

# Multicultural Calendar 2023

- Diversity
  - Inclusion
- New Moons
  - Full Moons
- United Nations Days

Indigenous Peoples

Bahá'í • Buddhist

Christian • Hindu

Islam • Jain

Jewish • Shinto

Sikh • Wicca

Zoroastrian

Attitude of Gratitude



# What are some of the special features of other calendar systems?

Members of the **Islamic** faith observe Fridays as their major day of worship. The fast of Ramadan begins at sundown on the evening before the date given; there is no prohibition on working during Ramadan. The two days of required religious observance are Eid-ul-Fitr (Festival of Fastbreaking) and Eid-ul-Adha (Festival of Sacrifice). Members of the Islamic faith are prohibited from working on those two days. All the dates of Islamic observance are tentative because they are based on the first local sightings of the lunar crescent of the new moon.

The **Jewish** religious day is Saturday - Shabbat - and begins at sundown on Friday until sundown on Saturday. All days of religious significance for the Jewish faith begin at sundown on the evening before the date given.

The **Baha'i** year begins at the spring equinox, on March 21. Their calendar is comprised of 19 months, each 19 days long, and four "intercalary days (February 26 to March 1). The Baha'i day begins at sundown before the date listed and end at sundown on the date listed. The Baha'i Fast is observed every year from March 2 to March 20. Children under the age of 15, the elderly, pregnant and nursing mothers, those who are ill or engaged in heavy labour are exempt from observing the Fast.

Until March 31, 1998, the **Sikhs** used the Hindu lunisolar (Bikrami) calendar to determine their feast days. They now use their own solar Nanakshahi Calendar which started on March 14th, 1999 Gregorian. The era (1 Chet 1 Nanakshahi) is the date of the birth of the first Guru, Nanak Dev, in 1469. Although all

observances are now fixed, Guru Nanak's birthday and Holla Mohalla continue to be moveable feasts based on the lunar calendar.

Most **Buddhists** with the exception of the Japanese Buddhists, use the Lunar calendar. Dates of Buddhist festivals vary between different traditions and from country to country. For example, people from Thailand, Burma and Sri Lanka celebrate their New Year in mid-April, whereas Chinese, Vietnamese and Korean Buddhists follow the lunar calendar and celebrate it in January or February. Tibetan Buddhists usually celebrate a month later.

The **Christian** faith has three separate calendars: The Western or Gregorian calendar is that of the Roman Catholic and Protestant Churches.

The **Orthodox** or Julian Calendar is divided into 12 months of 30 days each, and a 13th month of 5 or 6 days at the end of the year, hence the date for Christmas is on Jan. 7th. It is the same as the Western Calendar for all fixed feasts but uses the Julian calendar for moveable feasts such as Easter and is used primarily by the Greek and Cypriot Orthodox Churches. This calendar is used mainly in eastern Europe, eastern Mediterranean, Russia, Romania, Serbia, Greece, Bulgaria, Georgia, Cyprus, Czech, Slovenia, Poland and Albania.

The **Orthodox Coptic** Calendar is 13 days behind the Julian Calendar and is used by most other Orthodox churches in Egypt, Ethiopia, Entrea, Sudan and the Middle East.

Make this calendar an informational tool to schedule your appointments, meetings and events. We took your suggestions, and have provided the following icons to help you identify and honour significant events and holidays.

- ✓ Schedule consideration: These dates are National holidays or Religious days when individuals may want to take time off to observe their holiday.
- Cultural/National Days: Mark festivals of cultural groups and National days.
- Independence Days of countries.
- UN and International days.
- ▲ Religious days of all major religions of the world.
- \* Bahá'í and Jewish observances begin at previous sundown.

## Acknowledgements

**Creative Cultural Communications** wishes to express its appreciation to the following for their assistance with this project:

Umar Hameed • Sona Parikh • Prakash Mody  
• Steve Powers • Raheel Raza

Please accept apologies for omissions of any group or important dates.

We would appreciate updates in writing by April 30th to:  
Creative Cultural Communications,

77 Harbour Square, Ste. 3902, Toronto, ON M5J 2S2  
Email: sales@multiculturalcalendar.com



## About the publisher

Sheena Singh is living her life on a broad canvas. Sheena immigrated to the United States from India and has made Toronto her home for the past 30 years. She is an artist who has used her gift of art by publishing the Multicultural Calendar through her non-profit company, Creative Cultural Communications founded in 1992.

Her unique and universal themes impress the message that the essence of all human beings are the same.

The calendars are well received by organizations with a diverse workforce, since they highlight dates for all major religions and cultural festivals.



Visit our Web Store now for other 2023 calendar formats, to enable you to effectively engage in a diverse and inclusive workforce. [www.multiculturalcalendar.com](http://www.multiculturalcalendar.com)

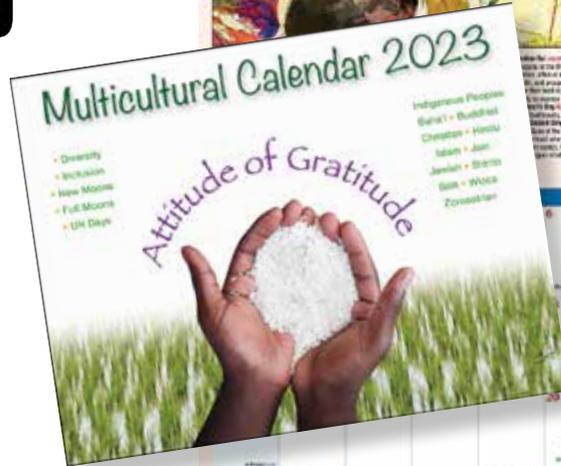
Make diversity an important part of your organization's initiative with the **online Multicultural Calendar** placed anywhere on your intranet



The Planner is designed to provide another practical resource and is invaluable for any office, especially in large traffic areas and in Managers' office for easy viewing of yearly and monthly schedules. **The planner** is available in one size 24" x 38".



Having diversity in the workplace brings together people with different capabilities, cultures and experiences. The 12" x 9" **wall calendar** features 12 original ethnic artworks. Customize flap with your company logo.



Our new **App** for your phone.



Dimensions of a closed **desktop calendar** 8.5" by 8". The calendar is in a triangular tent format and spiral bound. Support your Company's message of diversity all year round. Get your logo printed on the calendar.



The logo flap is 8.5" wide and 1" high on white background.

# January 2023 Observances

**Jan-Feb Iroquois Midwinter Ceremony Indigenous** The Iroquois Midwinter Ceremony lasts for 8 days and each day is dedicated to an event, i.e. Tobacco Invocation.

Days vary according to community.

**Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender History Month UK** was initiated by Schools OUT in Britain in February 2005. This is an opportunity for all to learn more about the lives and achievements of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people in Britain and Northern Ireland.

