










Multifaith Calendar 2023



-  Buddhism
-  Christianity
-  Hinduism
-  Islam
-  Judaism
-  Sikhism

-  Cultural Events
-  Bank Holidays

JANUARY 2023



MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY SUNDAY

						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13 13-20 Obesity Week	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

* Jewish festivals commence at sunset on the evening of the day prior to the date shown.
* Muslim festivals begin in the evening before the Gregorian dates shown in this calendar.

RELIGIOUS EVENTS

5 JAN	Birth of Guru Gobind Singh	
6 JAN	Epiphany	
7 JAN	Coptic/Orthodox Christmas	
14 JAN	Makar Sankranti/Lohri/Pongal	
16 JAN	Shinran Memorial Day	
22 JAN	Sonam Losar	
25 JAN	Sarasvati Puja / Vasant Panchami	

CULTURAL EVENTS

1 JAN	New Year's Day	
2 JAN	Substitute Bank Holiday	
22 JAN	Chinese New Year	
25 JAN	Burns Night	
27 JAN	Holocaust Memorial Day	

New Year's Day / Hogmanay | 1 January | National
A day widely observed, as is New Year's Eve the preceding night, throughout the UK, and more especially in Scotland, where bagpipes, haggis and first footing are widespread.

Birthday Of Guru Gobind Singh | 5 January | Sikh
Birth Anniversary of the tenth Guru, who instituted the practice of the Five Ks and established the Order of the Khalsa on Vaisakhi (Baisakhi). An akhand path, an unbroken reading of the whole of the Guru Granth Sahib, spreads over a 48 hour period.

Epiphany | 6 January | Christian
Celebrates the visit of the magi/wise men to the infant Jesus, bearing symbolic gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. This is the twelfth day of Christmas.

Makar Sankranti / Lohri / Pongal | 14 January | Hindu
This is a day for almsgiving and patching up quarrels. It is celebrated with rice sugar, pancakes, halva or cornmeal chapattis, eaten around a fire.

Sonam Losar | 22 January | Buddhist
Sonam Lhosar is a new year festival of the Tamang and Hyolmo people of Nepal and the Sikkim and Darjeeling regions of India. It falls on the second new moon after the winter solstice which is usually the Magh Sukla Pratipada based on the eastern lunar calendar.

Holocaust Memorial Day | 27 January | National
A day for remembrance of people who suffered, chiefly at the hands of the Nazis during the second World War but also in other persecutions. It aims to keep memory fresh and ensure that no such atrocity happens again.

F E B R U A R Y 2 0 2 3



MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
6-12 Student Volunteering Wk National Apprenticeship Wk				Time to talk day	World Cancer Day	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
13-19 Heart Unions Week					Girls & Women in Science	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28					

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* Muslim festivals begin in the evening before the Gregorian dates shown in this calendar.

RELIGIOUS EVENTS		
6 FEB	Tu B'shevat	✪
15 FEB	Parinirvana	☸
18 FEB	Isra and Mi'raj	☾
18 FEB	Mahashivratri	ॐ
21 FEB	Shrove Tuesday	✝
22 FEB	Ash Wednesday	✝
CULTURAL EVENTS		
14 FEB	Valentines Day	★

Tu B'shevat | 6* February | Jewish
A popular minor festival which celebrates the New Year for trees. Jewish tradition marks the 15th of Shevat as the day when the sap in the trees begins to rise, heralding the beginning of spring. It is customary for Jews all over the world to plant young trees at this time and to eat fruit produced in Israel.

Parinirvana | 15 February | Buddhist
Mahayanists mark the final passing away from this world of Gautama Buddha at Kushinagara, India, at the age of 80. Pure Land Buddhists call this Nirvana Day.

Isra and Mi'raj | 18* February | Muslim
This marks the night journey of the Prophet Muhammad through the heavens to the presence of God, when the command that Muslims should pray five times a day was given to the Prophet. The rock from which the Prophet ascended is now in Jerusalem's 'Dome of the Rock'. Muslims mark this night by reading the Qur'an and saying additional prayers.

Mahashivratri | 18 February | Hindu
This is the night on which Shiva is said to perform the cosmic dance, leading from creation to destruction. Many Hindus fast at this time. All night prayers focus on Shiva and his shrines and statues. Milk is poured on his symbol, the lingam.

