

2023

FAITH CALENDAR



| JANUARY | |
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| | 1 Gantan-sai Start of three day celebrations to mark the New Year. |
| | 5 Birth of Guru Gobind Singh Tenth Sikh Guru and the last one in human form; founded the Brotherhood of the Pure (Khalsa). |
| | 6 Epiphany Celebrates the visit of the Three Wise Men (Magi) to the infant Jesus. |
| | Christmas Day (celebrated in Ethiopia) Celebrated on this day to coincide with Christmas in Ethiopia. |
| | 7 Christmas Day (Eastern Orthodox) Celebrated on this day by Eastern Orthodox Christians. |
| | 12 Birthday of Swami Vivekananda Celebrates the birth of one of the most celebrated spiritual leaders of India. |
| | 13 Maghi/Lohri Celebrates the sacrifice of the 40 Sikhs who fought for Guru Gorbind & is celebrated with bonfires. |
| | 22 Chinese New Year – Year of the Rabbit Most important of the traditional Chinese holidays. |
| | 26 Saraswati Puja Celebrating the Goddess Saraswati – the goddess of knowledge. |

| FEBRUARY | |
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| | 1 Imbolc Honours the goddess Brigid and marks the return of Spring. |
| | 2 Candlemas Commemorates the presentation of the baby Jesus in the Jerusalem Temple and the purification of his mother after giving birth. |
| | 3 Setsubun Part of the Spring festival with special ritual to ward off evil. |
| | 5 Tu B'Shevat Marks the beginning of the 'new year' for trees. |
| | 15 Parinirvana Celebration to mark the final passing of the Buddha |
| | 18 Maha Shivaratri Festival celebrated in reverence of Lord Shiva. |
| | 21 Birthday of Sri Ramakrishna Celebrating the birth of the Hindu incarnation of God. |
| | 21 Shrove Tuesday The day of preparation for Lent (the 40 days leading up to Easter), traditionally marked by eating pancakes. |
| | 22 Ash Wednesday First day of Lent. Many Christians receive a cross of ash on their foreheads in church as a symbol of mortality and penance. |
| | 26 Ayyám-i-Há Intercalary days. |
| | 28 Isra and Mi'raj Commemorates the Prophet Muhammad's journey from Mecca to Jerusalem and his ascent into heaven. |

| MARCH | |
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| | St David's Day Commemorates the patron Saint of Wales. |
| | 1 Nineteen Day Fast Adults fast from sunrise to sunset for 19 days; important time for prayer, reflection and spiritual renewal. |
| | Purim Celebration of Jewish deliverance as told in the Book of Esther. |
| | 6 Magha Puja Takes place on the full moon day commemorating the life of the Buddha. Also known as Sangha Day. |
| | 7 Birthday of Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu Celebrating the birth of the Hindu mystic and saint. |
| | 8 Holi Festival of Colour marking the end of winter. |
| | 17 St Patrick's Day Commemorates the patron Saint of Ireland. |
| | Naw-Rúz End of the Nineteen Day Fast and the beginning of the Baha'i New Year. |
| | 20 Spring Equinox Celebration of Spring. |
| | 22 Ramadan Starts the most significant month for Muslims. Marks a period of daily fasting from dawn to sunset. |
| | 26 Khordad Sal Celebrating the birth date of Zoroaster. |
| | 30 Ram Navami Celebrates the founding of the Khalsa, the Brotherhood of the Pure by Guru Gobind Singh. |

