4th century A.D. and was martyred after being tortured on a spiked wheel. At one time, match-making balls were held on this day.
- Nov 26 Day of Covenant Bahá'í** The eldest son and appointed successor of Bahá'u'lláh, 'Abdu'l-Bahá, referred to this day as the 'Centre of the Covenant' which was established to safeguard the unity of the community.
- Nov 28 Thanksgiving Day USA** Early American settlers gave thanks for good harvests by decorating their churches with fruits and vegetables and celebrating dinner with venison and waterfowl.
- Nov 28 Ascension Of Abdu'l-Bahá; Bahá'í** After years of serving his father and safeguarding the unity of the Faith, Abdu'l-Bahá; passed away in Haifa, Israel in 1921.
- Nov 30 St. Andrew's Day Romania, Scotland** This day commemorates the life of the patron saint of Scotland.

NOVEMBER 2024

National Indigenous Peoples Month USA

It's time to order your 2025 calendar!

October 2024							December 2024						
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27	28	29	30	31			29	30	31				

					Friday	Saturday	
					1 New Moon Diwali Hindu, Sikh All Saints' Day Christian Karva Chauth Hindu Mahavira Nirvana Jain Independence Day Antigua & Barbuda Revolution Day Algeria	2 All Souls Day Christian Birthday Of The Báb Bahá'í Dia de los Muertos Mexico Dia de Finados Portugal	
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday			
3 Birth Of Bahá'u'lláh Bahá'í Bunka No Hi Japan Independence Day Panama, Dominica	4 Qudrat (13th Month Bahá'í	5 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS Guy Fawkes Day UK, England	6 Take Our Kids to Work Canada Int'l Day For Preventing The Exploitation Of The Environment UN	7 	8 Independence Day Cambodia	9 	
10 	11 Veterans Day USA Remembrance Day Australia, Canada, UK Armistice Day France Independence Day Poland	12 	13 Int'l World Kindness Day International	14 World Diabetes Day UN	15 Full Moon Guru Nanak's Birthday (Bikarami) Sikh Lokashah Jayanti Jain Shichi-Go-San Japan National Day Palestine Republic Day Brazil	16 Int'l Day of Tolerance UN	
17 	18 Independence Day Latvia, Morocco	19 Discovery Day Puerto Rico Int'l Men's Day International World Toilet Day UN	20 Transgender Day of Remembrance LGBT National Sovereignty Day Argentina Universal Children's Day UN	21 World Television Day UN	22 Qawl (14th Month) Bahá'í Independence Day Lebanon	23 Kinro Kansha No Hi Japan	
24 Martyrdom of Guru Teg Bahadur Sikh	25 St. Catherine's Day Canada, France National Day Bosnia Int'l Day For Elimination Of Violence Against Women UN	26 Day of Covenant Bahá'í	27 	28 Thanksgiving Day USA Ascension Of Abdu'l-Bahá Bahá'í Independence Day Albania National Day Panama	29 Int'l Day of Solidarity with Palestinian People UN	30 St. Andrew's Day Scotland Independence Day Barbados	

December 2024 Observances

Universal Human Rights Month **UN** The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) was adopted by the UN in 1948 as a response to the Nazi holocaust and to set a standard by which the human rights activities of all nations, rich and poor alike, are to be measured. Some of the Rights are: No one shall be subjected to cruel and inhuman punishment, being entitled to a fair and public hearing by an impartial tribunal, the right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion, and the right to a standard of living to include food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, the right to education, the right to participate in the cultural life of the community, not being arbitrarily deprived of his property, a speedy juried trial and right to legal counsel.

- Dec 1 Rosa Parks Day** **USA** Commemorates the arrest of Rosa Parks, in 1955, for defying segregation by refusing to give up her seat on the bus for a white passenger. The incident led to the end of segregation.
- Dec 1 First Sunday of Advent** **Christian** The Christian church year begins with Advent (from the Latin *adventus* meaning 'coming' or 'arrival') which is also a time when Christians prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ.
- Dec 6 St. Nicholas Day** **Christian** He is the patron saint of Russia and came from a town in Turkey. Being known as a protector of children, the tradition of leaving shoes out in the hopes of receiving treats is practiced in the Dutch, German and Eastern European communities.
- Dec 7 Pearl Harbor Day** **USA** This day commemorates the attack of the Imperial Japanese Navy and Air Force on the armed forces of the United States stationed at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, killing two thousand people. This caused the United States to enter into World War II.
- Dec 8 Bodhi Day** **Buddhist** In Japanese Zen, Bodhi Day is called "Rohatsu" and is the observance of enlightenment of the historical Buddha. Zen monasteries observe this day with a meditation retreat lasting several days. On the last night of a Rohatsu sesshin, monks and students often sit in meditation until dawn, as the Buddha did 25 centuries ago.
- Dec 9 Feast of the Immaculate Conception** **Christian** According to the Catholic religion, Mary, the mother of Jesus, was conceived without Original Sin in the womb of her mother, St. Anne.
- Dec 12 Our Lady of Guadalupe** **Mexico** An important religious festival in Mexico. It commemorates the appearance of the Blessed Virgin to an Indian boy in 1531. Processions, dances and visits are led to her Mexico City shrine.
- Dec 13 Aga Khan's Birthday** **Islam** **Ismaili** He is the religious head of the Ismaili sect.
- Dec 13 Luciadagen** **Sweden** This day is also known as 'Queen of Light'. A candlestick parade takes place.
- Dec 15 Navidades** **Mexico, Puerto Rico** Marks the beginning of the Christmas season and ends with Three Kings Day on January 6th.
- Dec 16-24 Posadas** **Mexico** A nine-day traditional celebration throughout Mexico. Processions of pilgrims go door to door asking for posada, which means shelter, commemorating the search by Mary and Joseph for shelter.
- Dec 22 Yule** **Wicca** During the winter solstice, the longest night of the year, the rebirth of the sun which is life sustaining is celebrated. The Yule tree is decorated with fruit and candles are lit to represent the sun.
- Dec 22 Tohji-Tasai** **Shinto** The sun is of central importance in Japan and this day celebrates the end of the Yin period of the Sun in its declining strength and the growing power of the Yang period.
- Dec 23 Joseph Smith's Birthday** **Christian - Mormon** He was the American Mormon Leader, founder of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.
- Dec 25 Christmas Day** **Christian** This day celebrates Jesus Christ's birth over 2000 years ago. Customs include lighting candles, exchanging gifts and using ever green decorations to celebrate this day, the most widely observed Christian festival of the year. In most communities it is a family day.
- Dec 25-Jan 2 Hanukkah** **Jewish** Begins previous sundown at 6pm. The Festival of Lights is celebrated for eight days. About 164 B.C., Maccabees, a small group of Jews fighting for religious freedom won victory over the Syrians. The legend goes that to rededicate the Temple, they found only one jar of holy oil and miraculously the candelabra remained lit for 8 days. An eight candle menorah is lit.
- Dec 26 Death of Prophet Zarathustra** **Zoroastrian** This day marks the death of the founder of the Zoroastrian faith.
- Dec 26-Jan 1 Kwanzaa** **African-American, Canadian, USA** A professor who wanted to encourage African Americans to celebrate their heritage started Kwanzaa's in California in 1966. Kwanzaa means first fruit in Swahili and is a harvest festival. Families exchange gifts and have African-style feasts. Seven-pronged candleholders are lit on each consecutive night for the seven principles: unity, self-determination, working together, sharing, purpose, creativity and faith.
- Dec 26 Junkanoo** **Bahamas** A festival that combines elements of Mardi Gras, mummings' parades, and ancient African tribal rituals.
- Dec 26 Wren Day/St Stephen's Day** **Ireland** On Wren Day, boys in wren costumes go from house to house with a captured wren, singing songs and gathering coins. These coins help to pay for a big celebratory feast in the evening.
- Dec 26 Boxing Day** **Canada, Ireland, UK** It was once a day when the church's poor boxes were opened. In Britain, originally a day when gifts (boxes) are given to servants, and others who provide services.
- Dec 30 Rizal Day** **Philippines** This day commemorates the death of Jose Mercado Rizal in 1896, a Philippine doctor and author whose books denounced Spanish administration. He was an inspiration to the Philippine nationalist movement.
- Dec 31-Jan 4 Gahambar** **Maidyarem** **Zoroastrian** This day celebrates the creation of animals. It is also a time for the equitable sharing of food.
- Dec 31 Omisoka** **Japan** To usher in the new year, families clean their homes, eat toshi-koshi buckwheat noodles in the hope that one's life will be stretched out as long as these noodles. As midnight approaches, Shinto temples around the country begin ringing out the old year, sounding the temple bell 108 times, signifying the 108 human worldly desires removed by the striking of the bell.