Shrove Tuesday | 21 February | Christian
'Shrove' relates to absolution from sin. Nowadays it is a day for eating and enjoyment. In Britain it is called 'Pancake Day', as pancakes use up all the rich foods before Lent. Elsewhere it is known as Mardi Gras (Fat Tuesday), and is a time for carnivals and fairs.

Ash Wednesday | 22 February | Christian
This first day of Lent recalls the temptations Jesus faced for forty days in the wilderness. In Catholic and some Anglican churches, worshipper's foreheads are marked with a cross of ash made from burning the palm crosses of the previous year – hence 'Ash Wednesday'.

MARCH 2023



MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY SUNDAY

	★	1	2	3	4	5
					Obesity Day 4-11 Salt Awareness Week	
6	★ ॐ	8	9	10	11	12
6-11 National Careers Wk		Intl Women's Day		World Kidney Day		
13				★	18	★
13-19 Nutrition & Hydration Week	Swallowing Awareness Day					
20		22	23	24	25	26
		World Water Day				
27	28	29	30	31		
			ॐ			

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RELIGIOUS EVENTS

7 MAR	Holi	ॐ
7 MAR	Purim	★
8 MAR	Lailat-UI-Bara'ah	☾
18-20 MAR	Holla Mohalla	☪
22-21 MAR/APR	Ramadan	☾
30 MAR	Rama Navami	ॐ

CULTURAL EVENTS

1 MAR	St David's Day (Wales)	★
17 MAR	St Patrick's Day (N. Ireland)	★
19 MAR	Mothering Sunday	★

Holi | 7 March | Hindu
A spring festival lasting one to five days. Bonfires are lit and coloured powders and dyes are thrown over people. Various stories of Vishnu and of Krishna and the gopis (milkmaids) are related throughout the festival.

Purim | 7* March | Jewish
Purim is a carnival festival, recalling the saving of the Jewish community of Persia, as retold in the Book of Esther (the Megillah), which is read through twice in each synagogue. The name of Haman is drowned out with rattles and hooters and boos by the congregation whenever it is read.

Lailat-UI-Bara'ah | 8* March | Muslim
Muslims seek forgiveness for their sins at this time. Many hold that on this night a person's destiny is fixed by Allah for the coming year. The night is spent in prayer, asking for forgiveness and God's guidance. Some fast during the daytime in preparation. In certain parts of the world Muslims visit the graves of relatives, and the giving of charity is also traditional. In many places the night is marked with firework displays.











Holla Mahalla | 18-20 March | Sikh
In 1680 Guru Gobind Singh, the tenth Sikh Guru, introduced this festival at Anandpur in Punjab, India, on the day after the Hindu Holi. It includes displays of swordsmanship, horsemanship, archery and wrestling, together with displays of weapons and symposia of poetry, making it a lively and colourful occasion, particularly for young Sikhs.

Mothering Sunday | 19 March | Christian
This is more popularly known as Mother's Day. Traditionally, Christians visited their 'mother church' and took gifts to their mothers, which often included a simnel cake.

Ramadan | 22* March - 21 April | Muslim
Ramadan is the 9th month of the Islamic Calendar, when the Prophet received the first revelation of verses of the Qur'an. It is the holiest month for Muslims, and they dedicate themselves to spiritual renewal, prayer and intensive devotional reading of the Qur'an. During the month of Ramadan Muslims are required to fast from daybreak until after sunset. No food or drink may be consumed during the hours of fasting, and those fasting must also abstain from smoking and from sexual relations. After the custom of the Prophet, the fast is traditionally broken each evening by taking dates and water.









A P R I L 2 0 2 3

MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY SUNDAY



MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
					1	2
						Autism Day
3	4	5 	6 	7 	8	9 
				World Health Day		
10 	11	12	13 	14 	15	16
					Micro-Volunteering Day	
17	18 	19	20	21	22 	23 
			20-25 IBS Awareness Wk	Advancing Healthcare Awards	Earth Day	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

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RELIGIOUS EVENTS

5 APR	Hanuman Jayanti	
6-13 APR	Passover	
7 APR	Good Friday	
9 APR	Easter Sunday	
13-15 APR	Songkran	
14 APR	Vaisakhi	
18 APR	Yom Ha-Shoah	
22 APR	Eid-UI-Fitr	

CULTURAL EVENTS

10 APR	Easter Monday	
23 APR	St George's Day (England)	

Hanuman Jayant | 5 April | Hindu
This Hindu festival recalls the birth of Lord Rama's supreme devotee, the monkey-headed Hanuman, whose feats figure in the Ramayana epic. Hanuman's birth is celebrated at sunrise on the full-moon day of the lunar month of Chaitra.

