

September 2024

September 15-16 MAWLID AL-NABI (Also known as MILAD AL-NABI) • The observance of the birthday of Islam founder Prophet Muhammad, which is celebrated in Rabi' al-awwal, the third month in the Islamic calendar. Shi'a Muslims celebrate it five days later than Sunni Muslims. (Islam)

September 22 AUTUMNAL EQUINOX • Marks the first day of the season of fall. The sun shines nearly equally on both hemispheres when it's fall in the Northern Hemisphere and simultaneously spring in the Southern Hemisphere. (Pagan)

October 2024

October 2 (sundown) - 4 (nightfall) ROSH HASHANAH • Beginning of the Jewish New Year and first of the High Holy Days, which marks the beginning of a ten-day period of reflection and spiritual renewal. (Judaism)

October 3-12 DASHAIN • This is the longest Hindu festival in Nepal, traditionally celebrated with prayers and offerings to Durga, the Universal Mother Goddess. Dashain is a time for family reunions, the exchange of gifts and blessings, and elaborate pujas (worship rituals).

October 3-12 NAVARATRI • Nine-day festival celebrating the triumph of good over evil. It worships God in the form of the universal mother commonly referred to as Durga, Devi or Shakti, and marks the start of fall. (Hinduism)

October 11 (sundown) - 12 (nightfall) YOM KIPPUR • The "Day of Atonement" marks the end of the Ten Days of Awe that begin with Rosh Hashanah, and is a period of fasting. (Judaism)

October 12 DUSSEHRA/DASSERA • Anniversary of the day when Rama killed the evil demon Ravana. Also known as Durga Puja, which celebrates the goddess Durga. (Hinduism)

October 16 (sundown) - 23 (nightfall) SUKKOT • The week-long "Feast of Booths" commemorates the 40-years of wandering in the desert. It is a season of joy and hospitality. (Judaism)

October 20 BIRTH OF THE BÁB • Observance of the anniversary of the birth in 1819 of Siyyid, "the Báb," the prophet herald of the Bahá'í Faith, in Shíráz, Persia. (Bahá'í)

October 20 GURGADDI DIWAS SRI GURU GRANTH SAHIB JI • Since 1708, Sikhs have accepted Sri Guru Granth Sahib as their eternal Guru that holds the spirit of all Ten Gurus of the Sikhs. They consider Guru Granth Sahib to be a spiritual guide not only for Sikhs but for all of mankind; it plays a central role in guiding the Sikhs' way of life. (Sikhism)

October 23 (sundown) - 25 (nightfall) SHEMINI ATZERET & SIMCHAT TORAH • “The Eighth (Day) of Assembly” is observed on the day immediately following Sukkot. “Rejoicing in the Torah” celebrates the conclusion of the public reading of the Torah and its beginning anew (Judaism)

October 31 HALLOWEEN • The eve of All Saints’ Day, or All Hallow’s Eve. (Pagan)

October 31 REFORMATION DAY • Commemorates the beginning of the Protestant Reformation in 1517. (Christianity)

October 31-November 1 DIWALI • Also called Deepavali, “Festival of Lights”, it celebrates the victory of good over evil, light over darkness, and knowledge over ignorance. (Hinduism)

November 2024

November 1 ALL SAINTS’ DAY • Commemorates all known and unknown Christian saints. Eastern Christianity observes it on the first Sunday after Pentecost. (Christianity)

November 1 BANDI-CHHOR DIVAS • A commemorative occasion having no fixed date which occurs in October or November and celebrates the release of the Sixth Guru Har Gobind Sahib from imprisonment and coincides with Diwali, the Hindu festival of lights. (Sikhism)

November 2 ALL SOULS’ DAY / DIA DE LOS MUERTOS • Commemoration of all faithful Christians who are now dead. In Mexican tradition it is celebrated as Dia de los Muertos between October 31 and November 2, and is an occasion to remember dead ancestors and celebrate the continuity of life. (Christianity)

November 9 (sundown) -10 (nightfall) KRISTALLNACHT • Translated to “Night of Broken Glass”, commemorates the 1938 pogrom against Jews throughout Germany and Vienna. (Judaism)

November 12 BIRTH OF BAHÁ’U’LLÁH • Observance of the anniversary of the birth in 1817 of Bahá’u’lláh, prophet-founder of the Bahá’í Faith, in Núr, Persia. (Bahá’í)