DECEMBER 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																					
1  New Moon ▲ First Sunday of Advent Christian ■ Rosa Parks Day USA ■ National Day Romania, Laos, UAE ■ Independence Day Portugal ● World AIDS Day UN	2 ● Int'l Day for the Abolition of Slavery UN	3 ● Int'l Day for Disabled Persons UN	4	5 ■ Discovery Day Haiti ● Int'l Volunteer Day for Economic & Social Development UN	6 ▲ St. Nicholas Day Christian ■ Independence Day Finland ■ Constitution Day Spain	7 ■ Pearl Harbor Day USA ● Int'l Civil Aviation Day UN																																																																																					
8 ▲ Bodhi Day Buddhist	9 ▲ Feast of the Immaculate Conception Christian ■ Independence Day Tanzania ● Int'l Anti-Corruption Day UN	10 ■ Constitution Day Thailand ● Human Rights Day UN	11 ▲ Masá'il (15th Month) Bahá'í ● Int'l Mountain Day UN	12 ■ Our Lady of Guadalupe Mexico ■ Jamhuri (Independence Day) Kenya	13 ✓▲ Aga Khan's Birthday Islam Ismaili ■ Luciadagen Sweden	14																																																																																					
15  Full Moon ■ Bill of Rights Day USA ■ Navidades Puerto Rico	16 ■ Posadas (Dec 16-24) Mexico ■ Day of Reconciliation South Africa ■ Independence Day Bahrain ■ Bijoy Dibash Bangladesh	17 ■ National Day Bhutan	18 ■ Independence Day Qatar ● Int'l Migrants Day UN	19	20 ● Human Solidarity Day UN	21																																																																																					
22 WINTER SOLSTICE International ▲ Yule Wicca ▲ Tohji-Tasai Shinto	23 ▲ Joseph Smith's Birthday Christian - Mormon	24 ■ Independence Day Libya	25 ✓▲ Christmas Day Christian ✓▲ Hanunukah (Dec 25-Jan 2) Jewish ■ Jinnah's Birthday Pakistan	26 ✓▲ Death of Prophet Zarathustra Zoroastrian ■ Boxing Day Canada, UK, Ireland ■ Kwanzaa African / American / Canadian USA, Canada ■ Wren Day/St Stephen's Day Ireland ■ Junkanoo Bahamas	27	28																																																																																					
29 ■ TIndependence Day Mongolia	30 ▲ Sharaf (16th Month) Bahá'í ■ Rizal Day Philippines	31  New Moon ▲ Gahambar Madyarem (Dec 31-Jan 4) Zoroastrian ■ Omisoka Japan ■ Hogmanay Scotland	Universal Human Rights Month UN It's time to order your 2025 calendar!			November 2024 <table border="1"> <tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td></tr> <tr><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td></tr> <tr><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td></tr> </table>	S	M	T	W	T	F	S						1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	January 2025 <table border="1"> <tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td></tr> <tr><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td></tr> <tr><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td></tr> </table>	S	M	T	W	T	F	S				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	
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Explanations of Religions



Indigenous Peoples

The circle and the four cardinal directions are: sacred objects, sacred feathers, sacred herbs and sacred art.

Indigenous Peoples' religions represent examples of primal traditions that have existed for some 30,000 to 60,000 years. Due to their migrations across North America over successive time periods, generalizations regarding Indigenous People traditions are difficult to make. Differences amongst hundreds of tribal groups with their languages, together with contrasts of geography and climate to which the people have adapted has resulted in specific ceremonies unique to each tribe. In no Indigenous People language is there a term that translates as 'religion' and thus the term 'tradition' is preferable. Basic Indigenous People concepts are grounded in the experience of time and process. Therefore, the seasons of nature are understood in a cyclical manner. They have developed an interrelation with the natural environment and the sacred lore, thus the ending of seasons for activities such as hunting, fishing and agricultural pursuits are celebrated through dance, song and recital of legends, mythical stories and clan histories.

Indigenous Peoples' festivals have been listed as a separate group each month, since different tribes perform their ceremonies according to individual tribal time frames.