| APRIL | |
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| | 2 Palm Sunday The first day of Holy Week, commemorating Jesus' triumphal arrival in Jerusalem before his arrest and death. |
| | 4 Mahavir Jayanti Celebrates the birth of Lord Mahavira, the last Tirthankara (saviour). |
| | Passover Celebrates the Exodus, the freedom from slavery of the Children of Israel from ancient Egypt that followed the Ten Plagues. Ends 13th. |
| | Hanuman Jayanti Celebrated to commemorate the birth of Hanuman. |
| | 6 Maundy Thursday Commemorates the Last Supper. |
| | 7 Good Friday Commemorates the death of Jesus by crucifixion. |
| | Hanamatsuri Flower festival celebrating the birthday of Shakyamuni, whose teachings form the basis of Buddhism. |
| | 9 Easter Sunday Christians celebrate Jesus' resurrection from the dead. The Easter season lasts for 50 days to Pentecost. |
| | 14 Vaisakhi Marks the creation of Sikhism and the ordination of the Khalsa. |
| | 16 Easter Day (Orthodox Christianity) Based on the Julian calendar. |
| | Laylat al-Qadr Marks the night in which the Qur'an was first revealed. |
| | 18 Yom HaShoah Anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising, serves as a day of remembrance for those who perished in the Shoah (Holocaust). |
| | 21 Feast of Ridván Start of festival commemorating the commencement of Bahá'u'lláh's prophethood. |
| | Eid al-Fitr After the end of Ramadan with an additional morning congregational prayer in the mosque. |
| | 22 Akshaya Tritiya An auspicious day for the Hindu. |
| | 23 St George's Day Commemorates the patron Saint of England. |
| | 29 Ninth Day of Ridván Day when Bahá'u'lláh's family joined him at the Najibiyyih Garden, Baghdad. |

| MAY | |
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| | 1 Beltane Celebration of fertility marking the beginning of Summer. |
| | 2 Twelfth Day of Ridvan Close of the festival. |
| | 8 Lag B'Omer |
| | 18 Ascension Day Marks the ascension of Jesus Christ to Heaven after he rose from the dead on Easter Sunday. |
| | 23 Declaration of the Báb Celebrates the Báb's declaration of his mission as the messenger of God. |
| | Shavuot Celebrates the giving of the Torah (Five Books of Moses), the first harvest, and the ripening of the first fruits. Ends 27th. |
| | 28 Pentecost/Whitsun Marks the appearance of the Holy Spirit. |
| | 29 Ascension of Bahá'u'lláh Commemorates the death of Bahá'u'lláh. |

| JUNE | |
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| | 5 Wesak Celebration of Buddha's enlightenment. |
| | 16 Martyrdom of the Guru Arjan Dev Commemorates the fifth Sikh Guru and first Sikh martyr. |
| | 20 Jagannath Rath Yatra Public procession and chariot festival. |
| | 24 Midsummer's Day A celebration of the sun's power on the longest day of the year. |
| | The Hajj Once in a lifetime pilgrimage to Makkah; is the largest gathering of Muslims anywhere in the world. |
| | Yawm Arafat 2nd day of Hajj, day of repentance and acceptance of supplications, many non pilgrims fast on this holiest day in Islam. |
| | 27 Eid al-Adha Marks the sacrifice made by Prophet Abraham. |

| JULY | |
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| | Feast of Saints Peter |
| | 3 Guru Purnima Day An Indian and Nepalese festival dedicated to spiritual and academic teachers. |
| | Asalha-Dharma Day Commemorates Buddha's first teaching to the five ascetics in the Deer Park near Benares, India. |
| | 10 Martyrdom of the Báb Commemorates the Báb's execution in 1850, after which his teachings continued to spread. |
| | 18 Al-Hijra The Islamic New Year. First day of Muharram. Start of Islamic year 1445. |
| | 23 Birthday of Emperor Haile Selassie I A holy day of commemoration for Rastafarians. |
| | 26 Tisha B'Av Anniversary of the destruction of the Temple of Solomon by Nebuchadnezzar and of the Second Temple by Titus. |
| | 27 Ashura Marks the tenth day of Muharram as the day Allah saved Moses from the Pharaoh. |

| AUGUST | |
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| | 1 Lughnasadh Marks the first day of harvest. |
| | 15 The Blessed Virgin Mary Celebration of the mother of Jesus, Catholic Christians keep this day as Mary's Assumption into heaven before death. |
| | 19 Ganesh Chaturthi Festival that commemorates God Ganesha's birthday. |
| | 19 Samvatsari The day of forgiveness |
| | 30 Raksha Bandhan Celebrates the love and duty between sisters and brothers. |

