



Diversity and Inclusion Dates January

2024

This calendar highlights key diversity days, the main faith days observed or celebrated and awareness raising dates. This does not mean other religions, beliefs or non-belief are not equally valued.

January is Cervical Health Awareness Month, Celebration of Life Month, Alcohol Change UK Dry January, Thyroid Awareness Month.

Bahá'í Buddhism Christian Hinduism Muslim Judaism Sikhism

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 New Years Day Bank Holiday	2	3	4 World Braille Day	5	6 Epiphany
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 Lohri/Maghi,	15 Makar Sankranti Martin Luther King Day	16	17 Birthday of Guru Gobind Singh	18	19	20
21 World Religion Day	22	23	24 International Day of Education	25 Mahayana New Year Thaipusam Tu BiShvat Robert Burns Night	26	27 Holocaust Memorial Day
28 Data Privacy Day	29	30	31			

NOTES

Birth Anniversary of Guru Gobind Singh

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.

Makara Sankranti is a mid-winter Hindu festival held in Nepal and India. The festival is celebrated to mark the transition of the Sun from Sagittarius to Capricorn during the winter solstice in the northern hemisphere or the beginning of the Uttarayana period

Thaipusam

Thaipusam is festival in the Tamil culture, which celebrates the defeat of the evil demon Soorapadman on the hands of the Hindu god of war, Kartikeya. It usually coincides with the full moon in the month of Thai, on the Tamil calendar, which falls within the period of January and February, according to the Gregorian calendar. It is considered as a national holiday in the countries which host a substantial number of Tamils, including Malaysia, Sri Lanka, and the Republic of Mauritius. In Singapore, however, Thaipusam was removed from the list of national holidays.

Epiphany - also known as Three Kings' Day - is a Christian festival, which starts on 6 January. It is a special date in the Christmas story as it's when people celebrate how a star led the Magi - also known as the Three kings or the Wise Men - to visit the baby Jesus after he had been born. 'Epiphany' comes from the Greek word meaning 'to reveal', as it is when the baby Jesus was 'revealed' to the world.

Vasant Panchami is a festival that marks the beginning of preparations for spring season. It is celebrated by people in various ways depending on the region. Vasant Panchami also marks the start of preparation for Holika and Holi, which occur forty days later. For many Hindus, Vasant Panchami is the festival dedicated to Goddess Saraswati who is the goddess of knowledge, language, music and all arts. She symbolizes creative energy and power in all its form, including longing and love. The season and festival also celebrate the agricultural fields' ripening with yellow flowers of mustard crop, which we associate with Saraswati's favourite colour. People dress in yellow saris or shirts or accessories, share yellow-coloured snacks and sweets. Some add saffron to their rice and then eat yellow cooked rice as a part of an elaborate feast.

Mahayana New Year

Most Mahayana Buddhists celebrate their *New Year* during the first full moon of January. Others celebrate it on the 31st of December or the 1st of January. Mahayana means Great Vehicle. It is also a term that points to certain Buddhists practices and philosophies.

Tu B'Shevat, also known as Tu B'Shevet or Tu Bishvat, is the day that trees come of age according to Jewish law. Jewish people mark this day by eating a symbolic meal of fruit and nuts or planting trees.

Fruits and trees take centre stage on Tu BiShevat. It is customary to eat lots of fruit on the day, especially those traditionally associated with the area Jewish people regard as the Holy Land: grapes, wheat, barley, figs, pomegranates, olives, and dates. These types of food also feature heavily in Tu BiShvat seders, celebratory feasts held by Jewish families and communities all around the UK. Tu BiShvat is also an occasion for Jewish people to taste a new type of fruit, or one they have not eaten yet during the current year.

Another tradition associated with Tu BiShvat is planting a tree or raising funds for charities dedicated to planting trees in Israel.

Lohri is a religious and cultural festival that usually falls on the 13th of January of every year. It marks the beginning of longer sunny days as the winter season has come to an end, and it is observed by Hindus and Sikhs from the Punjab region. Lohri is an official holiday in India, and is typically celebrated by singing, dancing, and lighting bonfires.

Holocaust Memorial Day is the day for everyone to remember the millions of people murdered in the Holocaust, under Nazi Persecution, and in other genocides such as in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia, and Darfur.

This day marks the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau the largest Nazi death camp.

Diversity and Inclusion Dates February

2024

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February is UK National Heart Month, LGBT+ History Month

Bahá'í Buddhism Christian Hinduism Muslim Judaism Sikhism

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 World Cancer Day	5 UK Race Equality Week begins	6 Safer Internet Day	7 Lailat al Miraj	8	9	10 Chinese New Year a
11 Autism Sunday	12	13 Shrove Tuesday	14 Ash Wednesday Saint Valentine's Day.	15 International Childhood Cancer Day Parinirvana Day/Nirvana Day	16	17
18	19	20 World Day of Social Justice	21	22	23 International STAND UP to Bullying Day	24 Magha Puja
25 Lailat al Bara'a	26 Intercalary Days begin	27 Intercalary Days end	28	29		

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In the old days of China, the emergence of the new moon in the period between the 21st of January and the 20th of February marked the inception of the **Chinese New Year**. According to Chinese traditions, the ceremony starts on the night prior to the beginning of the Chinese New Year and lasts until the 15th day of the year, where the Lantern Festival is celebrated.

The Buddha's death, celebrated because he attained total Enlightenment, or **Nirvana**.

Lailat al Miraj

Isra and Miraj, also called Shab-e-Miraj, commemorates Prophet Muhammed's legendary journey to Jerusalem and his ascension into heaven. Muslims in the UK mark the day with prayers and discussions.