- Jan 1 Gantan-Sai Japan, Shinto** Gantan-sai, also referred to as Shogatu, is the Shinto New Year holiday. The faithful visit shrines, often at midnight, praying for renewal of heart, health, and prosperity. During the seven-day holiday, people wear their best clothing and visit the homes of friends and family to express their wishes for the coming year.
- Jan 1 St. Basil's Day Greece** The Greeks call New Year, St. Basil's Day. Traditionally, gifts are exchanged.
- Jan 5 Guru Gobind Singh's Birthday Sikh** He was the 10th and last living Guru of the Sikh faith. He founded the 'Khalsa' brotherhood where the initiated adopted the five 'K's: Kangha (wooden comb), Kara (steel bracelets), Kirpan (sword), Kaccha (pair of shorts), and Kesh (long hair).
- Jan 6 Epiphany Christian** In the Western church, this day celebrates the journey of the three Wise Men to Bethlehem to offer gifts to the infant Jesus. In the Eastern Church it is associated with the baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist. On this day as well, the Armenians celebrate Christmas.
- Jan 6 Three Kings' Day Christian** In South America, Latin America and parts of Europe, the end of the Christmas season is a traditional time for gift giving.
- Jan 7 Christmas Christian - Coptic & Eastern Orthodox** On this day, some Eastern churches celebrate the birth of Jesus according to the Julian calendar, which is currently 13 days behind the Gregorian or Western calendar.
- Jan 9 Seijin No Hi Japan** This day celebrates Coming-of-Age of the youth of Japan who are twenty years old. They wear traditional clothes and visit the shrines where the family announce their adulthood to the spirits. This is a national holiday.
- Jan 13 Lohri Sikh, Hindu** Bonfires are lit to mark the change from the decrease to the increase of the sun.
- Jan 13 St. Knut's Day Finland, Sweden** King Knut who ruled Sweden from 1080-1086 is honoured as a saint for his virtue and generosity. He had declared that Christmas should be celebrated for twenty days.
- Jan 14 Makar Sankranti India, Hindu** The transition of the Sun from Sagittarius to Capricorn during the winter solstice in the northern hemisphere is known as Makar Sankranti. The days gradually lengthen in the northern hemisphere.
- Jan 15 Kitchen God Celebration China** The custom is based on the traditional farewell ceremony for T'sao Wang, Prince of the Oven, before he leaves for his annual trip to heaven to report on families' good behavior during the year.
- Jan 15 Pongol India** A three-day rice harvest festival in South India is celebrated with a cultural evening of song and dance.
- Jan 16 Martin Luther King Jr. Day USA** This day commemorates the leader of the Civil Rights movement in USA. People of all races and religions have benefited from the sacrifices and accomplishments made by this great man. He was a Nobel Prize winner (Peace Prize 1964) and a prominent advocate of nonviolent protest. He was assassinated on April 4, 1968.
- Jan 20 Timkat/Theophany Christian - Coptic & Eastern Orthodox** The Eastern Orthodox Church associates Theophany with the baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist.
- Jan 22 Chinese / Lunar New Year Buddhist - China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Vietnam** The year of the Rabbit. This is the year 4721 in the Chinese Lunar calendar and the most important holiday. It is a three-day holiday in China and Hong Kong. The Chinese clean and decorate their homes with the 5 lucky signs of happiness; new clothes are worn and even the poorest buy new shoes, for it is considered bad luck to step down on the ground into old shoes. **Vietnamese** call it the 'Tet' Festival.
- Jan 22 Seollal Korea** The Korean New Year lasts three days. During this time, many Koreans visit family, perform ancestral rites, eat traditional food, and play folk games. Additionally, children often receive money from their elders.
- Jan 25 Robert Burns' Night Scotland, Ireland** Robert Burns' Night honours Scotland's national poet, born in 1759. The night is celebrated by the Scots with a sit down 'Burns Supper' and with speeches, poetry and song.
- Jan 26 Basant Panchami Hindu** Basant Panchami in Northern India heralds the approach of spring and yellow coloured clothes are symbolically worn. Even the food is coloured yellow by using saffron. This festival honours Saraswati, the Goddess of Learning, Wisdom and the Creative arts.
- Jan 30 Sadeh Iran, Zoroastrian** Sadeh in Persian means "hundred" and refers to one hundred days and nights past the end of summer in ancient Persia/Iran. Sadeh is a mid-winter festival where bonfires are lit to honor fire and to defeat the forces of darkness, frost and cold. People gather and pray, and then they will hold each other's hands, form a circle and dance around the fire.

# JANUARY 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																			
<b>1</b>  ✓ New Year's Day International ▲ St. Basil's Day Greece ▲ Gantan-Sai Japan, Shinto ■ Independence Day Sudan, Haiti	<b>2</b>  ■ Berchtold's Day Switzerland ■ New Year's Bank Holiday Scotland	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>  ■ Independence Day Myanmar	<b>5</b>  ▲ Guru Gobind Singh's Birthday Sikh	<b>6</b>  ○ Full Moon  ✓▲ Christmas Armenia Christian ▲ Three Kings' Day Christian ▲ Epiphany Christian	<b>7</b>  ✓▲ Christmas Christian - Coptic & Eastern Orthodox																																																																																																			
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<b>22</b>  ● New Moon  ✓▲ Chinese / Lunar New Year Buddhist - China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Vietnam ✓▲ Seollal Korea	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>  ■ Day of Unification Romania	<b>25</b>  ■ Robert Burns' Night Scotland, Ireland	<b>26</b>  ▲ Basant Pancham Hindu ■ Australia Day Australia ■ Republic Day India	<b>27</b>  ● International Holocaust Remembrance Day. UN	<b>28</b>																																																																																																			
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>  ■ Sadeh Iran, Zoroastrian ■ Education Day Greece	<b>31</b>  ■ St Brigid's Day Ireland ■ Anniversary Day - Auckland New Zealand	<p><b>Lesbian, Gay, Transgender, Bisexual, History Month UK</b></p> <p><b>Jan-Feb Midwinter Ceremony</b></p> <p><b>Indigenous Iroquois</b></p>				<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">December 2022</th> <th colspan="7">February 2023</th> </tr> <tr> <th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th> <th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td> <td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td> <td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td> </tr> <tr> <td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td> <td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td> <td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	December 2022							February 2023							S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S					1	2	3				1	2	3	4	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	26	27	28				
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# February 2023 Observances

**Black History Month Canada** In December of 1995, the Parliament of Canada recognized February as Black History Month following a motion introduced by the first African Canadian woman elected to Parliament, Jean Augustine. The presence of peoples of African descent in Canada dates back farther than Samuel de Champlain's first voyage down the St. Lawrence River.

**Black History Month USA** Black History Month, and more importantly, the study of black history, is greatly owed to Dr. Carter G. Woodson, who first launched "Negro History Week" in 1926. Woodson chose February because it marks the birthdays of two men who greatly impacted the American black population. Abraham Lincoln (president of the United States who freed slaves during the Civil War), and Frederick Douglass (who worked to end slavery) have birthdays in February. The purpose of this month is to recognize the contributions of Black Americans and develop a better understanding of the Black experience.

**Jan-Feb Hopi Holy Cycle Indigenous** Buffalo dances are performed in Hopi reserves. Days may vary according to community.

**Feb 1 Abolition of Slavery Mauritius** The struggle for freedom of the slaves in Mauritius during the Dutch period between 1638 and 1710 is remembered and honored.

**Feb 2 Imbolg Wicca** 'Imbolg' comes from an archaic Gaelic expression 'in the belly', which signaled the first stirrings of life within the womb of mother earth. Corn dolls are burned as offerings to the sun to hasten his return.

**Feb 3 Setsubun-Sai Japan** Setsubun-sai is known as Bean Throwing Night. Beans are thrown to protect against demons with shouts of 'Devil out, Good Fortune in'.

**Feb 5 Thaipoosam Cavadee India, Mauritius** Celebrated by Hindus of Tamil origin in honour of Kartikeya, Granter of Wishes, and the second son of Shiva. Devotees with their tongues, cheeks and body pierced with needles, hooks and skewers, dance their way trance-like to the temple carrying the 'Cavadee' - a wooden arch covered with flowers with a pot of milk at each end of its base.

**Feb 6 Waitangi Day New Zealand** This day commemorates the signing of a treaty at Waitangi on 6th February 1840 by a group of Maori chiefs and the British Government. It honours the rights of the British Crown and also the rights of the Maori people, which are now in the process of being reclaimed.

**Feb 6 Tu B'Shevat (Arbor Day) Jewish** This day celebrates Judaism's roots in the natural world. It is a holiday and known as the New Year for Trees. Special meals include eating the seven fruits of the land - wheat, barley, figs, grapes, pomegranates, olives and dates.

**Feb 12 Lincoln's Birthday USA** President Lincoln was the 16th president of the United States. He was born February 12, 1809 and assassinated on Good Friday, April 14, 1865.

**Feb 14 Valentine's Day Canada, UK, USA** One version states that a priest named Valentine was martyred on February 14, 269 A.D. in Rome for secretly marrying couples against the orders of the Roman Emperor, Claudius II. This was the night before a festival called Lupercalia associated with fertility.

**Feb 18 Shivratri Hindu** On Shiva's night, the Hindu deity Lord Shiva performed the Tandav, the cosmic dance of creation and destruction. A 24-hour fast is kept and devotees make pilgrimages to major shrines for worship.

**Feb 20 Presidents Day (Obsvd) USA** A US Federal holiday that celebrates the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln, born Feb. 12, 1809, and George Washington, born February 22, 1732.

**Feb 20 Louis Riel Day Aboriginal, Canada** He was the famous Metis leader who in 1885 led a rebellion and lost against the Canadian authorities because he feared more Metis land would be taken away by the settlers. Today his name is a symbol for Native independence.

**Feb 21 Losar (New Year) Tibet, Buddhist** The Tibetan New Year is called Losar and is celebrated for three days by visiting, feasting and the relaxation the monastic discipline.

**Feb 21 Pancake Tuesday UK** Shrove Tuesday (Mardi Gras in French which means Fat Tuesday) is the last day before the beginning of Lent. Strict Christian Lenten rules prohibited the eating of all dairy products during Lent, so pancakes were made to use up their supplies of eggs, milk, butter and other fats. Pancake races are held in many parts of England.

**Feb 21 Carnival Parade Brazil** A two-day celebration before Ash Wednesday. It is called the Mardi Gras in Brazil.

**Feb 21 Shrove Tuesday Christian** This is the day before Lent. Taken from the old word 'shrive', it means forgiveness. Traditionally it was a time to give up meat and dairy foods.

**Feb 22 Ash Wednesday (Lent Begins) Christian** This day marks the beginning of Lent. Ash symbolizes sorrow for wrong doings and foreheads of churchgoers are marked with the shape of the cross with ashes as a sign of penitence.