| SEPTEMBER | |
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| | 1 First Reading of Guru Granth Sahib The Sikh scripture is installed at the Golden Temple for the first time. |
| | 6 Janmashtami Celebrates the birthday of Lord Krishna, believed to have shown himself in human form 5,000 years ago. |
| | 11 Enkutatash The Ethiopian New Year, celebrations of prayer and colourful processions. |
| | 13 Obon Festival of the souls |
| | 15 Rosh Hashanah The Jewish New Year, marks the start of ten days of repentance, ending on Yom Kippur. |
| | 21 International Day of Peace A day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace among and within all nations. |
| | 23 Autumn Equinox Ritual of thanksgiving. |
| | 24 Yom Kippur Holiest day of the Jewish calendar, marked by a 25-hour fast and solemn prayer to repent for the previous year's sins. |
| | 26 Mawlid un Nabi Observance of the birthday of prophet Muhammed. |
| | 29 Sukkot Tabernacles or Feast of Booths. |

| OCTOBER | |
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| | 6 Shemini Atzeret The eighth day of Solemn Assembly. |
| | 7 Simchat Torah Celebrates and marks the conclusion of the annual cycle of public Torah reading. |
| | 12 Bandi Chhor Divas Commemorates the peaceful release of 52 kings and princes by sixth Sikh Guru (Guru Hargobind). |
| | 14 Mahalaya Marks the beginning of Navratri and Durga Puja. |
| | 15 Navratri Nine nights of ceremonies. |
| | 20 Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji Celebrates Guru Gobind Singhi Ji (the 10th Guru) passing the Guruship to the Holy Scriptures. |
| | 24 Durga Puja-Dussehra End of Navratri. |
| | 26 Birth of the Báb Celebrates the birthday of The Báb, forerunner, who prepared their way for Bahá'u'lláh. |
| | 27 Birth of Bahá'u'lláh One of the twin founders of the Baha'i faith, who was born in 1817. |
| | 31 Samhain Marks the end of the harvest season and the beginning of winter. |

| NOVEMBER | |
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| | 1 All Saints Day Honours all Saints in Christian history. |
| | 2 All Souls Day Commemorates the faithful departed, family members and friends who have died. |
| | 12 Diwali Festival of lights symbolising the victory of light over darkness and knowledge over ignorance. |
| | 12-19 Inter Faith Week A week to focus on inter faith understanding and cooperation. |
| | 14 Lakshmi Puja Most important day of Diwali devoted to Goddess Lakshmi. |
| | 15 Shichi-Go-San Festival celebrating the growth and well-being of young children. |
| | 23 Guru Nanak Gururab Celebrates the birth of the first Sikh guru. |
| | 24 Martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur Commemorates the 9th Sikh guru who undertook the sacrifice for protection of the oppressed. |
| | 25 Day of the Covenant When Bahá'is celebrate the appointment of `Abdu'l-Bahá as the Centre of Bahá'u'lláh's Covenant. |
| | 27 Ascension of `Abdu'l-Bahá Commemorates the death of `Abdu'l-Bahá. |
| | 30 Saint Andrew's Day Feast day of the patron saint of Scotland. |

| DECEMBER | |
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| | 3 Advent Sunday The first day of the season of Advent. |
| | 7 Chanukah Celebrates the rededication of Jerusalem's Second Temple and the miracle of its menorah, which was kept alight for eight days with one day's oil. |
| | 8 Bodhi Day Commemorates the day that the historical Buddha, Siddhartha Gautama (Shakyamuni) experienced enlightenment. Some cultures celebrate this alternative date. |
| | 22 Birthday of Holy Mother Sarada Devi Commemorates the birthday of the Hindu mystic and saint. |
| | 22 Geeta Jayanti Commemorates the birthday of Bhagvad Gita, the sacred text of Hindu. |
| | 24 Christmas Eve Time for preparation for Christmas. |
| | 25 Christmas Day Commemorates the birth of Jesus Christ and is widely celebrated by the exchanging of gifts. |

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