Isra and Miraj events in the UK include special prayers in mosques and gatherings in Muslim community centres. These gatherings usually include speeches or discussions highlighting the religious importance of the events commemorated on Isra and Miraj.

Since these gatherings are usually held within the country's Muslim communities and mosques, they remain largely invisible to the general public. Many Muslims also observe Isra and Miraj quietly at home.

Shrove Tuesday (Mardi Gras) is the day before Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent. It's also known as Pancake Tuesday and Mardi Gras. Shrove Tuesday gets its name from the ritual of shricing, i.e., the process of confessing and repenting for sins and fasting and abstaining from luxuries during Lent.

Intercalary Days - A time for extra focus on hospitality, charity, giving gifts and preparing for the month of fasting

Lailat al Bara'a

Lailat al Bara'a is always remembered in the Muslim community, but for different and distinct reasons.

In the Sunni context, this is a night where Muslims worship Allah and seek refuge with Him. It is at this night that Allah decides the fate of all people living on Earth for the coming year. It is also called the Night of Emancipation.

From the Shiite point of view, this is the date of Al Imam al-Mahdi's birth. The Shiites believe that he will be the twelfth and last Imam of Shia. Apart from that, al-Mahdi is considered a key figure in Islam as Muslims believe that upon his arrival he will spread absolute justice in a world full of pure evil and that he will establish Islam as the world religion.

Ash Wednesday (Start of Lent)

Ash Wednesday is the beginning of Lent for Western Christian churches and is a day of penitence. In some traditions, services are held on Ash Wednesday when worshippers are marked on the forehead with a cross of ashes as a sign of penitence and mortality. Lent is the period of 40 days which comes before Easter in the Christian calendar.

Magha Puja Day

In Thailand, the Magha Puja Day is a national Buddhist holiday. It falls either in February, according to the Lunar Calendar; or in March, according to the Gregorian calendar. The Magha Puja is typically celebrated during the third lunar month of the year; due to the deliverance of Buddha's teachings in that period.

Parinirvana Day

The Parinirvana is a celebratory Mahayana Buddhist holiday which falls on the 15th of February. However, some people have a proclivity towards observing it on the 8th of February instead. It commemorates the transcendence of Buddha outside his physical body on the day he deceased; attaining complete Nirvana – the ultimate goal of Buddhism. Albeit it is usually commemorated in East Asia, some Buddhist groups due west also engage in celebratory festivities. The day is typically observed by reciting excerpts from the Nirvana Sutra recounting the final days of Buddha's life. On that day, people often have the propensity of engaging in meditation, or visiting Buddhist temples and monasteries. Furthermore, that day is considered by many as a day of reflection – contemplating the life, future, and death of one's own self, as well as of loved ones.

Diversity and Inclusion Dates

March

2024

This calendar highlights key diversity days, the main faith days observed or celebrated and awareness raising dates. This does not mean other religions, beliefs or non-belief are not equally valued.

March is Prostate Cancer Awareness Month, Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month, Women's History Month.

Bahá'í Buddhism Christian Hinduism Muslim Judaism Sikhism

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Feast of Ala Nineteen Day Fast begins Zero Discrimination Day St David's Day	2
3 World Hearing Day	4 National Carer Week begins	5	6	7	8 Maha Shivaratri International Women's Day.	9
10 Mothering Sunday Ramadan begins	11	12 Ramakrishna Jayanti – Hindu	13 Neurodiversity Celebration Week begins	14 Nanakshahi (New Year) – Sikh, University Mental Health Day.	15	16
17 St Patrick's Day	18 Great Lent – Orthodox Christian Neurodiversity Celebration Week (to 24 March 2024)	19	20 Naw-Rúz (New Year) International Day of Happiness Spring Equinox	21 International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination	22	23
24 Palm Sunday Holika Dahan Purim	25 Holi Hola Mohalla begins	26 Purple Day (Epilepsy Awareness Day)	27 Maundy Thursday	28 Good Friday Bank Holiday	29	30 World Bipolar Day

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Easter Sunday
International
Transgender Day of
Visibility.

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Feast of Ala (Start of Nineteen Day Fast) 'Ala, the last month of the Bahá'í year, is also known as the Nineteen Day Fast. During this time, Bahá'ís do not eat or drink for 19 days, between sunrise to sunset, making time for extra prayer and meditation.

Maundy Thursday

Holy Thursday is the Christian holy day falling on the Thursday before Easter. It commemorates the Last Supper of Jesus Christ with the Apostles and the foot washing (Maundy) as described in the canonical gospels. It is the fifth day of the Holy Week, which is preceded by Holy Wednesday and followed by Good Friday.

Holika Dahan

Holika Dahan is a Hindu festival observed either in February or March by burning pyres. It denotes the prevalence of good, and the vanquishing of evil. In Hinduism, Lord Vishnu saved his devotee Prahlad in the city of Multan by burning Holika, the demoness.

Hola Mohalla

Hola Mohalla is a Sikh festival that was instigated by Guru Gobind Singh, originally as a day of mock battles and poetry contests. It is usually observed in March, occurring the day following the Hindu spring festival, yet oftentimes concurring with it.

Ramadan is a time of fasting and spiritual renewal. According to the Koran, the Prophet Muhammad received the first revelations of the Koran during Ramadan. Therefore, Ramadan is considered the most sacred month of the Islamic calendar. During this month, Muslims fast from early morning (before dawn) through to sunset. Fasting means no food or drink and refraining from smoking, sex and 'sinful behaviour'

Good Friday

Good Friday is a holiday that commemorates the crucifixion of Jesus Christ and his death at Calvary Hill. It is also called Holy Friday, Black Friday or Great Friday.