**Feb 22 Abu Simbel Festival Egypt** Built by Ramses II, his temple is angled so that the inner sanctum lights up twice a year - once on the anniversary of his rise to the throne and on Oct 22, celebrating his birthday. Crowds pack in the temple before sunrise to watch the shafts of light illuminate the statues of Ramses, Ra and Amon. The other date for this event is Oct. 22.

**Feb 25 Great Prayer Festival Tibet** Monks from the Three Great Monasteries of Tibet assemble in Jikhang to pray to Shakyamuni's image as if it were the Living Buddha. Philosophical debates are held among the candidates for the Doctor of Metaphysics. Pilgrims come from every corner of Tibet.

**Feb 25-Mar 1 Intercalary Days Bahá'í** There are four or five days inserted into the calendar called Ayyam-i-ha adjusting the Bahá'í year to the solar cycle. This precedes a month of fasting from March 2-20. Gifts are exchanged, parties and public meetings are held to share the faith.

**Feb 27 Clean Monday (Great Lent Begins) Christian - Coptic & Eastern Orthodox** It is the beginning of the forty-day fast when Christians imitate Jesus' withdrawal into the wilderness before his crucifixion.

**Feb 28 Kalevala Day Finland** Elias Lonnrot, a country doctor, folklorist and philologist compiled the Kalevala, Finland's national epic in 1835. This day is observed country wide with lectures, parades and recitations to honour him.

# FEBRUARY 2023

**Black History Month** **Canada, USA**  
**Jan-Feb Hopi Holy Cycle** **Indigenous**

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# March 2023 Observances

**Women's History Month USA, UK** National Women's History Month began as a single week and as a local event. In 1978, Sonoma County, California, sponsored a women's history week to promote the teaching of women's history. The week of March 8th was selected to include 'International Women's Day.' This day is rooted in such ideas and events as a woman's right to vote and a woman's right to work, women's strikes for bread, women's strikes for peace at the end of World War I, and the U.N. Charter declaration of gender equality at the end of World War II. This day is an occasion to review how far women have come in their struggle for equality, peace and development. In 1981, Congress passed a resolution making the week a national celebration, and in 1987 expanded it to the full month of March. In **Canada**, Women's History month is celebrated in October.

**Mar 1 St. David's Day Wales** He is the patron saint of Wales and died on this day.

**Mar 2-20 Alá (19-Day Fast Begins) Bahá'í** The nineteenth and final month in the Bahá'í calendar and the time of the 19-day fast in preparation of their new year, Now Ruz.

**Mar 3 World Day Of Prayer International** Held on the first Friday of March, the World Day of Prayer is a worldwide movement of Christian women of many traditions who came together in 1927 to observe a common day of prayer each year. It is a movement initiated and carried out by women in more than 170 countries and regions bringing together women of various races, cultures and traditions in closer fellowship, understanding and action throughout the year.

**Mar 7 Holi Sikh, Hindu** According to myth, a tyrannical king's son, Pralad, refused to worship his father as God and was condemned to death by burning. However, the boy's aunt, named Holika, transferred her own immunity from fire to Pralad, and burned to death in his place. This festival of colour celebrates Spring, where people play with liquid and powdered colours, light bonfires and blow horns to celebrate the destruction of Holika.

**Mar 7 Purim Jewish** Purim is known as the Feast of Lots, which celebrates the deliverance of Jews in Persia from the machinations of Haman. Jews dress in costume and give gifts of food to each other.

**Mar 7 Butter Lamp Festival Tibet, Buddhist** To celebrate Shakyamuni's victory over non-Buddhist opponents in 1409, Lord Neu Dzong, a noted patron of Tsongkapa, illuminated numerous butter lamps. The tradition has since then flourished.

**Mar 8 Holi Mohalla (Bikarami) Sikh** Mock battles are fought and martial arts are displayed in honour of Guru Gobind Singh, who took to armed struggle against tyranny.

**Mar 12 Girl Scout Day Canada, USA** Juliette 'Daisy' Gordon Low assembled 18 girls from Savannah, Georgia, on March 12, 1912, for a local Girl Scout meeting. She believed that all girls should be given the opportunity to develop physically, mentally, and spiritually. With the goal of bringing girls out of isolated home environments and into community service and the open air, Girl Scouts hiked, went on camping trips, learned how to tell time by the stars, and studied first aid.

**Mar 16-20 Gahambar Hamaspathmaedem Zoroastrian** This day celebrates the creation of human beings.

**Mar 17 St. Patrick's Day N. Ireland, Ireland** The death anniversary of their patron saint. He used the three-leaved shamrock to explain the Christian idea of the Holy Trinity, thus the idea of wearing a shamrock.

**Mar 19 Mothering Sunday UK, Ireland** Mothering Sunday is the celebration of motherhood in UK, and takes place on the fourth Sunday of Lent. Traditionally children bring gifts of flowers and chocolates to their mothers. Breakfast in bed is also an expectation, as is a relaxing, carefree day. It originated with the Victorian practice of allowing servants to return home to visit their mothers on this day.

**Mar 19 St. Joseph's Day Christian** St. Joseph's Day is celebrated throughout most of Italy and by the Italian communities in North America. He was the foster father of Jesus and is the universal patron of the Catholic Church. According to legend, when a severe drought struck western Sicily in the Middle Ages, the people of that area prayed to St. Joseph, asking him to intercede for them and send rain. Their prayer was granted and since then they honour St. Joseph by helping the needy in their community.

**Mar 20 Eostre Wicca** A fertility festival celebrating the birth of Spring. The word Easter is derived from the Maiden Goddess. Celebrations including lighting fires at sunrise, ringing bells, and decorating hard-boiled eggs, an ancient Pagan custom associated with the Goddess

**Mar 20 Poutuerangi Aboriginal/Maori, New Zealand** From Aboriginal roots of the Maori in New Zealand Poutuerangi is celebrated. This is the Fall season and Autumn Equinox in the Maori calendar where they harvest their crops. Great feasting and celebration goes on at this time of year.

**Mar 20 Shunki-Sorei-Sai Shinto** Ancestors are given reverence at home altars and considered active members of the living family. Gravesites are cleaned and purified.

**Mar 20 Shunbun no hi Japan** During the time of the Spring Equinox, Buddhists meditate on the harmony in the universe.

**Mar 21 Harmony Day Australia** Harmony Day, which began in 1999, occurs on 21 March each year and celebrates Australia's success as a diverse society united by a common set of values.

**Mar 21 Now Ruz (New Year) Afghanistan, Iran - Bahá'í, Zoroastrian, Islam Ismaili** Nowruz means "New Day" and is the traditional celebration of the ancient Persian New Year. Iranians celebrate it on March 20th. It is also a holy day for Zoroastrian, Sufi, Ismaili and the Baha'í faiths. Persians (Iranians, Afghans and Tajiks) and other Indo-Iranian groups (Kurds, Armenians, Azerbaijanis and Balochs) start preparing for the Nowruz with a major spring-cleaning of their houses and the purchase of new clothes to wear for the new year. They visit the elders of their family, then the rest of their family and finally their friends.

**Mar 23 Ramadan Begins Islam** This is the holiest month in the Islamic Year and begins at the sighting of the new moon. It commemorates the period during which Prophet Mohammad received divine revelations. Observing Muslims fast between the hours of sunrise and sunset during the entire month, read the Qu'ran and worship in the mosque or at home. The dates vary by a day depending on whether the Saudi Arabia or the North American Calendar is being observed. This calendar follows the North American dates which is a day later.

**Mar 25 Annunciation Christian** Annunciation commemorates the day Jesus's mother, Mary was visited by an angel to inform her that she was blessed and chosen to be mother of Christ.

**Mar 25 Evangelismou Greece** The Greeks combined the national Independence Day with the Annunciation and what was earlier believed to be the spring equinox. Greeks wear traditional clothes and celebrate with speeches and folk dancing.

**Mar 26 Birth Of Prophet Zarathustra (Fasli) Zoroastrian** Zarathushtra (Zoroaster in Greek; Zartosht in India and Persia) is the founder of the Zoroastrian religion dating back to sometime between 1500 and 1000 BCE. Zoroastrianism became the state religion of various Persian empires, until the 7th Century CE. When Arabs, followers of Islam, invaded Persia in 650 CE, a small number of Zoroastrians fled to India where most are concentrated today.

**Mar 30 Ram Navami Hindu** Ram Navami celebrates the birthday of Rama, the seventh incarnation of God Vishnu. Hindus read the Ramayan, a Hindu epic, which tells the story of Rama, during the previous eight days.