Bahá'í

The nine-pointed star is used to symbolize the teachings of the Bahá'í Faith regarding the oneness of humanity and the oneness of religion.

The Bahá'í Era began in 1844 with the declaration of the Báb (1819-1850) who claimed to be the forerunner of Bahá'u'lláh (1817-1892), the Promised One of all ages and religions. There are over 5 million Bahá'ís who come from virtually every ethnic group, culture, profession and social or economic class, and are from more than 235 countries of the world. The Bahá'í World Center is located on Mount Carmel in Haifa, Israel. In the words of Bahá'u'lláh, the Founder of their Faith, "The earth is but one country, and mankind its citizens." The Badi' Calendar was established by the Báb. Based on the solar year, each year is divided into nineteen months of nineteen days, each with four intercalary days (five in leap year).

The Bahá'í year begins on March 21 and the Bahá'í day begins at sunset. Fasting season lasts 19 days beginning March 2. Baha'i holy days begin at sundown the day before the date listed and end at sundown on the date listed.



Buddhist

The eight-spoked wheel represents the Eight-Fold Path which, when practiced together, enables a person to reach a state of equanimity and compassion.

The word buddha means 'one who has woken up'. Siddhatha, the founder was born in India in 6th century BCE and gained enlightenment at the age of 35. Buddhism teaches that the way to Nirvana is

through leading a moral life and meditation on the Eight-fold path. It is based on compassion for all living beings. Buddhists accept belief in reincarnation and karma, the result of good and evil actions. Buddhism coexists with indigenous religious traditions, adapting to local folk religions such as Hinduism, Confucianism, Shinto and Taoism. The three great traditions of Buddhism are distinct historically and geographically: Southern Buddhism, with 100 million followers who live in Sri Lanka, Burma, Cambodia and Thailand; Eastern Buddhism practiced in China, Japan, Korea and Vietnam; Northern Buddhism covers Tibet, Mongolia, the Himalayas and parts of Soviet Union. There is no single Buddhist calendar and events related to the Buddha are celebrated at different times in different temples. The full moon is commonly recognized as the most important day for celebration.



Christian

The Crucifix is a symbol used to represent the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The term 'Christian' was first recorded in the New Testament in Acts 11:26 in Antioch, Syria to describe a group of people who demonstrated attachment to 'Christos', a Greek translation of the Hebrew term 'Messiah' used by the Jews. The Christian movement has produced a diversity of expressions, but allegiance to 'Christ', Jesus the Son of God, who began preaching at age 30, is crucial to them all. Jesus proclaimed the coming of the Kingdom of God here on earth and taught that the greatest commandments of the Bible are to love God and to love our neighbours as ourselves. Sharpened by geographical isolation, five 'great traditions' of Christianity have developed. These may be identified as Eastern, Oriental, Latin, Western and African. In most Christian communities, Sunday is the first day of the week, although many minority groups i.e. Seventh-day Adventists and many African churches, insist on a literal observance of the Ten Commandments and the special status of Saturday.

The Gregorian (Western) calendar has been adopted by all Roman Catholic and Protestant Churches. Most Eastern churches, however, continue to use the Julian (Eastern) calendar for religious purposes, though only a few use it exclusively. At the present time, the Julian and Gregorian calendars are approximately 13 days out of phase.

Christian - Coptic and Eastern Orthodox

The Eastern Orthodoxy is the main group of the Eastern Christianity. The Eastern Orthodox Church comprises of Russian Orthodox, Greek and Cypriot Churches and uses the Julian (Eastern) Calendar for moveable feasts such as Easter. The modern use of the term "Coptic" describes Egyptian Christians. The Coptic Church is based on the teachings of Saint Mark who brought Christianity to Egypt during the reign of the Roman emperor Nero in the first century. The Coptic Orthodox Church's clergy is headed by the Pope of Alexandria and includes Bishops who oversee the priests ordained in their dioceses. There are over 10 million Copts in Egypt and another 2.2 million emigrant Copts all over the world.

Christian - Mormon

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, widely known as the LDS Church or the Mormon Church was founded by Joseph Smith Apr. 6, 1830. The church is headquartered in Salt Lake City Utah and has established congregations and temples worldwide. The church teaches that it is a restoration of the church instituted by Jesus Christ. It teaches that before Joseph Smith restored the true church, an apostasy occurred shortly after the death of Peter and the other original apostles.

Latter-day Saints believe in the divine authority of the Old Testament and New Testament and also have additional books in the scriptural canon: The Book of Mormon, the Doctrine and Covenants and the Pearl of Great Price.



Hindu

OM expresses the complete nature of God. 'Hindu' is, in origin, simply the Persian word for people of the Indus Valley civilization. The earliest indications are derived from artifacts 4000-2200 BCE. Hinduism teaches that there is one ultimate reality or energy behind the universe, called Brahman. The many gods and goddesses are the various manifestations of Brahman. God also takes birth on earth as different Incarnations or Avatars.

The same reality exists in human beings, who through reincarnation, or repeated births, try to realize their unity with God. The word 'Hinduism' is used to refer to the complex religious tradition which has evolved in the Indian subcontinent and is represented by highly diverse beliefs and practices of over 500 million Hindus. Hinduism has no founder nor is it prophetic. No particular doctrine, dogma or practice is essential to it. The major scriptures of Hinduism are the Vedas, the Upanishads and the Bhagavad Gita. Buddhism, Jainism and Sikhism arose within the Hindu tradition. Hinduism has been described as a religion of fasts, feasts and festivals. As with pilgrimage, festivals are local, regional and all-Indian. Festivals are connected with seasons as well as with major gods of Hinduism. Hindu festivals and holy days are based on a lunar calendar.



Islam

The Islamic crescent symbolizes the new moon that determines the Islamic calendar. For its followers, Islam is a total way of life. Islam, which in Arabic means 'submission' (to God), proclaims a religious faith and sets forth certain rituals as well as prescribing patterns of order for society in matters of family life, law, business, food, dress and etiquette. There are five fundamental religious duties, called the Pillars of Islam, incumbent upon every Muslim. Muslims believe that God's final message was revealed to Muhammad (born approximately 570 AD) through the angel Gabriel, and is contained in the Qu'ran. With over 700 million Muslims, Islam is the second largest religious group in the world. There are over 72 sects, the major ones being the Sunnis and the Shi'ites. The largest Islamic community is in the Indian sub-continent, followed by South-East Asia and Indonesia; Arab countries; Turkey, Iran and Afghanistan; Sub-Saharan Africa; Russia and China; and Europe (Balkans). The times of observance

of annual practices, notably Ramadan and the pilgrimage to Mecca, are determined by the Islamic lunar year of 354 days.