Maha Shivaratri

Maha Shivaratri means the night of Shiva. It is also known as "Shivaratri". It is a festival that is celebrated by Hindus every year.

The offerings of Bheel's leaves to Lord Shiva and fasting all night are the most crucial practices on that day.

St Patrick's Day

It is a cultural and religious celebration held on the 17th of March, the traditional date of the death of Saint Patrick, the first patron saint of Ireland.

Easter Sunday

Easter is one of the most important holidays of the Christian Year, which is also considered as a religious holiday. It is also known as the "Day of Resurrection", "Pascha" or "Sunday of the Resurrection". This holiday honors and commemorates the resurrection of the Prophet Jesus. Christians firmly believe that the resurrection happened on the third day after his crucifixion.

Holi

Holi is one of the most popular festivals of Hindu culture. It is observed in Nepal and northern India. Another name for Holi is the "Festival of Colors". It is also known as "Boshonto Utshob" which means the "Spring Festival" or Dolyatra (Doljatra) in West Bengal.

Holika Dahan or Chhoti Holi is the name given to the first evening while the following day is known as Holi, Phagwah, Dhulandi, Dhuleti or Rangwali Holi.

The first day, bonfires are lit during the night to remind the cremation of the goddess Holika. The second day, people spend their day throwing water and colored powder. Ranga Panchami is observed later at Panchami, which means the fifth day after the full moon marking the end of the feast of colors.

Palm Sunday

Palm Sunday is a Christian mobile holiday that falls on the Sunday before Easter Sunday. This feast commemorates the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem, an event mentioned in each of the four canonical gospels.

Purim

This day is considered as the most colorful and joyful day of Jewish holidays. This day's story took place in the capital of the Persian Empire, Shushan, during the third year of King Ahashverosh's reign. The victory of the Jews over the persecution is honored by this feast which was mentioned in great detail in "Esther Meguila".

Naw-Ruz

The Bahá'í New Year

Neurodiversity Celebration Week

is a worldwide initiative that challenges stereotypes and misconceptions about neurodevelopmental disorders and learning disabilities. NCW 2024 is taking place from Monday 18 March - Sunday 24 March.

Diversity and Inclusion Dates

April

2024

This calendar highlights key diversity days, the main faith days observed or celebrated and awareness raising dates. This does not mean other religions, beliefs or non-belief are not equally valued.

April is Autism Awareness Month, Stress Awareness Month, Bowel Cancer Awareness Month, Parkinson's Awareness Month.

Bahá'í Buddhism Christian Hinduism Muslim Judaism Sikhism

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Easter Monday Bank Holiday	2 World Autism Awareness Day	3	4	5	6 Lailat al-Qadr International Asexuality Day
7 World Health Day	8 Ramadan Ends	9 Ugadi / Telugu New Year	10 Eid al Fitr	11	12	13 Birth of the Khalsa (Vaisakhi).
14 Tamil New Year	15 Bengali New Year	16 Rama Navami	17	18 Birthday of Guru Angad Dev	19	20 First Day of Ridvan
21	22 Earth Day	23 Theravada New Year Saint George's Day Hanuman Jayanti Passover	24	25	26 Lesbian Visibility Day	27
28 Ninth Day of Ridvan World Day for Health & Safety at Work	29	30				

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Lailat al-Qadr means the Night of Destiny. It honors the anniversary of the night when the Qur'an was revealed to humanity to lead it to guidance through the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him). It is also known as the Night of Power.

Ugadi / Telugu New Year

Certain parts of India, namely Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, and Karnataka celebrate Ugadi – the New Year's Day for the people living in the aforementioned areas. It is observed in either March or April, according to the Gregorian calendar, which coincides with the first day of Chaitra, the first month of the Hindu calendar.

Hanuman Jayanti

India and Nepal have a special religious festival dedicated to honoring the birth of Lord Sri Hanuman. The Hanuman Janmam-Utsav ceremony is observed on different days according to each area in India.

First Day of Ridván

(meaning "Paradise" in Arabic) — the most important of the Bahá'í holy days. It is the day on which Bahá'u'lláh declared His mission as a Messenger of God.

Birthday of Guru Angad Dev

Guru Angad was the second Sikh Guru, leading the Sikh teachings after the death of Guru Nanak, the first Sikh Guru, in 1539. He was born in 1504 to a Hindu family, and was given the name Bhai Lenha. Prior to embracing the teachings of Sikhism, he worked as a religious teacher; promoting the preachment of goddess Durga, until he met the first guru and became a Sikh. Bhai Lenha was given the name Angad by Guru Nanak after many years of being his acolyte. Shortly after, Guru Nanak announced Guru Angad as his successor in delivering the messages of Sikhism, favoring him over his own sons.

Eid al-Fitr

The happy celebration to mark the end of a beautiful month of Ramadan is known as Eid al-Fitr. The meaning of Fitr is "to break" that illustrates the breaking of the Feast period. Muslims forgive and forget all past arguments and quarrels and celebrate it together with sweet dishes and other delicious meals.

Tamil New Year

The Tamil people celebrate the Tamil Punthandu –literally translates to Tamil New Year– on the first day of Chitterai in the Tamil calendar, which marks the beginning of the new year. It usually corresponds with the 14th of April on the Gregorian calendar. Hindus around the world observe the new year on the same date, as well. However, it is known in different parts of India by other names, such as Vishu in the Indian state of Kerala; and Vaisakhi in the regions of India where Sikhism is practiced.

Ninth Day of Ridván

The day on which Bahá'u'lláh's family joined Him in the Garden of Ridván.