# MARCH 2023

**Women's History Month**  
USA, UK

February 2023

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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			Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																	
			1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Chalanda März Switzerland</li> <li>■ St. David's Day Wales</li> <li>■ Baba Marta (Mar-2) Bulgaria</li> <li>■ Independence Day Bosnia</li> </ul>	2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▲ Alá (19-Day Fast Begins thru Mar 20) Bahá'í</li> </ul>	3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● World Day Of Prayer International</li> </ul>	4																																																	
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	8 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▲ Hola Mohalla (Bikarami) Sikh</li> <li>● Int'l Women's Day UN</li> </ul>	9	10	11																																																	
5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Full Moon</li> </ul>	6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Independence Day Ghana</li> </ul>	7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓▲ Holi Sikh, Hindu</li> <li>✓▲ Purim Jewish</li> <li>▲ Butter Lamp Festival Tibet, Buddhist</li> </ul>	12 <p>DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS International</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Girl Scout Day Canada, USA</li> <li>■ National Day Mauritius</li> </ul>	13	14	15 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Memorial Day Hungary</li> </ul>																																																	
19 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▲ St. Joseph's Day Christian</li> <li>■ Mothering Sunday UK, Ireland</li> </ul>	20 <p>SPRING EQUINOX International</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▲ Eostre Wicca</li> <li>▲ Shunki-Sorei-Sai Shinto</li> <li>■ Shunbun no hi Japan</li> <li>■ Poutuerangi Indigenous/Maori, New Zealand</li> <li>■ Independence Day Tunisia</li> <li>● Day of the Francophonie International</li> </ul>	21 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● New Moon</li> <li>✓▲ Now Ruz (New Year) Afghanistan, Iran - Bahá'í, Zoroastrian, Islam Ismaili</li> <li>■ Harmony Day Australia</li> <li>● Int'l Day for Elimination of Racial Discrimination UN</li> </ul>	22 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Emancipation Day Puerto Rico</li> <li>● World Day of Water UN</li> </ul>	23 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▲ Ramadan Begins Islam</li> <li>● World Meteorological Day UN</li> </ul>	24	25 <p>EARTH HOUR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▲ Annunciation Christian</li> <li>■ Evangelismou Greece</li> </ul>																																																	
26 <p>BRITISH SUMMER TIME BEGINS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▲ Birth Of Prophet Zarathustra (Fasli) Zoroastrian</li> <li>■ Independence Day Bangladesh</li> </ul>	27	28	29	30 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▲ Ram Navami Hindu</li> </ul>	31	<p>April 2023</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>S</th> <th>M</th> <th>T</th> <th>W</th> <th>T</th> <th>F</th> <th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> <td>7</td> <td>8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9</td> <td>10</td> <td>11</td> <td>12</td> <td>13</td> <td>14</td> <td>15</td> </tr> <tr> <td>16</td> <td>17</td> <td>18</td> <td>19</td> <td>20</td> <td>21</td> <td>22</td> </tr> <tr> <td>23</td> <td>24</td> <td>25</td> <td>26</td> <td>27</td> <td>28</td> <td>29</td> </tr> <tr> <td>30</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	S	M	T	W	T	F	S							1	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						
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# April 2023 Observances

**Multicultural Communications Month International** Multicultural communications may seem difficult at first - differences in languages, backgrounds, customs and the like all seem a challenge. By learning more about our different cultures, it becomes easier to interact. This month has been dedicated to further this cause.

- Apr 1 Farvardin Iran** It is the 13th day after Nowruz or New Year. The number 13 is considered an unlucky number for the Persians, and therefore everyone leaves home for the day to go on picnics or trips.
- Apr 2 Palm Sunday Christian** Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey and was cheered by crowds who strew palms branches in his path. It is observed by worship services and parades using palm branches.
- Apr 4 Mahavira Jayanti Jain** This day celebrates the birthday of Lord Mahavira who was the 24th leader of the Jain religion and born around 599 B.C.
- Apr 5 Ch'ing Ming Festival China, Taiwan** A national holiday when family graves are visited to ask for the blessings of the departed spirits.
- Apr 6-13 Pesach/Passover Jewish** Begin previous sundown at 6pm, Pesach lasts for eight days. This time commemorates the Exodus of the Israelites from Egypt. It begins with a ritual meal 'Seder' when no leavened bread is consumed with special prayers and symbolic foods.
- Apr 6 Holy Thursday Christian** On this day, Jesus ate the Last Supper and washed the feet of his disciples prior to his arrest and crucifixion.
- Apr 6 Chakri Day Thailand** A national holiday to honour King Rama I, who founded the Chakri Dynasty in 1782 and the founder of Bangkok as the capital of Thailand.
- Apr 6 Organization of The Church Christian - Mormon** The Church for Latter-day Saints was founded on the sixth of April 1830 at Fayette, New York.
- Apr 7 Good Friday Christian** This day commemorates the passion and death by crucifixion of Jesus and is a solemn day. Italian Catholics have a procession called the Way of the Cross.
- Apr 9 Easter Christian** This day celebrates the resurrection of Jesus from his grave. Most Christians welcome Easter Sunday with a sunrise service.
- Apr 10 Easter Monday Christian** Easter Monday commemorates the meeting of the women at Jesus' tomb with an angel who assured them that Jesus had been resurrected from death. It is observed as a holiday in some countries.
- Apr 13 Songkran/New Year Cambodia, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand** In southeast Asia, Songkran is recognized as the New Year for Buddhists. For Thais, it is a three-day religious festival in which homes are routinely cleaned, and water is sprinkled on monks paying visits and on statues of Buddha.
- Apr 13 Ugadi India, Mauritius, Nepal** Ugadi marks the beginning of the new Hindu lunar calendar. Celebrated mainly in the southern states of India, people awake before the break of day, bathe and decorate the entrance of their homes with mango leaves. They eat bitter Neem leaves with sweet jaggery to signify the bitter and sweet of life.
- Apr 13 Maundy Thursday Christian - Coptic & Eastern Orthodox** On this day, Jesus ate the Last Supper and washed the feet of his disciples prior to his arrest and crucifixion.
- Apr 14 Baisakhi Bangladesh - Sikh, Hindu** The first day of the solar year, this is an agricultural festival celebrating the harvest, especially in North India. Tamils and Sri Lankans celebrate their New Year on this day. In Kerala, South India this day is called Vishu. Especially important to the Sikhs, it marks this day in 1699, when the tenth Guru, Guru Gobind Singh, established the order of 'Khalsa'.
- Apr 14 Holy Friday Christian - Coptic & Eastern Orthodox** This day commemorates the passion and death by crucifixion of Jesus and is a solemn day. Eastern Orthodox members fast on this day. Macedonians make a plashtanitsa or picture of the dead Jesus on a large cloth to be carried in a procession.
- Apr 15 Adam's Peak Pilgrimage Sri Lanka** It is an ancient pilgrimage site to the sacred mountain, Sri Pada. According to legend, when Buddha visited Sri Lanka, he planted one foot on the north of the royal city, and the other foot on Sumana-Kuta (Adam's Peak), about a hundred miles distance.
- Apr 16 Pasha/Easter Christian - Coptic & Eastern Orthodox** This day celebrates the resurrection of Jesus from his grave. Most Christians welcome Easter Sunday with a sunrise service.
- Apr 17 Easter Monday Christian - Coptic & Eastern Orthodox** Easter Monday commemorates the meeting of the women at Jesus' tomb with an angel who assured them that Jesus had been resurrected from death.
- Apr 18 Laylat al-Qadr Islam** Night of Power, commemorates the revelation of the Qur'an to Prophet Muhammad in 610 CE. It begins the previous evening.
- Apr 18 Yom HaShoah Israel, Jewish** Holocaust Memorial Day commemorates the death of 6 million Jews by the Nazi regime.
- Apr 21-May 2 Feast Of Ridvan Bahá'í** 'Ridvan' means paradise and the 12-day festival is the holiest time for the Bahá'ís. It commemorates the 12 days that Baha'u'llah spent in the Garden of Ridvan in the last days of his exile in Baghdad and announced that he was the prophet whose coming had been foretold. The Bahá'ís do not work on the first, ninth and twelfth day of Ridvan.
- Apr 21 Kartini Day Indonesia** This day commemorates Indonesia's first women's emancipationist. There are parades, lectures and social activities attended by women, all wearing their regional dress. Mothers aren't allowed to work as the family does the house chores. Many go on a pilgrimage to the grave of Kartini who died at age 24.
- Apr 22 Eid-ul-Fitr Islam** This marks the end of the Ramadan fast and is celebrated for 3 days. Date of observance may vary according to sighting of the new moon. Dates vary by a day depending on whether the Saudi Arabia or the North American Calendar is being observed. This calendar follows the North American dates, which are a day later.
- Apr 22 Akshaya Tritiya Jain** This day celebrates the day when Lord Rishabha broke his first year-long fast by drinking sugar cane juice. To begin anything new is considered very auspicious on this day.
- Apr 23 St. George's Day Christian** He is the patron saint of England. The Bulgarians and Macedonians celebrate it on May 6. The red cross on St. George's armour and white tunic is now the symbol of the International Red Cross and the flag of England. It also forms part of the Union Jack Flag of Scotland and Ireland.
- Apr 24 Martyrs Day Armenia** Commemorates the genocide from 1915 to 1923 of Armenians in Ottoman Empire Turkey.
- Apr 25 Yom HaZikaron (Memorial Day) Israel** This is Israel's Memorial Day honouring soldiers who died fighting for their country.
- Apr 27-29 Gathering Of Nations Pow Wow Indigenous, USA** Albuquerque, New Mexico is the venue of over 700 tribes and nations participating in a three-day event where over 3,000 participants share, teach and exchange traditions.
- Apr 29 Showa no hi Japan** An annual holiday, it honors the birthday of Emperor Showa (Hirohito), the reigning Emperor before, during, and after World War II (from 1926 to 1989). The official purpose of the holiday is "To reflect on Japan's Showa period when recovery was made after turbulent days, and to think of the country's future."
- Apr 30-May 4 Gahambar Maidyozarem Zoroastrian** This day celebrates the creation of the sky.