Although Islamic dates are always on the same day of the Islamic calendar, the date on the Gregorian calendar varies from year to year, since the Gregorian calendar is a solar calendar and the Islamic calendar is a lunar calendar. This difference means the Islamic dates move in the Gregorian calendar approximately 11 days every year. The dates also vary from country to country depending on whether the moon has been sighted or not. The dates vary by a day depending on whether the Saudi Arabia or the North American Calendar is being observed. This calendar follows the North American dates which is a day later.

Islam Ismaili

The Ismailis are considered another branch of Shia Islam. It grew out of a dispute over who should lead the Shia community after the death of the Sixth Imam, Jaafar al-Sadiq. Ismailis believe it was Ismail, the son of the sixth Imam, and so the sect takes its name from Ismail. Ismaili groups today can be found in India, Pakistan, Yemen, and East Africa. They are led today by the Harvard educated Aga Khan who oversees a global economic development and charitable program much respected in progressive Western circles.



Jain

The stylized hand is in a gesture of blessing. On the palm is inscribed "Ahimsa" meaning 'non-injury'. The phrase at the bottom of the symbol translates "All life is bound by mutual support and interdependence."

Jainism is one of the oldest religions of the world. Jains take their name from the term 'Jina' which means 'conqueror' and is given to honour the twenty-four great teachers. The founder of Jainism, Vardhamana Mahavira (599-527 BCE) was the last of the great teachers. India's most famous Jain was Mahatma Gandhi, the greatest champion of non-violence. The Jain philosophy encompasses the principle of non-violence, harmony through compassion towards all living beings, tolerance and forgiveness, and following a vegetarian diet. At present, the community includes approximately 10 million Jains (about one-half of one per cent of India's population). Because of their philosophy of non-injury towards any living thing, most Jains are members of mercantile and professional classes.



Shinto

The torii is the gateway to a Shinto shrine. The ends of the horizontal bars reach toward heaven. Shinto means "Way of the Kami", and is the oldest religion in Japan. The Shinto worship all the deities of Heaven and Earth and their belief is that the world is populated by millions of Kami, spirits that inhabit the nature world which is regarded with awe and respect rocks, trees, heavenly bodies; the guardian deities: souls of ancestors, renowned persons and Buddha incarnations. Shinto ceremonies dedicated to Kami, are held at shrines in homes and processions.



Jewish

The Shield of David or “six-pointed star” is the symbol of Judaism. Judaism is based on the covenant, or promise made by the Jewish people to follow the teachings of the Torah and by God to protect the people who followed those laws. Though Abraham is considered the first Jew because he eschewed idols for an invisible, all powerful deity, the covenant took place when God gave the Torah, or sacred law, to the Jewish people through Moses at Mount Sinai about 4000 years ago. The Torah, which means laws, consists of the first five books of Moses.

Modern religious Jews, whether affiliated with an Orthodox, Conservative, Reconstructionist, or Reform synagogues, are members of a worldwide faith community. Today there are nearly 15 million Jews in the world, the biggest concentration in the U.S.A., followed by Israel and the Soviet Union. Jews of all races live throughout the world, primarily in France, Britain, Canada, South America and South Africa.

The main precepts of Judaism are obedience to moral law, justice, mercy, and compassion. The Jewish year is based on a lunar calendar of 12 months. Each month begins with the new moon. The year begins in late September/early October with Rosh Hashanah, the “head of the year,” and the holy day on which Jews reflect on their actions the previous year. A week later on Yom Kippur, Jews repent for their mistakes and sins, but not before having asked how to make retribution to those wronged. All holidays and Sabbaths (Friday -Sat). begin and end at sundown. No matter where Jews live, their rituals, music, holidays and Sabbaths are celebrated in fundamentally the same ways. Judaism is a religion, not a race or a nationality. The language of prayer is Hebrew.



Sikh

The Sikh symbol, known as the “Khanda”, represents two basic principles of the faith: the need to balance temporal obligations with spiritual duties, and the duty of every Sikh to first serve those who are poor, oppressed, voiceless or disadvantaged in any way. Sikhism began in 15th century Punjab - a land that now spans across modern-day India and Pakistan - with the simple message that there is One Creator, and therefore all people, regardless of gender, caste, race, color, ethnicity or religious belief, are equal. Sikhs are unequivocally monotheistic and reject all forms of ritual, superstition and idol worship. They are guided by the teachings of Ten Teachers, the first being Nanak (1439-1539) and the last Gobind Singh (1666-1708). Their compositions, in poetry and set to music, constitute the Guru Granth Sahib, the Sikh Scripture also revered as the Living Teacher.

The word ‘Sikh’ literally means ‘student’ or ‘one who is learning’. Sikhs are easily recognized by their turbans. Those who take on the full discipline adopt the five “K’s”: Kangha (wooden comb); Kara (steel bracelet); Kirpan (sword); Kaccha (pair of shorts); Kesh (long hair).

Today, it is the fifth largest world religion with more than 25 million adherents living mainly in Punjab, Hong Kong, Singapore and other Commonwealth countries. Approximately 1.2 million Sikhs now call North America their home. Since 1999, Sikh high holidays have been demarcated in the solar Nanakshahi Calendar, which does not vary from year to year (as was the case with the traditional lunar Bikarami calendar) and is now in accordance with the western calendar.



Wicca

The Pentacle is the most common symbol used in Wicca. Its five points symbolize Air, Fire, Water, Earth and Spirit, in the circle of eternity. Wicca is the common term for many different traditions of Neo-Pagan nature religions that celebrate seasonal and life cycles, and revere a Goddess and a God. There are eight seasonal festivals called Sabbats: four equinoxes and four agricultural and herd-farming times. The basic tenets are: worship of the Goddess in her three aspects, Maiden, Mother and Crone; worship of her consort Pan, the Horned God; the use of magic within a definite code of ethics, including the Wiccan rede, “And ye harm none, do what ye will”; reverence for nature and ecological principles; belief that the divine is in everything; that there are multiple deities and many different pathways to the divine; and acceptance of reincarnation. Wiccans are found in Great Britain, U.S.A., Canada, Australia, Germany and Holland.