Vaisakhi

Vaisakhi is a religious ceremony that marks the beginning of the new year in Sikhism. It is tantamount to the Tamil Punthandu –the Tamil New Year, which is celebrated by Tamils– and falls on the same date, the 14th of April on the Gregorian calendar. The Vaisakhi festival honors the founding of the Khalsa tradition, which was inaugurated in 1699 by the tenth Sikh Guru, Guru Gobind Singh.

Easter Monday

The day that falls after Easter Sunday. It is a holiday in some countries. According to the Western Christian liturgical calendar, Easter Monday is the second day of Eastertide and so does the Byzantine rite, which considers it as the second day of Bright Week.

Bengali New Year

The Assamese people of India have a major festival denominated Bihu, which is composed of three distinctive ceremonies that are observed on different months of the year. The most prominent of the three festivals is the Rongali Bihu, which marks the start of the new year in the Assam state, as well as the spring festival. It typically falls in April, according the Gregorian calendar. The second festival is the Magh Bihu, which is a harvest festival that celebrates the end of the harvesting season; coinciding with January. It is usually celebrated by holding feasts and bonfires for a week. The third and final festival is the Kongali Bihu, which is known for its disparate nature in juxtaposition with the other two festivals; for its lack of the exuberant atmosphere. It is usually observed in October by farmers who pray for a good harvest.

Passover

Passover is one of the crucial festivals in the Jewish religion that is also known as Pesach. The celebration begins on the evening of the 14th day of Nisan and lasts eight days in the Diaspora and nearly seven days in Israel.

Rama Navami

Ram Navami is the celebration of the birthday of Rama, a divine figure in Hinduism. On this festival people perform Kalyanotsavam (marriage celebration) with small images of Rama and Sita in their houses, and at the end of the day the photos of the gods are taken to a procession on the streets.

Theravada New Year

Theravada, which literally translates to School of the Elders, is the oldest branch of Buddhism that has perpetually existed to this date. It preserves the teachings of Buddha unaltered in the Pāli Canon, which is an agglomeration of ancient Buddhist passages written in the Pāli language –a language idiosyncratic to the Indian subcontinent– as its core belief. The Pāli Canon also comprises sundry traditions, customs, and practices of other cultures; due to its long perennial history of interacting with said cultures. Theravada Buddhism is the most practiced form of religion in Thailand, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Laos, and Cambodia. It is also embraced in China, Malaysia, Bangladesh, Nepal, and Vietnam by minority groups.

Diversity and Inclusion Dates

May

2024

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May is Action on Stroke Month, Hepatitis Awareness Month, UK National Walking Month, Celiac Awareness Month.

Bahá'í Buddhism Christian Hinduism Muslim Judaism Sikhism

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Twelfth Day of Ridvan	2 Birthday of Guru Arjan Dev – Sikh	3 .	4
5 Yom HaShoah	6 Bank Holiday Deaf Awareness Week begins	7	8 UK National Day for Staff Networks.	9 Ascension Day	10 Akshaya Tritiya	11
12	13 National Mental Health Awareness Week begins	14 .	15 International Day of Families	16 Global Accessibility Awareness Day	17 International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia.	18
19 Pentecost	20 Whit Monday	21 World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development.	22 International Day for Biological Diversity	23 Declaration of the Báb Vesak/Visakha Puja Birthday of Guru Amar Das – Sikh.	24	25
26 Trinity Sunday Lag BaOmer	27 Bank Holiday	28 Ascension of Baha'u'llah	29	30 Corpus Christi	31	

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Ascension Day

The Feast of the Ascension commemorates the bodily Ascension of Prophet Jesus into heaven. It is sometimes called The Day of the Ascension, Ascension Thursday or Holy Thursday.

Corpus Christi

The feast of Corpus Christi is a Catholic liturgical solemnity celebrating the real presence of the body and blood of Jesus Christ in the sacrament of the Eucharist which is known as transubstantiation. The Eucharist is practiced on Holy Thursday in a solemn atmosphere just before the Good Friday. The liturgy of this day also honors the institution of the priesthood, the washing of the disciples' feet by Jesus and the agony in the Garden of Gethsemane. This feast was created to make a day that focuses solely on the Eucharist to emphasize its joy since it is the sacrifice of the body and blood of Jesus Christ.

Twelfth Day of Ridván

The day on which Bahá'u'lláh and His family left the garden to travel to Constantinople.

Declaration of the Báb

The anniversary of the Báb's announcement of His mission in 1844.

Pentecost

This is a Christian holiday celebrated on the seventh Sunday after Easter. It commemorates the Holy Spirit's descent upon the Apostles and other disciples of Jesus Christ while they were in Jerusalem celebrating the Feast of Weeks as illustrated in the Acts of the Apostles (Acts 2:1-31). This event represents the birth of the early Church in the Christian tradition.

Yom HaShoah

Israelis have a national memorial and remembrance day called Yom HaShoah, which commemorates the millions of Jews who met their untimely death on the hands of Nazi Germany led by Adolf Hitler during the genocide of the Holocaust in World War II. The commemoration was first instigated in 1951. Eight years later, in 1959, the Knesset enacted legislation which officially recognized the observance of Yom HaShoah. The day usually falls on the 27th of Nisan – in the period between April and May on the Gregorian calendar. However, the date is sometimes shifted by a day if it coincided with the Jewish Sabbath.

Ascension of Bahá'u'lláh

Marking the passing of Bahá'u'lláh in 1892

Whit Monday

Christians have a moveable feast Whit Monday, also known as Pentecost Monday, which is typically observed the day subsequent to Pentecost. It is delineated as moveable for its occurrence is subjected to change according to the date of Easter. The origin of the name Whit Monday is derived from the English name of Pentecost, Whitsunday, which is one of the three baptismal seasons.