# A P R I L 2 0 2 3

## Multicultural Communications Month International

March 2023

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May 2023

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Saturday

1

■ Farvardin Iran  
■ April Fools' Day  
 Canada, UK, USA

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; color: red;">2</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; color: blue;">▲ Palm Sunday Christian</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; color: orange;">● World Autism Awareness Day UN</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; color: red;">3</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; color: red;">4</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; color: green;">✓▲ Mahavira Jayanti Jain</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; color: green;">■ Midori No Hi Japan</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; color: green;">■ Independence Day Senegal</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; color: red;">5</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; color: green;">■ Ch'ing Ming Festival China, Taiwan</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; color: red;">6</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.5em;">○ Full Moon</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; color: red;">✓▲ Pesach / Passover (Apr 6 - Apr 13) Jewish</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; color: blue;">▲ Holy Thursday Christian</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; color: blue;">▲ Organization of The Church Christian - Mormon</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; color: green;">■ Chakri Day Thailand</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; color: red;">7</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; color: red;">✓▲ Good Friday Christian</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; color: blue;">▲ Jalál (2nd Month) Bahá'í</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; color: orange;">● World Health Day UN</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; color: red;">8</p>
<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; color: red;">9</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; color: red;">✓▲ Easter Christian</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; color: green;">■ Independence Day Georgia</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; color: red;">10</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; color: blue;">▲ Easter Monday Christian</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; color: red;">11</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; color: red;">12</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em; color: red;">DAY OF PINK International</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; color: red;">13</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; color: red;">✓▲ Songkran/New Year Cambodia, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; color: blue;">▲ Maundy Thursday Christian - Coptic &amp; Eastern Orthodox</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; color: green;">■ Ugadi India, Mauritius, Nepal</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; color: red;">14</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; color: red;">✓▲ Baisakhi Bangladesh, Sikh, Hindu</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; color: red;">✓▲ Holy Friday Christian - Coptic &amp; Eastern Orthodox</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; color: green;">■ Bown Pinai / New Year Laos</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; color: red;">15</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; color: green;">■ Adam's Peak Pilgrimage Sri Lanka</p>
<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; color: red;">16</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; color: red;">✓▲ Pasha/Easter Christian - Coptic &amp; Eastern Orthodox</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; color: red;">17</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; color: blue;">▲ Easter Monday Christian - Coptic &amp; Eastern Orthodox</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; color: green;">■ Emancipation Day USA</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; color: green;">■ Independence Day Syria</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; color: red;">18</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; color: blue;">▲ Laylat al-Qadr Islam</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; color: green;">■ Yom HaShoah Israel, Jewish</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; color: green;">■ Family Day South Africa</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; color: green;">■ Independence Day Zimbabwe</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; color: red;">19</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; color: green;">■ Administrative Professionals Day Canada, USA</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; color: red;">20</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.5em;">● New Moon</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; color: red;">21</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; color: red;">✓▲ Feast Of Ridvan (thru May 2) Bahá'í</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; color: green;">■ Kartini Day Indonesia</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; color: red;">22</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em; color: red;">EARTH DAY International</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; color: red;">✓▲ Eid-ul-Fitr Islam</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; color: blue;">▲ Akshaya Tritiya Jain</p>
<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; color: red;">23</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; color: green;">■ St. George's Day Christian</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; color: green;">■ National Sovereignty &amp; Children's Day Turkey</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; color: red;">24</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; color: red;">25</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; color: green;">■ Yom HaZikaron (Memorial Day) Israel</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; color: green;">■ Liberation Day Italy</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; color: green;">■ Anzac Day Australia, New Zealand</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; color: red;">26</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; color: green;">■ DayYom HaAtzma'ut (Independence Day) Israel</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; color: red;">27</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; color: blue;">▲ Jamál (3rd Month) Bahá'í</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; color: green;">■ Freedom Day South Africa</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; color: green;">■ Gathering of Nations (Apr 27-29) Indigenous, USA</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; color: green;">■ Kings Day Netherlands</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; color: green;">■ Independence Day Togo</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; color: green;">■ Daughter/Son To Work USA</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; color: red;">28</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; color: green;">■ Arbor Day USA</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; color: red;">29</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; color: green;">■ Showa no hi Japan</p>
<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; color: red;">30</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; color: blue;">▲ Gahambar Maidyozarem (30 - May 4) Zoroastrian</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; color: green;">■ Walpurgis Night Sweden</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; color: red;">30</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; color: green;">■ Martyrs Day Armenia</p>					

# May 2023 Observances

**Asian Heritage Month Canada** The Senate of Canada passed a motion in December 2001, designating May as Asian Heritage month. Canadians take part in festivities commemorating the legacy of Asian Canadians and their many contributions which have helped Canada become the multicultural and diverse nation it is today.

**Asian Heritage Month USA** Generations of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have strengthened the US as a nation. Many ethnic groups worked tirelessly to build a national railroad, paving the way for western expansion. The first Asian/Pacific Heritage Week was celebrated in 1979, in response to little recognition of this population during the 1976 bicentennial. By 1990, the celebration was one month long and then made official in 1992.

**National Older Peoples Month USA** It was established by presidential proclamation in 1963. The entire nation is encouraged to pay tribute in some way to older persons in their communities. It is celebrated across the country through ceremonies and events.

**Jewish Heritage Month Jewish** May is declared Jewish Heritage Month in Canada and USA. It provides an opportunity to reflect on and celebrate the incredible contributions that Jewish people have made to the country and in communities across North America.

**May Hopi Kachina Dances Indigenous** During late spring and early summer, long lines of Kachina Dancers representing many spirit-powers, perform dances in Hopi pueblos.

**April-May Iroquois Strawberry Season Indigenous** Thanksgiving and Great Feather Dance. Early summer.

**May 1 Beltane Wicca** Greets the summer. It takes its name from the Celtic God Bel who unites with the Earth Goddess on this day. It was a mid summer fertility festival in Celtic paganism. Maypole dances are presently held.

**May 1 Santa Cruzan Day Philippines** Filipinos consider this the first day of spring. It commemorates the corresponding day in the 4th century A.D. when St. Helena, the mother of Emperor Constantine of Rome found the holy cross on which Jesus was crucified.

**May 3 Eid-ul-Fitr Islam** This marks the end of the Ramadan fast and is celebrated for 3 days. Date of observance may vary according to sighting of the new moon. Dates vary by a day depending on whether the Saudi Arabia or the North American Calendar is being observed. This calendar follows the North American dates, which are a day later.

**May 4 Yom HaZikaron (Memorial Day) Israel** Israel's Memorial Day honouring soldiers who died fighting for their country.

**May 5 Kodomo No Hi Japan** Children's Day promotes family unity in Japan celebrating the relationship of parents with their sons and daughters.

**May 5 Cinco De Mayo Mexico** It marks the victory of the Mexican Army over the French at the 'Batalla de Puebla' in 1862. Although the Mexican army was eventually defeated, it came to represent a symbol of Mexican unity and patriotism. It is celebrated on a much larger scale in the United States.

**May 5 Wesak Buddhist** The most important Buddhist festival, Wesak celebrates the birth, enlightenment and death of Buddha as one event. Different cultures observe this day with different customs, for example, Sri Lankans light lanterns, Vietnamese purchase captive animals and release them, and Koreans host a lantern parade.

**May 9 Lag BaOmer Jewish** In Israel, it is celebrated as a symbol for the fighting Jewish spirit.

**May 12 Matsu Festival China, Taiwan** Matsu saved her brother from drowning and at the age of 28 and ascended into heaven. She earned the title of Goddess of the Sea and is the patron of fishermen. There are rites and processions at Matsu temples.

**May 13 Our Lady of Fatima Portugal** On May 13, 1917 in Portugal, three shepherd children saw and conversed with the Virgin Mary in a vision. This event occurred on the 13th day of the month for six months in a row.