November 24-26 DAY OF THE COVENANT • Day of the Covenant is a festival observed to commemorate Bahá’u’lláh’s appointment of His son, Abdu’l-Baha, as His successor. (Bahá’í)

November 30 GURU NANAK DEV JI’S BIRTHDAY • A very important holiday in the Sikh faith as Guru Nanak Dev’s was the First Guru of the Sikhs and the Founder of Sikhism. He was born in mid-November; the holiday is celebrated according to the lunar date. (Sikhism)

December 2024

December 1-24 **ADVENT** • Advent is a season of spiritual preparation in observance of the birth of Jesus. In Western Christianity, it starts on the fourth Sunday before Christmas. In Eastern Christianity, the season is longer and begins in the middle of November. (Christianity)

December 8 **BODHI DAY** • Also known as Rohatsu, commemorates the day that the Buddha, Siddharta Gautama, experienced enlightenment or spiritual awakening (bodhi). Celebrated on the eighth day either of December or the 12th month of the lunar calendar. (Buddhism)

December 12th **FEAST OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE** • Celebrating Mary, Mexico's patron saint of the Americas and a powerful symbol of Mexican identity and faith, embraced throughout Latin America. (Christianity)

December 21 **WINTER SOLSTICE** • Marks the first day of the season of winter. The length of time between sunrise and sunset is the shortest of the year with the sun shining closest to the Southern Hemisphere and the farthest from the Northern Hemisphere. (Pagan)

December 25 **CHRISTMAS** • Commemorates the birth of Jesus. (Christianity)

December 25 (sundown) -January 2 (nightfall) **CHANUKAH** • Eight-day “Festival of Lights”, also known as Hanukkah, celebrates the rededication of the Temple to the service of God in 164 BCE. Commemorates the victory of the Maccabees over the Greek King, Antiochus, who sought to suppress freedom of worship. (Judaism)

January 2025

January 6 **EPIPHANY** • Known as Theophany in Eastern Christianity, it celebrates the manifestation of Jesus as Christ. In addition, the Western Church associates Epiphany with the journey of the Magi to the infant Jesus, and the Eastern Church with the baptism of Jesus by John. (Christianity)

January 14 **MAKAR SANKRANTI** • Seasonal celebration marking turning of the sun toward the north. (Hinduism)

January 14 **MAHAYANA NEW YEAR** • In Mahayana countries the New Year starts on the first full moon day in January. (Buddhism)

January 17 **GURU GOBIND SINGH JI'S BIRTHDAY** • Guru Gobind Singh was the 10th Sikh guru of Nanak and founder of the Khalsa. (Sikh)

January 19 **WORLD RELIGION DAY** • Observance to proclaim the oneness of religion and the belief that world religion will unify the peoples of the earth. (Bahá'í)

January 29 LUNAR NEW YEAR • The Lunar New Year is the most important holiday for billions of people around the world. This holiday is observed as a time to honor household and heavenly deities and ancestors. Lunar New Year is traditionally celebrated in Asian countries, especially in China, Vietnam, South Korea, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Philippines, and Indonesia. Japan celebrates New Year's according to the Gregorian calendar on January 1st.

February 2025

February 12 MAGHA PUJA • Also known as Sangha Day, it commemorates the spontaneous assembly of 1,250 disciples, completely enlightened monks, in the historical Buddha's presence. (Buddhism)

February 12 (sundown) -13 (nightfall) TU B'SHVAT • New Year's Day for Trees, and traditionally the first of the year for tithing fruit of trees. Now a day for environmental awareness and action, such as tree planting. (Judaism)

February 15 NIRVANA DAY • Celebrates the day when the historical Buddha achieved Parinirvana, or complete Nirvana, upon the death of his physical body. Sometimes celebrated on February 8. (Buddhism)

February 25-28 AYYÁM-I-HA OR INTERCALARY DAYS • The Ayyám-i-ha, or "Days of Ha" are devoted to spiritual preparation for the fast, celebrating, hospitality, charity and gift giving. They are celebrated the four days, five in leap year, before the last month of the Bahá'í year by inserting days into the calendar in order to maintain their solar calendar. (Bahá'í)

February 26 MAHA SHIVARATRI • Also called Shiva Ratri, the Great Night of Shiva, is a festival in reverence of the god Shiva. The festival is celebrated at the 13th night or 14th day of the waning moon in the Hindu calendar (month of February or March of the English calendar). (Hinduism)

February 28-March 30 RAMADAN • Observed by Muslims worldwide as a month of fasting to commemorate the first revelation of the Qur'an to the Prophet Muhammad. (Islam)

March 2025

March 1-19 NINETEEN-DAY FAST • Baha'is between 15 and 70 years of age do not eat or drink from sunrise to sunset and set aside time for prayer and meditation. (Bahá'í)

March 3 CLEAN MONDAY • The beginning of Great Lent for Eastern Christian churches, which starts 40 days before Orthodox Easter (Pascha), counting Sundays.