Passover | 6*-13 April | Jewish
An eight day festival when Jews commemorate the Exodus from their slavery in Egypt. The Seder meal is held in each family's home at the beginning of the festival, when the story of their deliverance is recounted. Matzah (unleavened bread) is eaten throughout the festival.

Easter Sunday | 9 April | Christian
Easter Day is the most important festival of the Christian year, as it is when Christians celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. Many Easter traditions, such as the giving of chocolate Easter eggs symbolise the gift of new life.

Songkran | 13-15 April | Buddhist
Traditional New Year's Day festival in Thailand. Containers of water are thrown as a symbol of washing away all that is evil. Fragrant herbs are often placed in the water jug or bucket.

Vaisakhi | 14 April | Sikh
In 1699, on Vaisakhi, the tenth Guru, Gobind Singh, founded the Order of the Khalsa. Five men (Five Beloved Ones), offered their lives when the Guru asked for volunteers. The 'Five Ks', the outward signs of Sikhism, were made obligatory and Sikh men took the name 'Singh' (lion) and women 'Kaur' (princess). The initiation ceremony, amrit, was introduced.

Eid-UI-Fitr | 22* April | Muslim
This is a time - once the fast of Ramadan has been completed - for making gifts to the poor. It is especially a time for new clothes, good food, and presents for children. Families get together and contact friends, especially those who live far away. The community assembles for Eid prayer and a sermon at its mosques. The traditional greeting is 'Eid Mubarak' - 'a happy and blessed Eid'. Shawwal is the first of three months in which some of the acts of Hajj can begin to be performed.

M A Y 2 0 2 3

MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY SUNDAY

1 International Workers Day	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 8-14 Coeliac Awareness Wk	9	10	11 Fibromyalgia Day	12	13	14
15 15-21 Mental Health Awareness Week	16	17 Hypertension Day	18 Accessibility Awareness Day	19	20	21 Cultural Diversity Day
22 22-26 - European Public Health Week	23	24	25	26	27	28
29 Digestive Health Day	30	31				

May | Stroke Awareness Month

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RELIGIOUS EVENTS

9 MAY	Lag B'Omer	✡
18 MAY	Ascension Day	✝
19-26 MAY	Vesakha Puja	☸
26 MAY	Buddha Purnima	☸
26 MAY	Shavuot	✡
28 MAY	Pentecost	✝

CULTURAL EVENTS

1 MAY	Early May Bank Holiday	📌
8 MAY	Bank Holiday for the Coronation of Charles III	📌
29 MAY	Spring Bank Holiday	📌

Lag B'omer | 9* May | Jewish
The Omer lasts 49 days from Pesach to Shavuot. A time of sadness, it is relieved on the 33rd day. It recalls the end of a plague in Roman times. Weddings often take place on this day, since they are not usually permitted during the rest of the Omer period.

Ascension Day | 18 May | Christian
This day commemorates the last earthly appearance of the Risen Christ, who, according to Christian belief, ascended into heaven in the presence of many witnesses.

Vesakha Puja | 19 April - 26 May | Buddhist
Wesak is the biggest of Buddhist festivals. Theravadins celebrate the birth, enlightenment and final passing away of Gautama Buddha. Mahayanists have separate days for each of them, and on Bodhi Day celebrate the enlightenment of the Buddha. Houses are decorated with lanterns and garlands, and temples are ringed with little oil lamps. People often send 'Wesak cards' to their friends, and lay people come together at monasteries at this time. See also Buddha Day below.









Buddha Purnima | 26 May | Buddhist
The final day of Wesak (19 to 26 May, see above) is when Buddhists celebrate the Gautama Buddha's birthday or the Buddha Purnima.

Shavuot | 26*-27 May | Jewish
Seven weeks after Pesach, Shavuot celebrates the revelation of the Torah on Mount Sinai and the early harvest season in Israel. Summer flowers and dairy foods abound.

Pentecost / Whit Sunday | 28 May | Christian
Pentecost, named after the Jewish festival when the disciples of Jesus first proclaimed the Gospel after the gift of the Holy Spirit, is seen as the 'birthday' of the Church. Its alternative name comes from the custom of baptizing converts dressed in white.