Zoroastrian

FRAVASHI, the divinity in humanity, is represented by symbol. The prophet Zarathustra lived in Persia around 1800 BCE. The Zoroastrians of India are called Parsis and follow the Shenshai calendar. The Zoroastrians in Iran follow the Fasli calendar. Zarathustra in his Gathas or ‘verses’ declared the sovereignty of the one God, Ahura Mazda “Lord of All Wisdom”, and the opposition of good and evil forces. Zoroastrian worship centers around a continually burning sacred fire. Although prosperous, the community is numerically very small, residing primarily in India, Iran, England, Canada, Australia and the U.S.A. There are seven obligatory holy days known as the six gahambars and Nowruz (‘New Day’) which celebrates the beginning of the year and is dedicated to the seventh creation, fire, the symbol of righteousness.

Summary of Religious Holidays for 2024

✓ THE MOST IMPORTANT DATES TO TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION WHEN SCHEDULING MEETINGS AND EVENTS AT WORK. SOME FORM OF ACCOMMODATION FOR RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCES MAY BE REQUIRED.



Indigenous Peoples

Indigenous Peoples' Day - Canada ✓ Jun 21
National Day of Truth and Reconciliation - Canada Sep 30
Indigenous Peoples' Day-US ✓ Oct 14



Bahá'í

All holy days begin at sunset the day before the date listed and end at sundown on the date listed

Intercalary Days Feb 25-Mar 1
Alá (19-Day Fast Begins) Mar 2-Mar 19
Now Ruz (New Year) ✓ Mar 20
Feast Of Ridvan ✓ Apr 21-May 2
Declaration of Báb May 23
Ascension of Bahá'u'lláh ✓ May 29
Martyrdom of The Báb Jul 10
Birthday Of The Báb Nov 2
Birth Of Bahá'u'lláh Nov 3
Day of Covenant Nov 26
Ascension Of Abdu'l-Bahá Nov 28



Buddhist

Chinese New Year ✓ Feb 10
Losar (New Year Tibet) ✓ Feb 10
Great Prayer Festival -Tibet Feb 13
Wesak ✓ May 23
Dalai Lama's Birthday (Tibet) Jul 6
Wassana / Dhamma Day Jul 21
Pavarana Oct 16
Kathina Oct 17
Bodhi Day Dec 8



Christian

Occidental calendar (Gregorian)

Epiphany Jan 6
Three Kings' Day Jan 6
Christmas - Armenia ✓ Jan 6
Shrove Tuesday Feb 13
Ash Wednesday (Lent Begins) Feb 14
St. Joseph's Day Mar 19
Palm Sunday Mar 24
Annunciation Mar 25
Holy Thursday Mar 28
Good Friday ✓ Mar 29

Easter ✓
Easter Monday Mar 31
St. George's Day Apr 1
Ascension Apr 23
Pentecost May 9
Assumption May 19
All Saints' Day Aug 15
All Souls Day Nov 1
First Sunday of Advent Nov 2
St. Nicholas Day Dec 1
Feast of the Immaculate Conception Dec 6
Christmas Day ✓ Dec 9
Dec 25

Christian - Coptic & Eastern Orthodox

Coptic & Eastern Orthodox (Julian) Calendar

Christmas ✓ Jan 7
New Year - Eastern Orthodox Jan 14
Timkat / Theophany Jan 19
Clean Monday Mar 18
(Great Lent Begins)
Maundy Thursday May 2
Holy Friday ✓ May 3
Pasha/Easter ✓ May 5
Easter Monday May 6
Pentecost Jun 23

Christian - Mormon

Organization of The Church Apr 6
Pioneer Day Jul 24
Joseph Smith's Birthday Dec 23



Hindu

Lohri Jan 13
Makar Sankranti Jan 14
Basant Panchami Feb 14
Shivratri Mar 8
Holi ✓ Mar 25
Baisakhi ✓ Apr 13
Ram Navami Apr 17
Guru Purnima Jul 21
Raksha Bandhan Aug 19
Janmashtami ✓ Aug 26
Navratri Sep 7
Durga Puja Oct 3
Dussehra ✓ Oct 10
Karva Chauth Oct 12
Diwali ✓ Oct 20
Nov 1



Islam

Dates are subject to sighting of moon

Ramadan Begins ✓ Mar 11
Laylat al-Qadr Apr 5
Eid-ul-Fitr ✓ Apr 10
Day of Hajj (Day of Arafat) Jun 16
Eid-ul-Adha ✓ Jun 17
1st Muharram - New Year Jul 7
Ashura ✓ Jul 16
Eid-Maulad-un-Nabi ✓ Sep 15
Islam Ismaili
Now Ruz (New Year) ✓ Mar 20
Imamat Day ✓ Jul 11
Aga Khan's Birthday ✓ Dec 13



Jain

Mahavira Jayanti ✓ Apr 21
Guru Purnima Jul 21
Paryushana-Parva ✓ Aug 31-Sep 8
Samvatsari Sep 8
Dashalakshani-Parva Sep 8
Ananta-Chaturdasi Sep 17
Ksamavani Sep 18
Mahavira Nirvana Nov 1
Lokashah Jayanti Nov 15



Jewish

All holy days begin at previous sundown

*Some Jews may abstain from work

Tu B'Shevat (Arbor Day) Jan 25
Purim ✓ Mar 24
Pesach /Passover Apr 23-30
Yom HaShoah May 6
Lag BaOmer May 26
Shavuot Jun 12-13
Tish'a B'Av Aug 13
Rosh Hashana ✓ Oct 3-4
Yom Kippur ✓ Oct 12
Sukkot ✓ Oct 17-23
Shemini Atzeret ✓ Oct 24
Simchat Torah ✓ Oct 25
Hannukah ✓ Dec 25-Jan 2



Shinto

Gantan-Sai Jan 1
Shunki-Sorei-Sai Mar 20
Oh-Harai-Taisai Jul 30
Shuki sorei sai Sep 23
Tohji-Tasai Dec 22



Sikh

The old lunar calendar is Bikarami; the new solar calendar is Nanakshahi.