Lag Baomer

The fifty days between Passover and Shavuot, which should be days of joy and preparation for the Torah, unfortunately contain some mourning as well. This is one of the mysterious festivals of the Jews. During this period, music, haircuts and weddings are not allowed. This count is known as "Sefirat Ha'Omer". The day of Lag Baomer is celebrated on the 33rd day of the count, namely the 18th day of the Hebrew month, Iyar.

Trinity Sunday

Trinity Sunday celebrates the Christian doctrine of the Trinity believing in the three persons of God: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Akshaya Tiritiya

Akshaya Tiritiya is a spring festival celebrated annually by Hindus and Jains. The third lunar day of Vaisakha –the second month of the Indian calendar– marks the celebration date, which concurs with April or May in the Gregorian calendar. It is widely celebrated in India and Nepal, as it betokens perennial prosperity.

Vesak

In the Buddhist calendar, "Vesak" is one of the most important festivals. It is also known as "Visakah Puja", "Buddha Purnima" or "Sinhalese". It celebrates the birth, enlightenment and death of Gautama Buddha. The name Vesak is derived from the name of the Buddhist month during which Vesak is celebrated.

Diversity and Inclusion Dates June

2024

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June is Motor Neurone Disease Awareness Month, Stillbirth & Neonatal Death Awareness Month, LGBT Pride Month, Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month.

Bahá'í Buddhism Christian Hinduism Muslim Judaism Sikhism

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Global Day of Parents.
2	3	4 International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression.	5 World Environment Day.	6	7	8 Global Wellness Day.
9 Race Unity Day	10	11	12 Shavuot World Day against Child Labour	13	14 Hajj – Islam, World Blood Donor Day	15 Day of Arafah –, World Elder Abuse Awareness Day
16 Eid al Adha Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev Father's Day Neurodiversity Pride Day	17 National Learning Disability Week begins	18 Autistic Pride Day International Day for Countering Hate Speech	19	20 World Refugee Day	21 World Humanist Day.	22 UK Windrush Day
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

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Day of Arafah

In the Islamic Lunar Calendar, the day of Arafah is a holy day that coincides with the 9th day of Dhu al-Hijjah. This is the second day of the pilgrimage and it is followed by the first day of Eid al-Adha.

Eid al-Adha

Eid al-Adha (The Feast of Sacrifice) is one of the two main Islamic feasts (the other is Eid al-Fitr). This feast falls on the 10th day of the lunar month of Zul-Hijja and is the concluding act of pilgrimage taking place in Makkah. This feast is celebrated in honor of the Prophet Abraham's faith by sacrificing animals such as camels, goats and sheep in the path of Allah. The meat obtained from this sacrifice is divided into three portions of which one is for oneself, the other for family and friends and the third for the needy and the poor. The feast of Eid al-Adha is celebrated if one has made the pilgrimage or not.

Shavuot

Shavuot is one of the three great festivals that are celebrated in the Jewish tradition. It is a holiday where Jews travel to the Temple of Jerusalem to gather their first fruits. This holiday falls exactly 50 days after Passover. It is also sometimes referred to as the Feast of Weeks. The Jews who spoke Greek gave him the name of "Pentecost" as it falls fifty days after Passover.

Martyrdom of Guru Arjan

Guru Arjan was the fifth Sikh Guru in a lineage of ten Sikh Gurus, and was one of the two Sikh Gurus who perished for not renouncing their faith – the other being Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib, the ninth Sikh Guru. He was known for compiling the first rendition of the holy book of Sikhism, called Adi Granth. Guru Arjan was tortured by the Mughal Emperor Jahangir for his refusal to abandon the teachings of Sikhism, until his execution in 1606. It is unclear to this date whether he perished during torture or was executed by drowning.

Diversity and Inclusion Dates July

2024

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July is UV Safety Month, Make a Difference to Children Month, International Women with Alopecia Month, Disability Pride Month

Bahá'í Buddhism Christian Hinduism Muslim Judaism Sikhism

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 Al-Hijra/Muharram New Year.	8	9 Martyrdom of the Báb	10	11 World Population Day.	12	13
14 International Non- Binary People's Day	15 World Youth Skills Day.	16 Ashura	17 World Day for International Justice.	18 Nelson Mandela International Day, South Asian Heritage Month begins	19	20
21 Asalha Puja (Dharma Day)	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 World Hepatitis Day.	29	30 International Day of Friendship World Day against Trafficking Persons	31			

NOTES

Muharram is the first month of the Islamic calendar. It is also the beginning of a new Islamic year that many Muslims consider a cultural event. The Islamic New Year does not matter on the basis of religion. Nevertheless, many Muslims take this opportunity to remember the events of the life of the beloved Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him). On that day, some also remember the Hegira of the Prophet (peace be upon him) and his companions to the city called Medina

Ashura

Achoura means "Tenth" in the Arabic language. That day corresponds to the peak of the memory of the first month of the Islamic year, Muharram. It is the day of mourning. In the eyes of Shia Muslims, this day honors the martyrdom of Husayn ibn Ali, who was the beloved grandson of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him). This occurred in the year 61 H (680 AD) during the fierce and ruthless battle of Kerbala.

Achoura is a traditional date that also honors some of the great events of the past, such as the construction of the Kaaba, the birth of Prophet Abraham, and it is also on this date that the ark of Prophet Noah landed.

Asalha Puja

The day of Asalha Puja honors the Buddha's first sermon in the Deer Park in Benares, India, and the foundation of the Buddhist Sangha. In Thailand, it is also known as "Asanha Puja" or "Dhamma Day". The day is observed by listening to sermons and presenting offerings to the temples.