J U N E 2 0 2 3

MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY SUNDAY



			1 1-7 Volunteers Week	2	3	4 
5 World Orthoptic Day	6 6-12 Carers Week	7 7-15 British Heart Week World Food Safety Day	8 	9	10 	11 10-17 Men's Health Week
12 12-18 Diabetes Week 12-16 Healthy Eating Week	13	14	15	16 	17	18 
19 	20 20-26 Learning Difficulties Week	21	22 Windrush Day	23	24	25
26 19-23 Dietitians Week	27 	28 	29	30		

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RELIGIOUS EVENTS

4 JUN Chokor 
8 JUN Corpus Christi 
16 JUN Guru Arjan Dev Day 
19-20 JUN Ratha Yatra 
27 JUN-1 JULY Hajj 
28 JUN-2 JULY Eid-UI-Adha 

CULTURAL EVENTS

10 JUN King's Birthday 
18 JUN Father's Day 

i Chokor | 4 June | Buddhist
This Tibetan/Nepalese festival commemorates the first teaching (the turning of the wheel of law) given by the historical Buddha. It is a colourful and relaxed mid-summer festival in which statues of the Buddha and copies of the scriptures, engraved on narrow, rectangular wooden blocks, are carried round the district with music and jollity, symbolising the promulgation of the Buddha's teaching. The whole community, clerical and lay, male and female, joins in the processions and the picnics that follow.

Corpus Christi | 8 June | Christian
This day recalls the act of Jesus in instituting the celebration of Holy Communion.

Martyrdom Of Guru Arjan Dev | 16 June | Sikh
The fifth Guru was executed on the orders of the Moghul Emperor, Jehangir, for refusing to pay a fine arising from a charge of treason. Guru Arjan made the first compilation of the Sikh Scriptures, called the Adi Granth, and supervised the completion of what is now the Golden Temple in Amritsar. A gurburb is held on this day, including an akhand path.

Ratha Yatra | 19-20 June | Hindu
'Chariot journey'. This is observed most notably at Puri in the Indian state of Orissa, where processions of thousands of devotees pull huge waggons (rathas) supporting images of Krishna. He is known under the name of 'Jagannath', (Lord of the Universe), from which the English term 'juggernaut' comes. Krishna is attended on his journey by his brother and sister. The festival and others like it are celebrated in Britain with processions through various parts of London on appropriate Sundays.

Hajj | 27* June-1 July | Muslim
All Muslims who can afford to do so, and are not prevented through ill-health, are required to make this pilgrimage once in their lifetime (although there is no prohibition on making the pilgrimage more than once). A series of ritual acts are performed by the pilgrims during the first two days of Hajj.

Eid-UI-Adha | 28* June-2 July | Muslim
This major festival (al-Eid al-Kabir) commemorates Ibrahim's (Abraham's) willingness to sacrifice his son, Ismail. Muslims all over the world sacrifice an animal if they can afford it. Much of the meat is distributed to the poor, and some is shared with relatives and friends.






J U L Y 2 0 2 3

MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY SUNDAY

					1	2
3	4	5 NHS Birthday (75)	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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RELIGIOUS EVENTS

3 JUL	Asalha Puja	
7 JUL	Eid Ul Ghadeer	
19 JUL	Al-Hijra 1445AH	
27 JUL	Tisha B'av	
28 JUL	Ashura	

Asalha Puja | 3 July | Buddhist
Dhammacakka day – 'The turning of the wheel of teaching'. A Theravada celebration of the First Proclamation by Gautama to five ascetics in the Deer Park near Benares. In it he taught the Middle Way, the Noble Eightfold Path and the Four Noble Truths.

Eid Ul Ghadeer | 7* July | Muslim
This is a festival observed by Shi'a Muslims, for whom it is an extremely important day. It commemorates an event shortly before the death of the Prophet and his announcement concerning Ali, which they understand to be his clear appointment to be successor to the prophet as the spiritual and temporal leader of Islam.

Al-Hijra 1445AH | 19* July | Muslim
This day commemorates the Hijra or migration of the Prophet Muhammad from Makkah to Medina in 622 CE, which led to the establishment of the Muslim community there. The day is not universally celebrated amongst Sunni Muslims but is notable as Muslim years are dated from this time and are marked AH (After the Hijrah). In 2022 CE the Muslim year 1444 AH begins.

Tisha B'av | 27* July | Jewish
Full day fast mourning the destruction of the first and second Temples in Jerusalem and other tragedies in Jewish history. The Book of Lamentations is read.