The dates below are mostly Nanakshahi unless otherwise indicated

Guru Gobind Singh's Birthday Jan 5
Lohri Jan 13
Holi ✓ Mar 25
Hola Mohalla (Bikarami) Mar 26
Baisakhi ✓ Apr 13
Martydom of Guru Arjan Dev Jun 10
Diwali ✓ Nov 1
Guru Nanak's Birthday (Bikarami) ✓ Nov 15
Martyrdom of Guru Teg Bahadur Nov 24



Wicca

Imbolg Feb 2
Eostre Mar 20
Beltane May 1
Litha Jun 21
Lugnasad Aug 1
Mabon Sep 22
Samhain Oct 31
Yule Dec 22



Zoroastrian

Sadeh Jan 30
Gahambar
Hamaspathmaedem Mar 16-20
Now Ruz (New Year) ✓ Mar 20
Birth Of Prophet Zarathustra (Fasli) Mar 26
Gahambar Maidyozaem Apr 30-May 4
Gahambar Maidyoshem Jun 29-Jul 3
Fravardeghan Aug 8-17
Now Ruz (Shenshai) ✓ Aug 18
Birth of Prophet Zarathustra (Shenshai) Aug 24
Gahambar Paitishahem Sep12-16
Mehrigan Oct 2
Gahambar Ayathrem Oct 12-16
Death of Prophet Zarathustra ✓ Dec 26
Gahambar Maidyarem Dec 31-Jan 3

COUNTRY INDEX 2024

Afghanistan		Canada - Indigenous		Constitution Day		Oct 6	Republic Day	Jan 26
Now Ruz (New Year)	Mar 20	Louis Riel Day	Feb 19	Ecuador			Songkran/New Year	Apr 13
Independence Day	Aug 19	Indigenous Peoples Day	Jun 21	Simon Bolivar Day	Jul 24		Ugadi	Apr 13
African-American/Canadian		National Day of Truth and Reconciliation Canada	Sep 30	Independence Day	Aug 10	Egypt		Aug 15
Kwanzaa	Dec 26	Canada		Abu Simbel Festival	Feb 22	Onam	Gandhi's Birthday	Sep 14
Albania		Groundhog Day	Feb 2	Armed Forces Day	Oct 6	Indonesia		Oct 2
Independence Day	Nov 28	Boy Scout Day	Feb 8	Abu Simbel Festival	Oct 22	Kartini Day	Independence Day	Apr 21
Algeria		Valentine's Day	Feb 14	Suez Victory Day	Oct 24	International		Aug 17
Revolution Day	Nov 1	National Flag Day	Feb 15	El Salvador		New Year's Day	Kindness Awareness Week	Jan 1
Antigua & Barbuda		Louis Riel Day	Feb 19	Independence Day	Sep 15	World Day Of Prayer	Spring Equinox	Feb 12
Independence Day	Nov 1	Family Day	Feb 19	Pancake Tuesday	Feb 13	Int'l Day of the Francophonie	Spring Equinox	Mar 1
Argentina		Girl Guides Thinking Day	Feb 22	Mothering Sunday	Mar 10	Int'l Day of Pink	Earth Day	Mar 20
Revolution Day	May 25	Anti-Bullying Day	Feb 25	Summer Bank Holiday	Aug 26	Labour Day	World Red Cross Day	Apr 12
Independence Day	Jul 9	Girl Scout Day	Mar 12	Guy Fawkes Day	Nov 5	African Liberation Day	Summer Solstice	Apr 22
Day of Respect for Cultural Diversity	Oct 12	April Fools' Day	Apr 1	Remembrance Day	Nov 11	International Non-Binary	Peoples Day	May 1
National Sovereignty Day	Nov 20	Admin. Professionals Day	Apr 24	Boxing Day	Dec 26	Autumn Equinox	Int'l World Kindness Day	May 8
Armenia		Mother's Day	May 12	Eritrea		International Non-Binary	Peoples Day	May 23
Martyrs Day	Apr 24	Victoria Day	May 20	Independence Day	May 24	Solstice	Autumn Equinox	Jun 20
Independence Day	Sep 21	Day of the Patriots-Quebec	May 20	Independence Day	Feb 24	Iran	Int'l World Kindness Day	Jul 14
Aruba		Father's Day	Jun 16	Meskerem (New Year)	Sep 11	Sadeh	International Men's Day	Sep 22
Flag Day	Mar 18	St. Jean Baptiste Day (Quebec)	Jun 24	Ethiopia		Now Ruz (New Year)	Solstice	Nov 13
Australia		Multiculturalism Day	Jun 27	Fiji		Farvardin	Iran	Nov 19
Australia Day	Jan 26	Canada Day	Jul 1	Fiji Day	Oct 10	Mehragan	Iran	Dec 22
Harmony Day	Mar 21	Civic Holiday	Aug 5	Finland		Iraq		Jul 14
Anzac Day	Apr 25	Hiroshima Day	Aug 6	St. Knut's Day	Jan 13	Republic Day	Ireland	Jul 14
National Sorry Day	May 26	Labour Day	Sep 2	Kalevala Day	Feb 28	Robert Burns' Night	St Brigid's Day	Jan 25
NAIDOC	Jul 3	National Day of Truth and Reconciliation	Sep 30	Vappu Day	May 1	St Brigid's Day	Mothering Sunday	Jan 31
Remembrance Day	Nov 11	National Boss Day	Oct 11	Independence Day	Dec 6	St. Patrick's Day	June Bank Holiday	Mar 10
Austria		Thanksgiving	Oct 14	France		June Bank Holiday	Summer Bank Holiday	Mar 17
National Day	Oct 26	Halloween	Oct 31	Mother's Day	May 26	Bank Holiday	Boxing Day	Jun 3