Martyrdom of the Báb

Who was executed in 1850.

Diversity and Inclusion Dates

August

2024

This calendar highlights key diversity days, the main faith days observed or celebrated and awareness raising dates. This does not mean other religions, beliefs or non-belief are not equally valued.

August is Health & Safety Month, Psoriasis Awareness Month, Children's Eye Health & Safety Month, MedicAlert Awareness Month

Bahá'í Buddhism Christian Hinduism Muslim Judaism Sikhism

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Lammas	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9 International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples	10
11	12 International Youth Day	13 Tish'a B'av	14	15	16	17
18	19 Raksha Bandhan World Humanitarian Day.	20	21	22	23 International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition	24
25	26 Krishna Janmashtami Bank Holiday	27	28	29	30	31 International Day for People of African Descent

NOTES

Lammas

Lammas is a holiday celebrated in some English-speaking countries in the Northern Hemisphere, usually between August 1st and September 1st. This festival marks the end of the wheat harvest, and is the first harvest festival of the year. This holiday is celebrated on an annual basis.

Tisha B'Av

It is a fasting day observed annually in Judaism. That day, many disasters were recorded in the history of the Jews, one of which was the destruction of the Second Temple by the Roman Empire in Jerusalem and the other was the great destruction of the Temple of Solomon by the Neo-Babylonian Empire.

Raksha Bandhan

Raksha Bandhan means the "Bond of Protection". This festival celebrates the link between brothers and sisters. During this festival, a sister attaches a holy thread known as "Rakhi" around her brother's wrist. Then, the brother in turn, vows to look after his sister, and offers her a gift.

Krishna Janmashtam

The Krishna Janmashtami festival celebrates the birth of Krishna who is the eighth avatar (incarnation) of Vishnu. It is also known as Janmashtami Puja, Jayanthi Sree, Janmaashtami, Gokulaashtami, Srikrishna Jayanti or Krishnaashtami. The festival starts by fasting on the previous day (Saptami), followed by a nightlong celebration of the birth of Krishna, and his removal by his father to a foster-home to ensure his own safety. At midnight, the idol of the infant Krishna is bathed and placed in a cradle. In the early morning, women draw little children feet patterns outside the house with a dough made of flour and rice to symbolize and mark the entrance of the Krishna child into his foster home. After worship, morning prayers and ablutions, devotees break their fast with Prasadam, which was offered to the Lord.

Diversity and Inclusion Dates September

2024

This calendar highlights key diversity days, the main faith days observed or celebrated and awareness raising dates. This does not mean other religions, beliefs or non-belief are not equally valued.

September is Sickle Cell Awareness Month, Childhood Cancer Awareness Month, Blood Cancer Awareness Month, World Alzheimer's Month, World Dementia Awareness Month

Bahá'í Buddhism Christian Hinduism Muslim Judaism Sikhism

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 East and South-East Asian (ESEA) Heritage Month begins	2	3	4	5 International Day of Charity	6 Colour Blind Awareness Day	7 Ganesh Chaturthi
8 International Literacy Day	9	10 World Suicide Prevention Day	11	12	13	14
15 Onam Mawlid al-Nabi International Day of Democracy	16	17 Anant Chaturdashi	18 International Equal Pay Day	19	20	21 International Day of Peace, World Alzheimer's Day
22 Autumn Equinox	23 Bi Visibility Day International Day of Sign Languages UK National Inclusion Week begins	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

NOTES

Mawlid al-Nabi

At the heart of every Muslim, the day of Mawlid al-Nabi (also spelled Al Mawlid an-Nabiwi) is of particular importance. Mawlid al-Nabi is the celebration of the birth of the last and final Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him). On that day, Muslims get to meditate on the beautiful life of the Prophet (peace be upon him).

Ganesh Chaturth

The Ganesh Chaturthi festival is the day when Lord Ganesha shows his presence on earth for all his devotees. The festival lasts up to 10 days and ends on the day of Ananta Chaturdashi. There are public celebrations on that day. During the festival an idol of Shri Ganesha is worshiped in every house.

Onam

Hindus have three substantial festivals, which are Vishu, Thiruvanthira, and Onam – with the latter being a harvest festival that is observed in the month of Chingam on the Malayalam calendar, coinciding with the Gregorian months of August and September. Onam originated in the Indian state Kerala, and it honors King Mahabali, a benignant king in the Hindu mythology, whose spirit is believed to visit Kerala during Onam. The day is celebrated with several ceremonies, including but not limited to boat races; martial arts; tug of war; plantain offerings and flower arrangements; worship; music and various dances, such as tiger dance, mask dance, women's dance, and folk songs and dance.

Anant Chaturdashi

There are two important values associated with Anant Chaturdashi. The first is that it represents the day of the immersion of Ganpati. On this day, the festival of Ganpati comes to an end. The installed Murtis of Lord Ganpati are taken to a sea, a river or a lake in great processions to be immersed in the water. Thus Lord Ganesha is departed, only to be welcomed the next year.

The second reason for celebrating Anant Chaturdashi is that on this day, people recite and listen to the legends and stories of Lord Vishnu who is Anant, the Infinite. They also recite hymns from the Vedas. This is also called Ananta Vrat.

Diversity and Inclusion Dates

October

2024

This calendar highlights key diversity days, the main faith days observed or celebrated and awareness raising dates. This does not mean other religions, beliefs or non-belief are not equally valued.

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Down Syndrome Awareness Month, Black History Month (UK), Global Diversity Awareness Month, Menopause Awareness Month.