Ashura | 28* July | Muslim
For Sunni Muslims Ashura is a minor fast observed by the Prophet. Shi'a Muslims recall a great tragedy that took place in AH 61 (680 CE). The Imam Husayn (son of Ali and Fatimah and therefore grandson of the Prophet) was attacked and killed at Karbala (now in Iraq) along with his family and followers by the troops of the Caliph Yazid.

AUGUST 2023

MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY SUNDAY

	1 1-7 - National Breastfeeding Week	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 ॐ	31			

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RELIGIOUS EVENTS

- 6 AUG** The Transfiguration ✝
- 13-15 AUG** O-Bon 🌀
- 15-28 AUG** The Dormition Of The Mother Of God ✝
- 30-31 AUG** Raksha Bandhan ॐ

CULTURAL EVENTS

- 28 AUG** Summer Bank Holiday 📌

The Transfiguration | 6 August | Christian
This festival commemorates the occasion when Jesus went up a mountain with three of his disciples, Peter, James and John, who saw his face change and his clothes become dazzling white. They witnessed him in conversation with Moses and Elijah, and heard a voice saying, "This is my own dear Son with whom I am pleased – listen to him". For many Christians this confirms the divine nature of Jesus.

O-Bon | 13-15 August | Buddhist
A Japanese festival when the spirits of the departed are welcomed back home with feasting and dancing. Fires are often lit to illuminate their arrival and departure.

The Dormition of the Mother of God | 15-28 August | Christian
On this day, Eastern Orthodox Christians commemorate the passing of Mary, Mother of Christ, in the presence of the Apostles. The apostles buried Mary at Gethsemane, where Jesus had also been buried; but on the third day after the burial, when they were eating together, Mary appeared to them, saying "Rejoice". When the apostles went to the grave, her body was gone, leaving a sweet fragrance. This event conveys the idea of death as 'falling asleep' (this is what 'dormition' means), to be followed by eventual resurrection.

Raksha Bandhan | 30 August | Hindu
Raksha means 'protection' and bandhan means 'to tie'. Girls and married women in families of a north Indian background tie a rakhi (amulet) on the right wrists of their brothers, wishing them protection from evil influences of various kinds.

SEPTEMBER 2023



MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY SUNDAY

				1 Alzheimers Day	2	3
4 4-10 Know your numbers week (blood pressure)	5	6 ॐ	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17 Patient Safety Day
18 ॐ	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 ✡	26	27	28	29	30 ✡	

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RELIGIOUS EVENTS	
1 SEP	Installation of the Guru Granth Sahib ✡
6-7 SEP	Janam Ashtami ॐ
16-17 SEP	Rosh Hashanah ✡
18-19 SEP	Ganesh Chaturthi ॐ
25 SEP	Yom Kippur ✡
30 SEP- 8 OCT	Sukkot ✡

Installation Of The Guru Granth Sahib | 1 September | Christian
The Sikhs' fifth Guru, Arjan Dev, installed the volume of scripture, the Adi Granth, on this date. It consisted of the hymns of the first five Gurus plus those of other 'saint-poets'. Hymns of Guru Tegh Bahadur were later added to form the present Guru Granth Sahib.

Janam Ashtami | 6-7 September | Hindu
Birthday of Krishna. Many Hindus fast till midnight, the time of Krishna's birth. Those unable to fast will have some fruit and milk. In the temples Krishna is welcomed with singing, dancing and sweets. In some homes and temples an image of the new-born Krishna is put in a cradle. Krishna is a very popular avatar or incarnation of Vishnu and this festival is celebrated widely.

Rosh Hashannah | 16*-17 September | Jewish
5783 years from the creation of the world, this festival begins ten days of self examination. The ram's horn (shofar) blown in the synagogue recalls Abraham's sacrifice of a ram instead of his son, Isaac. Apples dipped in honey are eaten in the hope of a 'sweet' new year. The greeting is 'Leshanah Tovah Tikatev' (may you be inscribed for a good year).

Ganesh Chaturthi | 18-19 September | Hindu
This is a Hindu festival in honour of Ganesh, the god of good fortune and new beginnings. He was the elephant headed son of Lord Shiva and Parvati, and is often referred to as Ganupati. Celebrations conclude with the immersion in water of the image of Ganesh.

