

Islam

Dates in the Islamic calendar follow the lunar cycle, so exact observance can differ by location based on moon sightings.

Ramadan Begins – 18 February 2026

The start of the holy month of fasting, prayer and reflection, when Muslims fast from dawn to sunset to grow spiritually and draw closer to Allah.

Laylat al-Qadr – 15–16 March 2026

A deeply sacred night during the last ten days of Ramadan believed to be when the Qur'an was first revealed, with worship considered better than a thousand months.

Eid al-Fitr – 20 March 2026

The Festival of Breaking the Fast celebrates the end of Ramadan with communal prayers, joy, charity and shared meals.

Hajj Season Begins – 25 May 2026

Marks the start of the annual pilgrimage to Makkah, a central pillar of Islam for those able to undertake it at least once in their lives.

Day of Arafah – 26 May 2026

The holiest day of the Hajj pilgrimage where pilgrims stand in prayer and reflection on Mount Arafah, seeking God's mercy and forgiveness.

Eid al-Adha – 27 May 2026

The Festival of Sacrifice commemorates Prophet Ibrahim's willingness to submit to Allah's command, marked by prayer, sacrifice, charity and shared meals.

Islamic New Year – 16 June 2026

Marks the beginning of the new Islamic (Hijri) year and a time for reflection and spiritual renewal.

Day of Ashura – 25 June 2026

A day of fasting and reflection remembering historic events such as the rescue of Prophet Musa (Moses), observed in different ways across Muslim communities.

Mawlid al-Nabi – 25 August 2026

Commemorates the birth of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ and encourages reflection on his life and teachings.

Hinduism

Some dates are approximate because they follow the Hindu lunar calendar and may vary by region

Maha Shivaratri – 15 February 2026

A major festival dedicated to Lord Shiva, observed with night-long vigils, fasting and prayer to honour his cosmic dance and spiritual significance.

Holi – 3–4 March 2026

The vibrant Festival of Colours celebrates the triumph of good over evil with colour play, bonfires and community gatherings.

Rama Navami – 26–27 March 2026

Marks the birth of Lord Rama, a central deity whose life exemplifies righteousness and virtue.

Ratha Yatra – 1 July 2026

The chariot festival in Puri celebrates Lord Jagannath's annual procession, symbolising devotion and community participation.

Guru Purnima – 29 July 2026

A day to honour and give thanks to spiritual teachers (gurus) for their guidance and wisdom.

Krishna Janmashtami – 4 September 2026

Celebrates the birth of Lord Krishna with devotional singing, fasting, and night vigils.

Navratri & Vijayadashami (Dussehra) – 11–20 October 2026

A nine-day festival of worshipping the goddess Durga, culminating in Vijayadashami ('victory day') celebrating the triumph of good over evil.

Diwali – 8 November 2026

The Festival of Lights marks the victory of light over darkness and is celebrated with lamps, prayers, fireworks and family gatherings.



Religious Education – Interfaith Guide

Key Dates, Feasts and Religious Festivals

2026

Christianity

Ash Wednesday – 18 February 2026

Marks the beginning of Lent, a 40-day period of fasting, prayer, and reflection leading up to Easter.

Palm Sunday – 29 March 2026

Celebrates Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem, beginning Holy Week.

Maundy Thursday – 2 April 2026

Commemorates the Last Supper of Jesus with his disciples, highlighting service and the institution of the Eucharist.

Good Friday – 3 April 2026

Observes the crucifixion of Jesus Christ, reflecting on his sacrifice for humanity's sins.

Easter Sunday – 5 April 2026

Commemorates the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, central to Christian belief in salvation and eternal life.

Ascension Day – 14 May 2026

Marks Jesus' ascension into heaven, 40 days after Easter, affirming his divine authority.

Pentecost – 24 May 2026

Celebrates the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles, often considered the "birthday" of the Church.

Christmas – 25 December 2026

Celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ, marking God's incarnation and a central event in Christian faith.

Orthodox Christianity

Nativity of Christ (Orthodox Christmas) – 7 January 2026

Observes the birth of Jesus Christ according to the Julian calendar tradition used by many Orthodox churches.

Theophany (Epiphany) – 19 January 2026

Commemorates the Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River and revelation of the Trinity, an important early feast of the year.

Great Lent begins – 23 February 2026

Marks the start of a period of fasting, prayer and repentance in preparation for Pascha, emphasising spiritual renewal.