**May 14 Mother's Day Canada, USA** In 1914, the 2nd Sunday in May was officially declared Mother's Day by President Wilson. Anna Jarvis of Philadelphia first suggested a day on which to honour mothers and motherhood.

**May 18 Ascension Christian** This day commemorates the ascension of Jesus into Heaven.

**May 22 Victoria Day Canada** Queen Victoria's birthday (May 24, 1837-1901) was declared a holiday by the Legislature of the Province of Canada in 1845.

**May 22 Day of the Patriots-Quebec Canada** Commemorates the French patriots of 1837-1838 for their contribution to freedom and national recognition.

**May 24 Declaration of Bahá'í** The Bahá'í faith began in Persia (now Iran) on this day in 1844, by the prophet Báb who announced his mission as the founder. The event is celebrated about two hours after sunset.

**May 24 Indigenous Awareness Week Indigenous, Canada** Aboriginal Awareness Week, first introduced in 1992, is held on the four days that follow the Victoria Day long weekend. It was designed to increase awareness of Aboriginal peoples among federal public service employees.

**May 26 Buddha's Birthday Hong Kong, Korea** Buddhism, the fourth largest religion in the world, being exceeded in numbers only by Christianity, Islam and Hinduism was founded in Northern India by the first known Buddha, Siddhartha Gautama.

**May 26-27 Shavuot Jewish** Begins previous sundown at 6pm. Called the Feast of Weeks or Pentecost which means 50 and therefore celebrated on the 50th day at the end of Passover. Shavuot celebrates the time when the Ten Commandments were given to Moses on Mount Sinai. This feast lasts 2 days.

**May 26 National Sorry Day Australia** Also known as Journey of Healing Day commemorates the history of forcible removal of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander children from their families and the painful repercussions of that action.

**May 28 Pentecost Christian** The holy Spirit was felt amongst the 12 apostles after Jesus' death. New members of the church are baptized on this day. It is called White Sunday because white clothes are worn for baptism.

**May 29 Ascension of Bahá'u'lláh Bahá'í** The prophet-founder of the Bahá'í Faith passed away near Haifa, Israel. The event is observed at the actual time of his passing at 3am.

**May 30 Joan of Arc Day France** St. Joan of Arc is the patroness of soldiers and of France. A peasant girl who, believing that she was acting under divine guidance, led the French army in a momentous victory at Orléans. She was burned at the stake on May 30, 1431 at the age of nineteen.

# MAY 2023

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
<p>April 2023</p> <p>S M T W T F S</p> <p>1</p> <p>2 3 4 5 6 7 8</p> <p>9 10 11 12 13 14 15</p> <p>16 17 18 19 20 21 22</p> <p>23 24 25 26 27 28 29</p> <p>30</p>	<p><b>1</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▲ Beltane Wicca</li> <li>■ Mothers' Day Portugal, Spain</li> <li>■ Vappu Day Finland</li> <li>■ Santa Cruzan Day Philippines</li> <li>● Labour Day International</li> </ul>	<p><b>2</b></p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Constitution Day Japan, Poland</li> <li>● World Press Freedom Day UN</li> </ul>	<p><b>4</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ National Day Of Prayer USA</li> <li>■ Memorial Day Netherlands</li> </ul>	<p><b>5</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Full Moon PENUMBRAL ECLIPSE Africa, Asia, Australia</li> <li>✓▲ Wesak Buddhist</li> <li>■ Kodomo No Hi Japan</li> <li>■ Cinco De Mayo Mexico</li> <li>■ Liberation Day Netherlands</li> </ul>	<p><b>6</b></p>	
<b>Sunday</b>							
<b>7</b>	<p><b>8</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ May Day Bank Holiday Ireland, UK</li> <li>● World Red Cross Day International</li> </ul>	<p><b>9</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Lag BaOmer Jewish</li> <li>■ Victory Day Russia</li> <li>■ Liberation Day Channel Islands</li> </ul>	<p><b>10</b></p>	<p><b>11</b></p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Matsu Festival China, Taiwan</li> </ul>	<p><b>13</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Our Lady of Fatima Portugal</li> </ul>	
<b>14</b>	<p><b>15</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Independence Day Paraguay</li> <li>● Int'l Day of Families International</li> </ul>	<p><b>16</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▲ Ázamat (4th Month) Bahá'í</li> </ul>	<p><b>17</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Constitution Day Norway</li> <li>● International Day Against Homophobia LGBT</li> <li>● World Information Society Day UN</li> </ul>	<p><b>18</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▲ Ascension Christian</li> </ul>	<p><b>19</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● New Moon</li> <li>■ Ataturk Commemoration Sports Day Greece, Turkey</li> </ul>	<p><b>20</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ National Day Cameroon</li> </ul>	
<p><b>21</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Armed Forces Day USA</li> <li>■ Navy Day Chile</li> <li>● World Day for Cultural Diversity UN</li> </ul>	<p><b>22</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓■ Victoria Day Canada</li> <li>✓■ Day of the Patriots-Quebec Canada</li> <li>■ National Day Yemen</li> <li>● Int'l Day for Biological Diversity UN</li> </ul>	<p><b>23</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Labour Day Jamaica</li> <li>● African Liberation Day International</li> </ul>	<p><b>24</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▲ Declaration of Báb Bahá'í</li> <li>■ Indigenous Awareness Week</li> <li>■ Indigenous Canadian</li> <li>■ Bermuda Day Bermuda</li> <li>■ Independence Day Eritrea</li> </ul>	<p><b>25</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▲ Ascension Christian - Coptic &amp; Eastern Orthodox</li> <li>■ Independence Day Jordan</li> <li>■ Revolution Day Argentina</li> </ul>	<p><b>26</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓▲ Shavuot (May 26 - 27) Jewish</li> <li>■ Buddha's Birthday Hong Kong, Korea</li> <li>■ National Sorry Day Australia</li> <li>■ Independence Day Guyana</li> </ul>	<p><b>27</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Republic Day Nepal</li> <li>■ Republic Day Azerbaijan</li> </ul>	
<p><b>28</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▲ Pentecost Christian</li> <li>■ Mother's Day France, Sweden</li> </ul>	<p><b>29</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓▲ Ascension of Bahá'u'lláh Bahá'í</li> <li>✓■ Memorial Day USA</li> <li>■ Spring Bank Holiday UK</li> <li>● United Nations Peacekeepers Day UN</li> </ul>	<p><b>30</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Joan of Arc Day France</li> </ul>	<p><b>31</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● World No-Tobacco Day UN</li> </ul>	<p>May Hopi Kachina Dances <b>Indigenous</b></p> <p>Iroquois Strawberry Season <b>Indigenous</b></p> <p>Asian Heritage Month <b>Canada, USA</b></p> <p>Jewish American Heritage Month <b>USA</b></p> <p>National Older Peoples Month <b>USA</b></p>			<p>June 2023</p> <p>S M T W T F S</p> <p>1 2 3</p> <p>4 5 6 7 8 9 10</p> <p>11 12 13 14 15 16 17</p> <p>18 19 20 21 22 23 24</p> <p>25 26 27 28 29 30</p>

# June 2023 Observances

**National Indigenous History Month Canada** June is National Indigenous History Month as declared by the Canadian Parliament in 2009. It is a fitting tribute to the heritage and diversity of First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities across Canada. Indigenous History Month is an opportunity not only to recognize the historic contributions of Indigenous peoples to the development of Canada, but also the strength of present-day Indigenous communities and their promise for the future.

**Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Pride Month USA,**

**Canada, Australia** Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered (LGBT) Pride Events are celebrated by communities across Canada and United States on different dates during June through to early August. There is a Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras in Sydney, Australia annually in February/March. During this time people find that they are not alone and can take pride in their community's history. The most significant date in LGBT history occurring in June, was the 3-day protest in 1969 at the Stonewall Inn in New York City, an event that marked the first time the gay community joined together to fight for its rights, thereby gaining national attention. Anniversary of this event was one of the reasons June was chosen as the nationally proclaimed month to celebrate LGBT Pride.

**National Caribbean American Heritage Month USA** Proclaimed in May 2011 by the US President, it commemorates a time to celebrate the history and culture of Caribbean Americans.

**Jun 1-3 Red Earth Fair Indigenous, Canada, USA** Cultural Festival takes place in Oklahoma City for 3 days. Over 150 Native tribes from U.S. and Canada gather in downtown Oklahoma City to share and participate in their rich and diverse heritage through highest quality original art, drum and dance juried competitions.

**Jun 1 Gawai Dayak Malaysia** This day marks the traditional rice harvest. Rituals are performed to express thanks to the spirits of the paddy with requests for a better harvest during the next planting season. It is an open house for friends and relatives with celebrations usually lasting three days.