Azerbaijan		Take Our Kids to Work	Nov 6	Joan of Arc Day	May 30	Boxing Day	Wren Day/St Stephen's Day	Aug 5
Martyrs' Memorial Day	Jan 20	Remembrance Day	Nov 11	Bastille Day	Jul 14	Israel		Oct 28
Republic Day	May 27	St. Catherine's Day	Nov 25	Armistice Day	Nov 11	Yom HaShoah	Yom HaZikaron (Memorial Day)	Dec 26
Independence Day	Oct 18	Boxing Day	Dec 26	St. Catherine's Day	Nov 25	Yom HaAtzma'ut (Independence Day)	Yom Yerushalayim	Dec 26
Bahamas		Cayman Islands		Gambia		Italy		May 6
Labour Day	Jun 1	Constitution Day	Jul 1	Independence Day	Feb 18	Liberation Day	Republic Day	Apr 25
Independence Day	Jul 10	Channel Islands		Georgia		Republic Day	Feast of St. Francis of Assisi	Jun 2
Discovery Day	Oct 12	Liberation Day	May 9	Independence Day	Apr 9	Jamaica		Oct 16
Junkanoo	Dec 26	Chile		Germany		Japan		Jan 1
Bahrain		Navy Day	May 21	Oktoberfest	Sep 21	Gantan-Sai	Seijin No Hi	Jan 8
Independence Day	Dec 16	St. Peter and Paul Day	Jun 29	Day of German Unity	Oct 3	National Foundation Day	Heisei Emperor's Birthday	Feb 11
Bangladesh		Independence Day	Sep 18	Ghana		Heisei Emperor's Birthday	Shunbun no hi	Mar 20
Independence Day	Mar 26	Reformation Day	Oct 31	Independence Day	Mar 6	Midori No Hi	Showa no hi	Apr 4
Baisakhi	Apr 13	China		Greece		Constitution Day	Kodomo No Hi	May 3
Bijoy Dibash	Dec 16	Kitchen God Celebration	Feb 3	St. Basil's Day	Jan 1	Tanabata	Umi no hi	Jul 7
Barbados		Chinese / Lunar New Year	Feb 10	Greek Education Day	Jan 30	Hiroshima Day	Keiro No Hi	Aug 6
Independence Day	Nov 30	Ch'ing Ming Festival	Apr 5	Evangelismou	Mar 25	Keiro No Hi	Shuki sorei sai	Sep 16
Belgium		Matsu Festival	May 1	National Day 'Ochi'	Oct 28	Taiiku no hi	Shichi-Go-San	Sep 22
Independence Day	Jul 21	Dragon Boat Festival	Jun 10	Greenland		Kinro Kansha No Hi	Omisoka	Nov 23
Bermuda		Harvest Moon Festival	Sep 18	National Day	Jun 21	Jordan		May 25
Bermuda Day	May 24	National Day	Oct 1	Grenada		India		Jan 14
Emancipation Day	Jul 31	Chung Yeung Festival	Oct 11	Independence Day	Feb 7	Makar Sankranti	Pongol	Jan 15
Bhutan		Colombia		Guatemala		Hong Kong		Jan 25
National Day	Dec 17	Independence Day	Jul 20	Independence Day	Sep 15	Chinese / Lunar New Year	Dragon Boat Festival	Feb 10
Bolivia		Congo		Haiti		Dragon Boat Festival	HKSAR Establishment Day	Jun 10
Independence Day	Aug 6	Independence Day	Jun 30	Independence Day	May 26	HKSAR Establishment Day	Harvest Moon Festival	Jul 1
Bosnia		Costa Rica		Honduras		Harvest Moon Festival	National Day	Sep 18
Independence Day	Mar 1	Independence Day	Sep 15	Independence Day	Sep 15	National Day	Chung Yeung Festival	Oct 11
National Day	Nov 25	Independence Day	Oct 8	Hungary		Iceland		Jun 17
Brazil		Croatia		India		Indonesia		Jan 14
Carnaval Parade	Feb 13	Independence Day	Oct 8	Makar Sankranti	Jan 14	Independence Day	Jordan	May 25
Independence Day	Sep 7	Cuba		Pongol	Jan 15	Jordan		May 25
Nossa Senhora de Aparecida	Oct 12	Day of National Rebellion	Jul 26	Honduras		Jordan		May 25
Republic Day	Nov 15	Independence Day	Oct 10	Independence Day	Sep 15	Jordan		May 25
Bulgaria		Curacao Day	Oct 10	Hong Kong		Jordan		May 25
Baba Marta	Mar 1	Cyprus		Hong Kong		Jordan		May 25
Independence Day	Sep 22	Independence Day	Oct 1	Chinese / Lunar New Year	Feb 10	Jordan		May 25
Burundi		Czech Republic		Hong Kong		Jordan		May 25
Independence Day	Jul 1	National Day	Oct 28	Dragon Boat Festival	Jun 10	Jordan		May 25
Cambodia		Denmark		Hong Kong		Jordan		May 25
Songkran/New Year	Apr 13	Constitution Day	Jun 5	Chinese / Lunar New Year	Feb 10	Jordan		May 25
Independence Day	Nov 8	Independence Day	Nov 3	Dragon Boat Festival	Jun 10	Jordan		May 25
Cameroon		Dominica		Hong Kong		Jordan		May 25
National Day	May 20	Independence Day	Nov 3	Dragon Boat Festival	Jun 10	Jordan		May 25
		Dominican Republic		Hong Kong		Jordan		May 25
		Independence Day	Feb 27	Hong Kong		Jordan		May 25
		Our Lady of Las Mercedes	Sep 24	Hong Kong		Jordan		May 25