March 21-22 NOWRUZ Persian New Year • Nowruz is a holiday celebrated on the day of the vernal equinox. It is known as the Iranian New Year or the Persian New Year. It is not only celebrated in Iran, and other parts of Asia but also in the Caucasus, the Balkans and the Black Sea Basin. (Eastern Orthodox Christianity)

March 4 SHROVE TUESDAY • A day of penitence as well as the last chance to feast before Lent begins. Also known as Mardi Gras, Fat Tuesday and Carnival Day as this day is observed in many ways worldwide. (Christianity)

March 5 ASH WEDNESDAY • The first day of Lent for Western Christian churches, a 40-day period of spiritual preparation for Easter, not counting Sundays. (Christianity)

March 13 (sundown) -14 (nightfall) PURIM • The “Feast of Lots” marks the victory of the Jews of ancient Persia from extermination. (Judaism)

March 14 HOLI • A spring festival in India and Nepal dedicated to the god of pleasure, also known as the festival of colors or the festival of sharing love. (Hinduism)

March 14-16 HOLA MOHALLA • An annual event which is a martial arts parade historically coinciding with Holi, the Hindu festival of colors. Celebrations related to Holla Mohalla may be held in various locations over several weekends preceding the actual date of the holiday. (Sikh)

March 27 LAILAT AL-QADR • Commemorates the night that the Qur'an was first revealed to the Prophet Muhammad. It is known as the “Night of Power.” Often set on the 27th day of Ramadan, Sunnis may observe it on the 21st, 23rd, 25th or 29th and Shī'ite (Shiite) observe it on the 19th, 21st or 23rd day of Ramadan. (Islam)

March 29-30 EID AL-FITR • The “Feast of the Breaking of the Fast” marks the end of Ramadan, the holy month of fasting from dawn until dusk. (Islam)

April 2025

April 6 RAMA NAVAMI • Celebrates the birthday of Rama, king of ancient India, hero of the epic Ramayana, and seventh incarnation of Vishnu. (Hinduism)

April 12 (sundown) - 20 (nightfall) PASSOVER/PESACH • The eight-day “Feast of Unleavened Bread” celebrates Israel’s deliverance from Egyptian bondage. (Judaism)

April 12 FIRST SEDER • In Israel, one seder is observed on the first night of Passover; many Jewish diaspora communities hold a seder also on the second night. The Seder is a multigenerational meal to retell the story of the Israelite people’s exodus from Egypt. (Judaism)

April 13 PALM/PASSION SUNDAY • Observed the Sunday before Easter/Pascha to commemorate the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. (Christianity)

April 13 THERAVADA NEW YEAR • In Theravada countries the New Year is celebrated on the first full moon day in April. (Buddhism)

April 13 - April 19 • Holy Week for the Christian Church (Christianity)

April 14 VAISAKHI (also spelled Baisakhi) • The festival which celebrates the founding of the Sikh community as the Khalsa (community of the initiated). On this day, Sikhs gather and celebrate Vaisakhi at their local Gurdwaras (Sikh house of worship) by remembering this day as the birth of the Khalsa. (Sikh)

April 17 HOLY THURSDAY • Also known as Maundy Thursday, it is celebrated on the Thursday before Easter commemorating the Last Supper, at which Jesus and the Apostles were together for the last time before the Crucifixion. (Christianity)

April 18 GOOD FRIDAY • Known as Holy Friday in Eastern Christianity, it commemorates the Crucifixion of Jesus on the Friday before Easter/Pascha. (Christianity)

April 20 EASTER • Known as Pascha in Eastern Christianity, it celebrates the resurrection of Jesus. (Christianity)

April 20 ORTHODOX EASTER (Eastern Orthodox Christianity)