**Jun 4 Pentecost Christian - Coptic & Eastern Orthodox** The holy Spirit was felt amongst the 12 apostles after Jesus' death. New members of the church are baptized on this day. It is called White Sunday because white clothes are worn for baptism.

**Jun 10 Trooping The Colour England** The official birthday of the Queen is marked each year by a colourful and historic military parade and march-past, known as Trooping the Colour. It takes place in June on Horse Guards Parade, Whitehall, England.

**Jun 16 Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev Sikh** He was the fifth Guru (1563-1606) and the first Sikh martyr executed by the Mughal emperor Jehangir. He built the Golden Temple in Amritsar with doors facing all four directions to emphasize that the Sikh way was open to all, regardless of caste.

**Jun 18 Father's Day Canada, UK, USA** The origins of the day to honor fathers began in 1910, when Louise Dodd of Spokane, Washington, suggested to her minister that a day be set aside. Her own father was a Civil War veteran who raised his six children on the family farm after his wife died in childbirth. Interest in the day grew, and in 1966 a presidential proclamation established Father's Day as the third Sunday in June.

**Jun 19 Juneteenth USA** June 19, 1865, also known as National Freedom Day, is considered the official end of slavery in the United States. Slaves in Oklahoma, Texas, Louisiana and Arkansas were not told about their freedom until this day, even though other Southern states had known since April, 1863. Today, the holiday is observed in African-American communities throughout the country with rallies, concerts and fairs.

**Jun 20 Litha Wicca** Litha falls on the summer solstice. The Latin word solstice means 'the sun stood still'. Wiccans celebrate the Sun at the height of its power for providing good harvests.

**Jun 21 National Indigenous Peoples Day Canada** (Aboriginal/Native Canadian, Aboriginal Peoples) This is an event growing in importance in Canada when the outstanding contributions of First Nations, Inuit and Metis are recognized.

**Jun 21 Inti Raymi Peru** Inti Raymi is celebrated in Cusco, and is the second biggest festival in Latin America. This Inca festival celebrates the winter solstice, where the God of the Sun, Wiracocha, is honoured.

**Jun 22 Dragon Boat Festival China, Hong Kong** This day honours the patriot poet Chu Yuan who drowned himself in the Milo River, south of China in protest of the political injustice in 277 B.C. The villagers raced to the river and jumped into dragon boats but never found him. As they searched, they beat drums to scare off fish and dragons that might attack his mortal remains. It is a holiday celebrated by boat races in the shape of dragons.

**Jun 24 St. Jean Baptiste Day (Quebec) Canada** He is the patron saint of French-Canadians in Quebec. It is a national holiday with parades, bonfires and fireworks to celebrate his birthday.

**Jun 24 Matariki Aboriginal/Maori, New Zealand** When the star cluster Matariki (Pleiades) appears in the dawn sky, Maori New Year starts. Festivities begin with the new moon after the first appearance of Matariki and last for a month. It is a time for connecting with, and giving thanks to the land, sea and sky, for the community to come together to farewell the dead and to begin planning ahead for the coming year.

**Jun 24 Dia de San Juan Puerto Rico** This day commemorates the island's patron saint, St. John the Baptist. People gather at the beaches in the afternoon. Then at midnight, they jump into the ocean backwards three times to symbolize baptism, immersion and new life. The celebration continues with families gathering to enjoy music, food and dancing.

**Jun 27 Multiculturalism Day Canada** The Government of Canada officially recognized June 27th as Canadian Multiculturalism Day on November 13, 2002. This day acknowledges the contributions that various communities make to Canadian society and to celebrate the country's richness and diversity.

**Jun 28 Eid-ul-Adha Islam** It concludes the Hajj and is a three-day festival celebrating Abraham's test of obedience to Allah when he was asked to sacrifice his son Ismael. At the last minute, Allah replaced Ismael with a lamb. Since Eid is determined by the first sighting of the new moon, the date varies by a day depending on whether the Saudi Arabian or North American sighting is being observed. This calendar follows the North American dates which is a day later.

**Jun 28 Stonewall Rebellion Day LGBT** This day commemorates the U.S. anniversary of the protest against police harassment in New York City's Greenwich Village in 1969. The event has been commemorated by a Pride Parade each year in New York City on the last Sunday in June. Events and Pride Parades are held in many metropolitan cities throughout the United States and Canada.

**Jun 29-Jul 3 Gahambar Maitiyoshem Zoroastrian** This day celebrates the creation of animals. It is also a time for the equitable sharing of food.

# JUNE 2023

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender  
Pride Month **USA, Canada, Australia**

Indigenous Peoples' History Month **Canada**

Caribbean American Heritage Month **USA**

May 2023

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Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gawai Dayak <b>Malaysia</b></li> <li>Children's Day <b>Laos</b></li> <li>Independence Day <b>Samoa</b></li> <li>Labour Day <b>Bahamas</b></li> <li>Global Day of Parents <b>UN</b></li> </ul>	2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Republic Day <b>Italy</b></li> </ul>	3

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																	
4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Full Moon</li> <li>▲ Núr (5th Month) <b>Bahá'í</b></li> <li>▲ Pentecost <b>Christian - Coptic &amp; Eastern Orthodox</b></li> <li>● Int'l Day Of Innocent Children Victims Of Aggression <b>UN</b></li> </ul>	5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Constitution Day <b>Denmark</b></li> <li>■ June Bank Holiday <b>Ireland</b></li> <li>● World Environment Day <b>UN</b></li> </ul>	6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ National Day <b>Sweden</b></li> </ul>	7	8 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● World Oceans Day <b>UN</b></li> </ul>	9	10 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Trooping The Colour <b>UK, England</b></li> <li>■ Portugal Day <b>Portugal</b></li> </ul>																																																	
11	12 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Independence Day <b>Philippines</b></li> <li>■ Russia Day <b>Russia</b></li> <li>● World Day Against Child Labour <b>UN</b></li> </ul>	13	14 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Flag Day <b>USA</b></li> </ul>	15	16	17 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Independence Day <b>Iceland</b></li> <li>● World Day To Combat Desertification &amp; Drought <b>UN</b></li> </ul>																																																	
18 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● New Moon</li> <li>■ Father's Day <b>Canada, UK, USA</b></li> </ul>	19 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Juneteenth <b>USA</b></li> <li>■ Labour Day <b>Trinidad &amp; Tobago</b></li> </ul>	20 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SUMMER SOLSTICE <b>International</b></li> <li>▲ Litha <b>Wicca</b></li> <li>● World Refugee Day <b>UN</b></li> </ul>	21 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓▲ National Indigenous Peoples Day <b>Canada</b></li> <li>■ Inti Raymi <b>Peru</b></li> <li>■ National Day <b>Greenland</b></li> <li>● Intn'l Day of Yoga <b>UN</b></li> </ul>	22 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Dragon Boat Festival <b>China, Hong Kong</b></li> </ul>	23 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▲ Rahmat (6th Month) <b>Bahá'í</b></li> <li>■ National Day <b>Luxembourg</b></li> <li>● Public Service Day <b>UN</b></li> </ul>	24 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓■ St. Jean Baptiste Day (Quebec) <b>Canada</b></li> <li>■ Matariki <b>Aboriginal/Maori, New Zealand</b></li> <li>■ Dia de San Juan <b>Puerto Rico</b></li> </ul>																																																	
25	26 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Independence Day <b>Madagascar, Somalia</b></li> <li>● Int'l Day Against Drug Abuse &amp; Illicit Trafficking <b>UN</b></li> <li>● Int'l Day In Support Of Victims Of Torture <b>UN</b></li> </ul>	27 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Multiculturalism Day <b>Canada</b></li> </ul>	28 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓▲ Eid-ul-Adha <b>Islam</b></li> <li>■ Stonewall Rebellion Day <b>LGBT</b></li> </ul>	29 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▲ Gahambar Maidyoshem (29 - Jul 3) <b>Zoroastrian</b></li> <li>■ St. Peter and Paul Day <b>Chile</b></li> </ul>	30 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Independence Day <b>Congo</b></li> </ul>	<p>July 2023</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>S</th> <th>M</th> <th>T</th> <th>W</th> <th>T</th> <th>F</th> <th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> <td>7</td> <td>8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9</td> <td>10</td> <td>11</td> <td>12</td> <td>13</td> <td>14</td> <td>15</td> </tr> <tr> <td>16</td> <td>17</td> <td>18</td> <td>19</td> <td>20</td> <td>21</td> <td>22</td> </tr> <tr> <td>23</td> <td>24</td> <td>25</td> <td>26</td> <td>27</td> <td>28</td> <td>29</td> </tr> <tr> <td>30</td> <td>31</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	S	M	T	W	T	F	S							1	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	31					
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# July 2023 Observances

**July-August Sun Dance Ritual Indigenous** For many tribes of the Plains Indians, the Sun Dance was a major communal religious ceremony. Generally held in early summer, the four-day dance ceremony involves sacrifice and supplication to insure harmony between all living beings.