Bahá'í Buddhism Christian Hinduism Muslim Judaism Sikhism

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 International Day of Older Persons.	2 , International Day of Non Violence.	3 Sharad Navratri begins Rosh Hashanah	4 Rosh Hashanah	5 World Teachers' Day
6 Fast of Gedaliah World Cerebral Palsy Day.	7	8 International Lesbian Day.	9	10 World Homeless Day World Mental Health Day World Sight Day	11	12 Dussehra - Yom Kippur
13 Birth of the Guru Granth	14	15	16 International Pronouns Day World Food Day	17 Sukkot begins International Day for the Eradication of Poverty	18 World Menopause Day.	19
20	21	22	23	24 Shemini Atzeret United Nations Day	25 Simchat Torah	26 Intersex Awareness Day
27	28	29 World Stroke Day.	30	31 All Hallows' Eve		

NOTES

All Hallows Eve

This is a celebration observed on October 31 in many countries. It is also known as the Western Christian Feast of all Saints. This celebration begins with the three days of observance of the feast of all Saints. In the liturgical year, the feast of all saints is the time that is specially dedicated to remembering those who are no longer in this world, including martyrs and saints.

Sukkot

In the tradition of the Jews, there are three "Pilgrimage Festivals". The first is "Passover" which is celebrated to honor the memory of the exodus from Egypt. The second is "Pentecost" or "Shavuot" which commemorates the revelation of the Torah on Mount Sinai. The third and final is "Tabernacles" or "Sukkot" which is a celebration that honors the huts which were the places where the prophet Moses and the Israelites lived for forty years in the desert.

Rosh Hashanah

The Jewish New Year is called Rosh Hashanah. It is celebrated on the 1st and 2nd days of the Hebrew month "Tishrei", and in fact begins on the 29th (and last) night of the month of "Elul". This is the only Jewish holiday that lasts for two entire days. The reason behind this celebration is to emphasize the importance of those days.

Shemini Atzeret

Shemini Atzeret is a Jewish holiday. It is celebrated on the 22nd day of the Hebrew month of Tishrei in the Land of Israel, and on the 22nd and 23rd outside the Land, usually coinciding with late September or early October.

Dussehra

The Dussehra festival that marks the triumph of Lord Rama over the demon king Ravana is also known as Vijayadashami, Dashain or Dasara. Rama killed Ravana on that day. Dussehra, festival celebrated on the tenth day, marks the end of the nine days of Navratri.

During this festival, people decorate the entrances of houses and shops with flower studded strings called "Torans", which means "Floral Gateways".

At night, the effigies of Meghanad, Kumbhakaran and Ravana are stuffed with firecrackers and set alight.

Fast of Gedaliah

The Fast of Gedaliah is a short one-day fast observed by Jews, which starts at dawn and ends at dusk. It is dedicated to mourning the murder of the legitimate ruler of Judah. The Jewish sovereignty thereupon ceased to exist following the demolition of Solomon's Temple.

Simchat Torah

In the Hebrew language, Simhat Torah means "The Joy of the Torah". This day is as considered one of the most beautiful days in the Jewish calendar. It marks the end of the annual reading cycle of Torah. The first section of the Book of Genesis and the last section of the Book of Deuteronomy are read successively after a festival in which people walk while carrying the scrolls of the Torah. They also sing and dance after attending the parade.

Birth of the Guru Granth

The Guru Granth is the holy book of Sikhism, which is an agglomeration of the teachings of the ten Sikh Gurus. It includes texts, hymns, and prayers of the Sikh religion, and is considered as an eternal living guru that imparts the principles and core beliefs of Sikhism. The first rendition of the book was known as Adi Granth, and it was collated by the fifth guru, Guru Arjan. The second and final rendition of the book was collated by the tenth guru, Guru Gobind Singh, under the name of Sri Guru Granth Sahib.

Yom Kippur

Many Jews follow the custom called "Selihot" which consists of getting up every night to go to the synagogue from the first day of "Elul". They begin to pray and seek forgiveness until dawn, then they go to their work. The intensity of this custom increases during the ten days between Yom Kippur and Rosh Hashanah. This is called "Yamim Nora'im" which means "Redoubtable Days". The Jews greet each other in these days with the following prayer: "May you be inscribed in the Book of Life" while asking God for forgiveness.

Navaratri

Navaratri is a festival of worship and dance. It is also spelled as Navaratra or Navratri. The word Navaratri is composed of two words: Nava meaning nine and Ratri meaning nights. Navaratri is divided into three-days sets, where each is devoted to a different aspect of the supreme goddess. The first three days are devoted to Durga to destroy all of our defects, our impurities and our vices. The next three days are dedicated to Lakshmi who is the donor of material and spiritual wealth while the last set is devoted to Saraswati, the goddess of wisdom.

The only way to be successful throughout one's life is to obtain the blessing of the three aspects of the divine mother.

Diversity and Inclusion Dates November

2024

This calendar highlights key diversity days, the main faith days observed or celebrated and awareness raising dates. This does not mean other religions, beliefs or non-belief are not equally valued.

November is Lung Cancer Awareness Month, Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month, Islamophobia Awareness Month, COPD Awareness Month, Movember Men's Health Awareness Month.

Bahá'í Buddhism Christian Hinduism Muslim Judaism Sikhism

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 All Saints' Day Diwali	2 Birth of the Báb All Souls' Day
3 Birth of Baha'u'llah	4	5	6 National Stress Awareness Day	7	8 Intersex Day of Solidarity	9
10 Remembrance Sunday, UK Interfaith Week begins	11 Armistice Day	12	13 World Kindness Day.	14 World Diabetes Day	15 Birthday of Guru Nanak Dev	16 International Day for Tolerance, UK Disability History Month begins.
17	18	19 International Men's Day	20 Transgender Day of Remembrance World Children's Day.	21	22	23
24 Martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur	25 Day of the Covenant International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women	26	27 Ascension of Abdu'l-Bahá	28	29	30 .