Holy Week – 29 March – Monday 6 April 2026

The climactic week of worship leading to Pascha, including remembrance of Jesus' Passion, Crucifixion and burial.

Pascha (Orthodox Easter) – Sunday 12 April 2026

The most important feast of the Orthodox Church, celebrating the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead and central to Christian faith and worship.

Ascension of the Lord – Thursday 28 May 2026

Celebrates Christ's ascension into heaven forty days after Pascha, affirming his divine authority.

Pentecost – Sunday 7 June 2026

Celebrates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles, often regarded as the birth of the Church.

Sikhism

Guru Gobind Singh Jayanti – 6 January 2026

Marks the birth anniversary of the tenth Guru, Guru Gobind Singh Ji, who established the Khalsa and strengthened the Sikh community's spiritual identity.

Lohri (Maghi) – 13 January 2026

A winter festival observed with fires, prayers and community gatherings that also commemorates the martyrdom of the Chali Mukte.

Hola Mohalla – 4–6 March 2026

A three-day festival of martial displays, poetry, music and community gatherings initiated by Guru Gobind Singh Ji the day after Holi.

Vaisakhi / Khalsa Sajna Divas – 14 April 2026

Celebrates the founding of the Khalsa by Guru Gobind Singh Ji in 1699 and is also marked as the Sikh New Year and a harvest festival with prayer, processions and community celebration.

Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev – 16 June 2026

Commemorates the martyrdom of the fifth Sikh Guru, Guru Arjan Dev Ji, who compiled the Adi Granth and stood firm in his faith.

Bandi Chhor Divas – 8 November 2026

Coinciding with Diwali, this 'Day of Liberation' marks the release of Guru Hargobind Ji and 52 princes from imprisonment and is celebrated with lights, prayers and processions.

Guru Tegh Bahadur Martyrdom Day – 24 November 2026

Honors the sacrifice of the ninth Guru, Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji, who gave his life defending religious freedom and human rights.

Judaism

Purim – 2 - 3 March 2026

A festive celebration of Jewish survival and deliverance as told in the Book of Esther.

Pesach (Passover) – 1 - 9 April 2026

Passover commemorates the Exodus from Egypt and the Israelites' liberation from slavery.

Shavuot – 21 - 23 May 2026

The Festival of Weeks celebrates the giving of the Torah at Mount Sinai and is traditionally marked with study and special meals.

Rosh Hashanah – 11 - 13 September 2026

The Jewish New Year marks the beginning of the "Days of Awe," a time of reflection, prayer and renewal.

Yom Kippur – 20 - 21 September 2026

The Day of Atonement is the holiest day of the year, dedicated to fasting, repentance and seeking forgiveness.

Sukkot – 25 September - 2 October 2026

The Festival of Booths remembers the Israelites' desert wanderings and is celebrated by dwelling in temporary shelters (sukkot).

Simchat Torah – 3 - 4 October 2026

Immediately following Sukkot, this joyful festival marks the conclusion and restarting of the annual Torah reading cycle.

Hanukkah – 4 - 12 December 2026

The Festival of Lights celebrates the rededication of the Second Temple and the miracle of the oil, and is marked by lighting the menorah.

Buddhism

Parinirvana (Nirvana) Day – 15 February 2026

Marks the Buddha's passing into final Nirvana, reflecting on impermanence and the end of the cycle of rebirth.

Magha Puja – 3 March 2026

Commemorates the spontaneous gathering of 1,250 disciples to hear the Buddha's teachings and celebrate ethical principles.

Buddha Day / Vesākha Pūjā (Vesak) – 31 May 2026

Celebrates the birth, enlightenment, and passing of the Buddha, observed with meditation, offerings, and acts of compassion.

Asalha Puja (Dhamma Day) – 29 July 2026

Commemorates the Buddha's first sermon, when he taught the Four Noble Truths and the Noble Eightfold Path.

Pravaraṇā / End of Vassa – 26 October 2026

Marks the end of the rains retreat, when monastics reflect on ethical conduct and communal harmony.

Bodhi Day – 8 December 2026

Celebrates the Buddha's enlightenment under the Bodhi tree and the attainment of awakening.

Sanghamittā Day – 23 December 2026

Honors Arahāt Therī Sanghamittā for establishing the Buddhist nuns' lineage and spreading the teachings.