Yom Kippur | 25* September | Jewish
The last of the ten days of repentance, this 'Sabbath of Sabbaths' is the holiest day of the Jewish year. It is marked by 'afflicting the soul' – expressed through a total fast 25 hours long. Jews spend the eve and most of the day in prayer, asking for forgiveness for past wrongs and resolving to improve in the future. The Book of Jonah is read.

Sukkot | 30* September-8 October | Jewish
This harvest festival recalls the 40 years the Jews spent in the wilderness on the way from slavery in Egypt to freedom in the Promised Land. A temporary hut or booth – called a sukkah – is used for eating meals and for visits and socialising. The roof, which has to be open in part to the elements, is covered with branches and decorated with fruit.

OCTOBER 2023

MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY SUNDAY

						1 Older Persons Day
2 ॐ	3	4	5	6	7 ✡	8 ✡
9	10 Mental Health Day	11	12	13 AHP Day	14 14 - 20 - Malnutrition Awareness Week	15 ॐ
16 World Food Day	17	18 Menopause Day	19	20 ✡	21	22
23	24	25	26	27 ✡	28 ✡	29 World Stroke Day
30	31 ★					

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RELIGIOUS EVENTS

2 OCT	Gandhi Jayant	ॐ
7 OCT	Shemini Atzeret	✡
8 OCT	Simchat Torah	✡
15-23 OCT	Navarati	ॐ
20 OCT	Guru Granth Sahib	✡
27 OCT	Milad Un Nabi	✡
28 OCT	Anapanasati Day	✡

CULTURAL EVENTS

31 OCT	Halloween	★
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Gandhi Jayanti | 2 October | Hindu
Gandhi Jayanti is an Indian national holiday that celebrates the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi, who is referred to as the 'Father of the Nation'. He was the driving force behind the foundation of the state of India. His birthday is celebrated with services, prayers and painting and essay contests, using topics that glorify peace and non-violence, and the singing of Gandhi's favourite devotional song entitled 'Raghupati Raghav Raja Ram' (Ram Dhun for short).

Shemini Atzeret | 7* October | Jewish
At the conclusion of Sukkot, this holiday is characterized by candle lighting, festive meals and joy which reaches its climax on Simchat Torah when the conclusion—and restart—of the annual Torah-reading cycle is celebrated. Shemini Atzeret marks the beginning of the rainy season in Israel and, therefore includes the year's first prayer for rain.

Navarati | 15-23 October | Hindu
Navaratri means 'nine nights', which is how long the festival lasts. In Northern India the performance of the Ram Lila during Navaratri commemorates Rama's victory over Ravana, the demon king of Sri Lanka. The day after the end of Navaratri is celebrated as the 'victorious tenth' (Vijaya Dashami) and huge figures of Ravana are filled with fireworks and burned on Ram Lila grounds (public areas). In the UK some temple congregations carry this out on a smaller scale. Elsewhere the goddess Durga is worshipped on the eighth day. Panjabis mark the day by giving food and other items to young girls.

Guru Granth Sahib | 20 October | Sikh
The last of the ten days of repentance, this 'Sabbath of Sabbaths' is the holiest day of the Jewish year. It is marked by 'afflicting the soul' – expressed through a total fast 25 hours long. Jews spend the eve and most of the day in prayer, asking for forgiveness for past wrongs and resolving to improve in the future. The Book of Jonah is read.

Milad Un Nabi | 27* October | Muslim
Widely celebrated and a public holiday in many Muslim countries. Qur'anic readings and songs in praise of the Prophet feature. The exact date of the Prophet's birth is uncertain.

Anapanasati Day | 28 October | Buddhist
The last day on which the Kathina may be held. On the final day of the three months long Rains Retreat, a Kathina robe is made of patches of cloth. It is presented to a particularly deserving or virtuous monk, in a ceremony conducted by four of his colleagues.

N O V E M B E R 2 0 2 3

MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY SUNDAY

		1	2	3	4	5 International Volunteer Managers Day
6 6-12 - Trustees Week	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14 World Diabetes Day	15	16 16 Nov - 16 Dec Disability History Month	17	18	19 Intl Men's Day
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

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RELIGIOUS EVENTS

1 NOV	All Saints Day	
2 NOV	All Souls Day	
8 NOV	Birthday Of Guru Nanak	
12 NOV	Divali	
12 NOV	Divali	
24 NOV	Martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur	
28 NOV	Loy Kratong	

CULTURAL EVENTS

5 NOV	Guy Fawkes Night	
12 NOV	Remembrance Sunday	
30 NOV	St Andrew's Day (Scotland)	

All Saints' Day | 1 November | Christian
This day provides a chance to offer thanks for the work and witness of all saints, recognising that not all are known or specially celebrated. Many churches stress this day by holding events especially designed for children.