NOTES

All Saints Day

Christians have a special festival All Saints' Day, which is commemorated in honor of all the saints. It is habitually celebrated on the first day of November in many western churches, such as the Roman Catholic; and Protestant churches, including the Methodist, the Anglican, and the Lutheran churches.

Birth of Bahá'u'lláh

The Birth of Bahá'u'lláh is one of nine holy days in the Bahá'í calendar that is celebrated by Bahá'ís and during which work is suspended. The holy day celebrates the birth of Bahá'u'lláh, the founder of the Bahá'í Faith.

All Souls day

In Christianity, All Souls' Day is the commemoration of souls of all Christians who have passed away. It typically follows All Saints' Day, and Christians usually honor the memory of their kindred or loved one.

Day of the Covenant

Commemorating Bahá'u'lláh's appointment of His son, 'Abdu'l-Bahá, as the One to whom His followers should turn after His passing.

Martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib

Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib was the ninth Sikh Guru, who was beheaded for refusing the conversion to Islam. According to excerpts from his son's – Guru Gobind Singh– records, the Guru had pledged to protect Kashmiri Hindus against persecution and oppression. The Guru, however, was publicly executed by a direct order from Alamgir, the Mughal emperor, on the 11th of November, 1675 – a consequence of his refusal to renounce his faith and convert to Islam.

Diwali

Diwali is one of the most popular festivals in Hindu countries. It is also known as the Festival of Lights and it symbolizes the victory of good over evil. The lamps are lit as a sign of hope and celebration. The celebration of this festival lasts for five days and five nights during the Hindu month of Ashwayuja.

Ascension of 'Abdu'l-Bahá

Marking the passing of 'Abdu'l-Bahá in 1921

Birth of the Bab

Báb, which literally translates as 'the gate', was a prophet and forerunner of the Bahá'í revelation. Likened to John the Baptist some two thousand years before, the Báb called on people to purify themselves for the coming of the messenger of God. This is asserted to be Bahá'u'lláh, who was initially a follower of Báb and through whom the Bahá'í faith was founded.

Guru Nanak Birthday

One of the most sacred ceremonies in Sikhism is Guru Nanak Gurpurab, which commemorates the birth of Guru Nanak, the founder of Sikhism and the first Sikh Guru. Generally, the ceremonies in the Sikh religion are dedicated to the celebration of the birth of the ten Sikh Gurus.

Diversity and Inclusion Dates December

2024

This calendar highlights key diversity days, the main faith days observed or celebrated and awareness raising dates. This does not mean other religions, beliefs or non-belief are not equally valued.

December is Universal Month for Human Rights, AIDS Awareness Month, Decembeard, Spiritual Literacy Month.

Bahá'í Buddhism Christian Hinduism Muslim Judaism Sikhism

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Advent Sunday World AIDS Day	2 International Day for the Abolition of Slavery,	3 International Day of Persons with Disabilities	4	5 International Volunteer Day.	6	7 Hanukkah
8 Rohatsu (Bodhi Day)	9	10 Human Rights Day.	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18 International Migrants Day.	19	20 International Human Solidarity Day.	21 Winter Solstice
22	23	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day Bank Holiday	26 Saint Stephen's Day Bank Holiday	27	28
29	30	31 New Year's Eve/Hogmanay.				

NOTES

Advent

This is a season that is observed in many Christian churches and is known as Advent. It is a Latin word that means "coming". This is the period of preparation for both the return of Jesus at the Second Coming and the celebration of the Nativity of Jesus at Christmas.

Bodhi Day

According to tradition, Bodhi Day honors the day when enlightenment was reached by Siddhartha Gautama, Shakyamuni or the historical Buddha by finding the roots of suffering after sitting under a giant Pipal tree to practice meditation. Siddhartha became a Buddha or "enlightened" when he received enlightenment. In the end, he found the answers he needed and reached the state of Nirvana.

Christmas Day

Christmas is an annual festival commemorating the birth of Jesus Christ and celebrated on December 25 among billions of people around the world. This festival is preceded by the season of "Nativity Fasting" or "Advent" and it initiates the season of Christmastide that lasts for twelve days in the West and culminates on the twelfth night. In some traditions, Christmastide includes an octave. Christmas Day, which is a public holiday in many of the world's nations, is celebrated religiously by a majority of Christians, as well as culturally by many of non-Christians, and forms an integral part of the holiday season centered around it.

St Stephen's Day

Christians have a special day called Saint Stephen's Day, which memorializes the first Christian martyr, Saint Stephen. The day is celebrated on different days according to each Christian denomination – falling on the 26th of December in the Latin Church, and the 27th of December in the Eastern Orthodox Church; adhering to the Julian calendar, which coincides with the 9th of January on the Gregorian calendar. Whereas in Latin Christianity, St. Stephen's Day is the second day of Christmastide.

Hanukkah

This is the Jewish Festival of Maccabees, the Feast of Consecration or the Festival of Lights. Hanukkah is also spelled Chanukah. In Hebrew, Hanukkah means "Dedication".

The story of Hanukkah began in 167 BC when Jerusalem was ruled by the Greek Empire. The Jews were forced by King Antiochos IV to renounce their religion to worship the Greek gods. This resulted in a revolt unleashed by the Jews and Judas Macabeus who was appointed as leader of the revolt. Therefore, this holiday pays tribute to the Jews who restored the temple in Jerusalem while fighting the Greeks for three whole years.