Republic Day	Kazakhstan	Oct 25	Kings Day	Netherlands	Apr 27	New Year's Bank Holiday	Jan 2	Independence Day	Uganda	Oct 9
Jamhuri (Independence Day)	Kenya	Dec 12	Memorial Day		May 4	Robert Burns' Night	Jan 25		United Kingdom	
	Korea		Liberation Day		May 5	Summer Bank Holiday	Aug 5	Pancake Tuesday		Feb 13
Seollal		Feb 10		New Zealand - Indigenous/Maori		St. Andrew's Day	Nov 30	Valentine's Day		Feb 14
Korean Liberation Day		Aug 15	Poutuerangi		Mar 20	Hogmanay	Dec 31	Mothering Sunday		Mar 10
Chuseok		Sep 18	Matariki		Jun 24			April Fools' Day		Apr 1
Foundation Day		Oct 3		New Zealand				Father's Day		Jun 16
Han-Gul Day		Oct 9	Anniversary Day - Wellington		Jan 20			Summer Bank Holiday		Aug 26
	Kuwait		Anniversary Day - Auckland		Jan 31			Guy Fawkes Day		Nov 5
National Day		Feb 25	Waitangi Day		Feb 6			Remembrance Day		Nov 11
	Laos		Anzac Day		Apr 25			Boxing Day		Dec 26
Bown Pinai/New Year		Apr 14	Labour Day		Oct 23				Ukraine	
Children's Day		Jun 1		Nicaragua				Independence Day		Aug 24
National Day		Dec 1			Sep 15				United Nations	
	Latvia							Int'l Women's Day		Mar 8
Independence Day		Nov 18		Nigeria				Int'l Day for Elimination of Racial Discrimination		Mar 21
	Lebanon				Oct 1			World Day of Water		Mar 22
Independence Day		Nov 22		Norway				World Autism Awareness Day		Apr 2
					May 17			World Health Day		Apr 7
Transgender Day of Visibility	LGBT	Mar 31		Pakistan				Int'l Day Of Innocent Children Victims		
Int'l Day Against Homophobia		May 17	Independence Day		Aug 14	Mothers' Day	May 1	Of Aggression		Jun 4
Stonewall Rebellion Day		Jun 28	Defence Day		Sep 6	San Isidro Labrador Festival	May 15	World Environment Day		Jun 5
Coming Out Day		Oct 11	Jinnah's Birthday		Dec 25	Feast of St. Ignatius Loyola	Jul 31	Int'l Youth Day		Aug 12
Transgender Day of Remembrance		Nov 20		Palestine		National Day	Oct 12	Int'l Day Of Peace		Sep 21
	Liberia				Nov 15	Constitution Day	Dec 6	World Habitat Day		Oct 5
Independence Day		Jul 26		Panama				Int'l Day of the Girl		Oct 11
	Libya				Nov 3	Independence Day	Feb 4	World Food Day		Oct 16
Independence Day		Dec 24		Paraguay		Songkran/New Year	Apr 13	United Nations Day		Oct 24
					Nov 28	Adam's Peak Pilgrimage	Apr 15	Int'l Day of Tolerance		Nov 16
Independence Day	Lithuania	Feb 16			May 15	Independence Day		Int'l Day For Elimination Of Violence Against Women		Nov 25
				Peru				World AIDS Day		Dec 1
National Day	Luxembourg	Jun 23	Inti Raymi		Jun 21			Human Rights Day		Dec 10
			Independence Day		Jul 28	St. Knut's Day	Jan 13		Uruguay	
	Macedonia		St. Rosa of Lima		Aug 30	Walpurgis Night	Apr 30			
Ilinden		Aug 2	Our Lady of Las Mercedes		Sep 24	Mother's Day	May 26	Independence Day		Aug 25
	Madagascar			Philippines		National Day	Jun 6		USA - Indigenous	
Independence Day		Jun 26			Feb 25	Luciadagen	Dec 13	Gathering Of Nations		
	Malaysia				May 1			Pow Wow		Apr 25-27
Gawai Dayak		Jun 1			Jun 12	Berchthold's Day	Jan 2	Red Earth Native Fair		Sep 7
Merdeka (Freedom) Day		Aug 31		Poland		Chalanda März	Mar 1	San Geronimo Day		Sep 30
	Mali				Dec 30	Confederation Day	Aug 1		USA	
Independence Day		Sep 22			May 3			Martin Luther King Jr. Day		Jan 15
	Malta			Portugal				Lincoln's Birthday		Feb 12
Independence Day		Sep 21			Nov 11			Presidents Day (Obsvd)		Feb 19
	Mauritius				May 1	Chinese / Lunar New Year	Feb 10	Washington's Birthday		Feb 22
Thaipooasam Cavadee		Jan 25	Mothers' Day		May 13	Ch'i'ng Ming Festival	Apr 5	Admin. Professionals Day		Apr 24
Abolition of Slavery		Feb 1	Our Lady of Fatima		Jun 10	Matsu Festival	May 1	Daughter/Son To Work Day		Apr 25
National Day		Mar 12	Portugal Day		Oct 5	Harvest Moon Festival	Sep 18	Arbor Day		Apr 26
Ugadi		Apr 13	Republic Day		Nov 2	Double Tenth Day	Oct 10	Mother's Day		May 12
	Mexico		Independence Day		Dec 1	Chung Yeung Festival	Oct 11	Armed Forces Day		May 18
Cinco De Mayo		May 5		Puerto Rico				Memorial Day		May 27
Dia de la Independencia		Sep 16			Mar 22	Independence Day	Dec 9	Father's Day		Jun 16
Chichen Itza Festival		Sep 22	Emancipation Day		Jun 24			Independence Day		Jul 4
Fiesta San Miguel		Sep 28	Dia de San Juan		Jul 20			Hiroshima Day		Aug 6
Dia de la Raza		Oct 12	Munoz-Rivera Day		Oct 6	Chakri Day	Apr 6	Labour Day		Sep 2
Dia de los Muertos		Nov 2	Constitution Day		Nov 19	Songkran/New Year	Apr 13	Day Of Remembrance		Sep 11
Our Lady of Guadalupe		Dec 12	Discovery Day		Dec 15	Chualongkorn Day	Oct 11	Constitution Day		Sep 17
Navidades		Dec 15	Navidades			Constitution Day	Dec 10	Halloween		Oct 31
Posadas (Thru Dec 24)		Dec 16		Qatar				Veterans Day		Nov 11
	Moldova				Dec 18			Thanksgiving Day		Nov 28
Independence Day		Aug 27		Romania				Rosa Parks Day		Dec 1
					Jan 24	Losar (New Year Tibet)	Feb 10	Pearl Harbor Day		Dec 7
Nadaam Festival	Mongolia	Jul 11	Day of Unification		Nov 30	Great Prayer Festival	Feb 13	Kwanzaa		Dec 26
Independence Day		Dec 29	St. Andrew's Day		Dec 1	Dalai Lama's Birthday (Tibet)	Jul 6		Venezuela	
			National Day			Independence Day		Independence Day		Jul 5
Independence Day	Morocco	Nov 18		Russia				Simon Bolivar Day		Jul 24
					May 9	Labour Day	Jun 19	Vietnam		
Independence Day		Nov 18		Rwanda		Independence Day	Aug 31	Chinese / Lunar New Year		Feb 10
	Myanmar				Jun 12	Republic Day	Sep 24	Independence Day		Sep 1
Independence Day		Jan 4			Jul 1			Trung Thu		Sep 18
Songkran/New Year		Apr 13		Saint Kitts/Nevis					Wales	
	Northern Ireland				Sep 19			St. David's Day		Mar 1
Mothering Sunday		Mar 10		Saint Lucia				Summer Bank Holiday		Aug 26
St. Patrick's Day		Mar 17			Feb 22	National Sovereignty & Children's Day	Apr 23		Yemen	
Battle of Boyne		Jul 12		Samoa		Ataturk Commemoration Sports Day	May 19	National Day		May 22
Summer Bank Holiday		Aug 26			Jun 1	Victory Day	Aug 30		Zambia	
	Nepal					Republic Day	Oct 29	Independence Day		Oct 24
Ugadi		Apr 13		Saudi Arabia					Zimbabwe	
Republic Day		May 27			Sep 23	Emancipation Day	Aug 5	Independence Day		Apr 18
Dussehra		Oct 12				National Day	Dec 1			