Birthday of Guru Nanak | 8 November | Sikh
This is the birthday of Nanak, the first Sikh Guru. To celebrate it, Sikhs gather at the gurdwara to hear sermons and sing hymns about the life of the first Guru. The congregation will share a free meal (langar).

Divali | 12 November | Hindu and Sikh
For Hindus this is a New Year festival lasting from one to five days, during which fireworks are set off and lights are hung out. It is a festival of light, coinciding with the darkest night of the lunar month. It is generally associated with Lakshmi, goddess of wealth and prosperity, or with the victorious return of Rama and Sita after their exile. Divali marks the beginning of the Indian financial year.







Sikhs also celebrate Divali since Guru Hargobind, the sixth Guru, was released from Gwalior prison on this day. The Golden Temple in Amritsar is illuminated and firework displays take place there. It is a time for new clothes, presents and sweets.

Martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur | 24 November | Sikh
Under orders from the Moghul emperor, the ninth Guru was executed in public opposite the Red Fort in Delhi, so sacrificing his head rather than his faith, on behalf of Kashmiri Hindus, who had turned to him for help.

Loy Kratong | 28 November | Buddhist
Loy Kratong is celebrated in most of the village and town temples in Thailand and often coincides with a temple's Kathina Day. Degradable baskets are made and filled with carefully folded banana leaves, incense sticks, a candle and sometimes a coin. These are then launched on rivers, canals ponds or the sea, while a wish for good fortune is offered to the spirits of the water.






DECEMBER 2023

MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY SUNDAY



				1	2	3
						Disabled People's Day
4	5	6	7	8 	9	10
11	12 12-19 Sugar Awareness Week	13	14	15	16	17
18 	19	20	21	22	23 World AIDS day	24 
25 	26 	27	28	29	30	31 

* Jewish festivals commence at sunset on the evening of the day prior to the date shown.
* Muslim festivals begin in the evening before the Gregorian dates shown in this calendar.

RELIGIOUS EVENTS

3 DEC Advent Sunday	
8 DEC Bodhi Day	
18-15 DEC Hanukkah	
24 DEC Christmas Eve	
25 DEC Christmas Day	

CULTURAL EVENTS

26 DEC Boxing Day	
31 DEC New Year's Eve	

Advent Sunday | 3 December | Christian
The start of the Christian year, four Sundays before Christmas. It is often celebrated by lighting the first candle in the advent crown – a circular wreath of greenery. A further three candles are lit on subsequent Sundays, culminating with the Christmas candle on the 25th December. This signifies the transition from darkness to light.

Bodhi Day | 8 December | Buddhist
Some Buddhists (eg Pure Land followers) celebrate Gautama's attainment of Enlightenment on this day under the Bodhi tree in Bodhgaya, North India.

Hanukkah | 8*-15 December | Jewish
Celebrates the rededication of the Temple in Jerusalem after it was recaptured from the Syrian Greeks by the Maccabee brothers in 165 BCE. For the eight evenings of the festival, candles are lit from right to left in a hanukkah, a nine-branched menorah – one candle for each evening. The ninth candle is the shamash (the servant candle) from which the other candles are lit. Foods cooked with oil - such as doughnuts and latkes (potato cakes) – are traditional to remember the miracle with oil that happened at this time.

Christmas Eve | 24 Decemberr | Christian
Evening carol services, crib services and Midnight Masses inaugurate the festival of Christmas. Santa Claus (from the Dutch Sinter Klaus) is a legendary figure, based on St Nicholas of Myra, and is supposed to bring presents to children on Christmas Eve.

Christmas Day | 25 December | Christian
Christmas Day celebrates the birth of Jesus, whom Christians believe to be the son of God. Gifts are given as reminders of the offerings brought to the infant Jesus, and Christmas carols, plays and evergreens are associated with this time, while nativity sets are displayed in many churches and in some homes.

Hogmanay | 31 December | National
A celebration widely observed throughout the UK, and especially in Scotland, where bagpipes, haggis and first footing are widespread. Clearing one's debts, cleaning the house, welcoming guests and strangers and a host of other traditions feature at this time.



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