April 21-May 2 FESTIVAL OF RIDVÁN • Annual festival commemorating the 12 days when Bahá'u'lláh, the prophet-founder of the Bahá'í Faith, resided in a garden called Ridván (Paradise) and publicly proclaimed his mission as God's messenger for this age. (Bahá'í)

April 23 (sundown) - 24 (nightfall) YOM HASHOAH • "Holocaust Remembrance Day" memorializes the death of six million Jews who perished in the Nazi Holocaust. (Judaism)

May 2025

May 5 BUDDHA DAY/VISAKHA PUJA • Buddha's Birthday. It marks the birth, spiritual awakening and death (nirvana) of the historical Buddha. (This date may vary based on region or sect.) (Buddhism)

May 15 (sundown) - 16 (nightfall) LAG B'OMER • Celebrates the end of a divine-sent plague and/or Roman occupation during Rabbi Akiva's lifetime (died c. 135 CE). It marks the end of a period of mourning and is celebrated with bonfires and weddings. (Judaism)

May 22-23 DECLARATION OF THE BÁB • Commemoration of May 23, 1844, when the Báb, the prophet-herald of the Bahá'í Faith, announced in Shíráz, Persia, that he was the herald of a new messenger of God. (Bahá'í)

May 29 ASCENSION OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁ • Observance of the anniversary of the death in exile of Bahá'u'lláh, the prophet-founder of the Bahá'í Faith. (Bahá'í)

May 29 ASCENSION DAY • Celebrated 40 days after Easter/Pascha, it commemorates the ascension of Jesus into Heaven. (Christianity)

June 2025

June 1 (sundown) - 3 (nightfall) SHAVUOT • The “Feast of Weeks” celebrates the covenant established at Sinai between God and Israel, and the revelation of the Ten Commandments. (Judaism)

June 6-7 EID AL-ADHA • Commemoration of Ibrahim's willingness to sacrifice his son in obedience of a command from God. Marks the end of the annual Hajj (pilgrimage to Mecca). (Islam)

June 8 PENTECOST • Also known as Whitsunday, the seventh Sunday after Easter/Pascha commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and women followers of Jesus. Marks the birth of the Christian Church. (Christianity)

June 9 RACE UNITY DAY • Observance promoting racial harmony and understanding and the essential unity of humanity. (Bahá'í)

June 15 TRINITY SUNDAY • In Orthodox churches observed on the first Sunday after Pentecost, it commemorates all known and unknown Christian saints. (Christianity)

July 2025

July 5-6 ASHURA • A day of fasting is observed on the 10th day of the month of Muharram to celebrate Moses' exodus from Egypt. For Shi'a Muslims, it also marks the climax of the ten-day Remembrance of Muharram, which mourns the martyrdom of Hussein at the Battle of Kerbala. (Islam)

July 6-August 5 MUHARRAM • The month of Muharram marks the beginning of the Islamic liturgical year. This first day, al-Hijra, remembers the migration of Muhammad and his followers from Mecca to Medina in 622 CE. It also marks the beginning of the ten-day Shi'ite

Remembrance of Muharram, a period of intense grief and martyrdom of Hussein, the son of Ali and grandson of Muhammad. (Islam)

July 8-9 MARTYRDOM OF THE BÁB • Observance of the anniversary of the execution by a firing squad in Tabríz, Persia, of the 30-year-old Siyyid 'Alí-Muhammad, the Báb, the prophet-herald of the Bahá'í Faith. (Bahá'í)

July 21 DHARMA DAY • Also known as Asalha Puja, it commemorates the historical Buddha's first discourse following his spiritual awakening. (Buddhism)

August 2025

August 2 (sundown) - 3 (nightfall) TISHA B'AV • Mourning of the destruction of the First and Second Temples in Jerusalem in 586 BCE and 70 CE. (Judaism)

August 9 RAKSHA BANDHAN • Also called Rakhi, this festival celebrates the protective relationship between brothers and their sisters (Hinduism)

September 2025

September 6 ULLAMBANA (also known as Obon) • Ullambana, a Sanskrit term that means “hanging upside down and suffering,” honors the spirits of past ancestors and strives to relieve aching souls from suffering. It lasts about half of the month of August. Obon, the Japanese transliteration of Ullambana, is only three days and varies from region to region—July in the eastern region and August in the western region. (Buddhism)