Iroquois - late spring; Cree, Arapaho, Cheyenne, Sioux and other Plains Peoples - summer.  
**July-August Green Corn Ceremony Indigenous** Performed by some Oklahoma tribes as a time of renewal. The ceremony involves participation in sweatlodge ceremonies, dances, offerings and fasting.

**Jul 1 Canada Day Canada** On July 1, 1867, the British North America Act created the Canadian federal government. The BNA proclaimed 'one Dominion under the name of Canada,' hence the original title of the holiday, 'Dominion Day.' Dominion Day was officially renamed 'Canada Day' by an act of Parliament on October 27, 1982.

**Jul 1 HKSAR Establishment Day Hong Kong** Hong Kong was a British colony ruled by a British Governor until it was reunited with China as a Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China on 1 July, 1997.

**Jul 3 Wassana / Dhamma Day Buddhist** This day marks the beginning of the 3-month 'Rains Retreat' for self-examination and peace-making for monks and nuns. It also celebrates Buddha's first teaching.

**Jul 3 Guru Purnima Jain, Hindu** Is celebrated by disciples to revere and honour their Gurus (spiritual masters).

**Jul 3 NAIDOC Australia** NAIDOC stands for "National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee". A week-long celebration around Australia during the first week in July to focus on the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

**Jul 4 Independence Day USA** In 1776, the 13 Colonies signed the declaration of Independence proclaiming their separation from England and formed the United States of America. It is celebrated with picnics, fireworks, parades and outdoor activities.

**Jul 6 Dalai Lama's Birthday Tibet** (Tibet, Buddhist) His Holiness the XIVth Dalai Lama, Tenzin Gyatso, is the spiritual and temporal leader of the Tibetan people. Born to a peasant family in northeastern Tibet, he was recognized as the 14th Dalai Lama (Mongolian for 'Ocean of Wisdom').

**Jul 7 Tanabata Japan** Meaning "Seven Evenings" is a Japanese star festival, derived from Obon traditions and the Chinese star festival, Qi Xi. The festival is usually held on July 7, and celebrates the meeting of Orihime (Vega) and Hikoboshi (Altair). The Milky Way, a river made from stars that crosses the sky, separates these lovers. They are allowed to meet only once a year. This special day, the seventh day of the seventh lunar month.

**Jul 10 Martyrdom of The Báb Bahá'í** The Báb was executed at the age of 31 by a firing squad in Tabriz in 1850 C.E. The event is observed at noon. Commerce is suspended on this day.

**Jul 11 Imam Day Islam Ismaili** Imam Day is celebrated every year by Ismailis on the day that the Imam or religious leader transferred from the past Imam to the present Aga Khan.

**Jul 11 Nadaam Festival Mongolia** The festival lasts for three days where the men compete in the Three Manly national sports of archery, wrestling and horse riding.

**Jul 12 Battle of Boyne N. Ireland** England's William III defeated the deposed King of England and Scotland at the Battle of Boyne in Ireland. After the battle, which took place on July 1, 1690 James was forced to flee to France.

**Jul 14 Bastille Day France** Commemorates the event that launched the French Revolution. On this date in 1789, the Bastille, which held political prisoners and became a symbol of oppression by the monarchy, was stormed and prisoners freed. In France, the day is called Fête Nationale.

**Jul 17 Umi no hi Japan** Japanese honour the importance of the sea and its role in Japanese history on this day.

**Jul 20 Munoz-Rivera Day Puerto Rico** This day celebrates the anniversary of Luis Munoz - Rivera, a Puerto Rican patriot, poet and journalist.

**Jul 20 1st Muharram - Islamic New Year Islam** Islamic New Year, 1443 AH. The first of Muharram marks the first day of the first month (Muharram) of the Islamic year. Muharram lasts for 29-30 days depending on the moon sighting. It begins at sundown the previous day. The dates vary by a day depending on whether the Saudi Arabia or the North American Calendar is being observed.

**Jul 24 Pioneer Day Christian - Mormon** This day honours the U.S. pioneers led by Brigham Young, who first settled in Utah in 1847. This day is celebrated with parades to remember their pioneering ancestors.

**Jul 24 Simon Bolivar Day Venezuela, Ecuador** Simon Bolivar (1783-1830) was one of South America's greatest generals. His victories over the Spaniards won independence for Bolivia, Panama, Columbia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela. He is called El Libertador and the 'George Washington' of South America.

**Jul 27 Tish'a B'Av Jewish** Jews mourn the destruction of the First and Second Temples in Jerusalem in 586 B.C.E. and 70 C.E. It is a day of mourning and fasting.

**Jul 28 Ashura Islam** The tenth day of the first Islamic month (Muharram). For Shi'ite Muslims, this day mourns the martyrdom of Hazrat Imam Husain, the grandson of Prophet Muhammad. Devout Shi'a commemorate this day of sadness with retelling the story of the battle fought in Kerbala.

**Jul 30 Oh-Harai-Taisai Shinto** During the Grand Purification Ceremony, Japanese worshippers walk through a large ring of woven grass and reeds that are placed at the entrance of the shrines as an act of inner purification for sins and offenses committed during the first half of the year. This sacred ritual is observed twice yearly.

**Jul 31 Feast of St. Ignatius Loyola Spain** Commemorates the life of St. Ignatius Loyola (1491-1556), who founded the Society of Jesus, the Roman Catholic religious order whose members are known as Jesuits.

# JULY 2023

Saturday

Jul-Aug Green Corn Ceremony **Indigenous**

Sun Dance Ritual **Indigenous**

June 2023

August 2023

June 2023							August 2023						
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- ✓ ■ Canada Day *Canada*
- HKSAR Establishment Day *Hong Kong*
- Independence Day *Rwanda, Burundi*
- Constitution Day *Cayman Islands*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2	3 ○ Full Moon  ▲ Guru Purnima <i>Jain, Hindu</i> ▲ Wassana / Dhamma Day <i>Buddhis</i> ■ NAIDOC <i>Australia</i>	4 ✓ ■ Independence Day <i>USA</i>	5 ■ Independence Day <i>Venezuela</i>	6 ■ Dalai Lama's Birthday (Tibet) <i>Buddhist</i> ● Int'l Day of Cooperatives <i>UN</i>	7 ■ Tanabata <i>Japan</i>	8
9 ■ Independence Day <i>Argentina</i>	10 ▲ Martyrdom of The Báb <i>Bahá'í</i> ■ Independence Day <i>Bahamas</i>	11 ✓ ▲ Imamat Day <i>Islam Ismaili</i> ■ Nadaam Festival <i>Mongolia</i> ● World Population Day <i>UN</i>	12 ▲ Katimát (7th month) <i>Bahá'í</i> ■ Battle of Boyne <i>N. Ireland</i>	13	14 ■ Bastille Day <i>France</i> ■ Republic Day <i>Iraq</i>	15
16	17 ● New Moon  ■ Umi no hi <i>Japan</i>	18 ■ Nelson Mandela's Birthday <i>South Africa</i>	19	20 ▲ 1st Muharram - Islamic New Year <i>Islam</i> ■ Munoz-Rivera Day <i>Puerto Rico</i> ■ Independence Day <i>Colombia</i>	21 ■ Independence Day <i>Belgium</i>	22
23	24 ▲ Pioneer Day <i>Christian - Mormon</i> ■ Simon Bolivar Day <i>Venezuela, Ecuador</i>	25	26 ■ Day of National Rebellion <i>Cuba</i> ■ Independence Day <i>Liberia</i>	27 ▲ Tish'a B'Av <i>Jewish</i>	28 ✓ ▲ Ashura <i>Islam</i> ■ Independence Day <i>Peru</i>	29 ■ Caribana Parade <i>African-American/Canadian Canada</i>
30 ▲ Oh-Harai-Taisai <i>Shinto</i>	31 ▲ Kamál (8th Month) <i>Bahá'í</i> ■ Feast of St. Ignatius Loyola <i>Spain</i> ■ Emancipation Day <i>Bermuda</i>					

# August 2023 Observances

**August Native Wild Rice Harvest Indigenous** Northern Cree, Ojibwa, Algonkians. Celebrates last full moon in August.

**August Hopi Snake Dance Indigenous** This dance requires two weeks of ritual preparation and snakes are gathered and kept watch over by children. The dancers then take an emetic and dance with the snakes in their mouths, with an Antelope priest in attendance. After the dance, the snakes are released to carry their prayers.

**Aug 1 Lugnasad Wicca** Its name is taken from the Celtic God Lugh, or Samildanach, which means 'he of many gifts'. It celebrates the ancient festival of the first harvesting of grain in August.

**Aug 2 Ilinden Macedonia** Commemorates the Macedonians revolt against the Ottoman army on August 2, 1903, on Ilinden, or St. Elijah's Day.

**Aug 6 Hiroshima Day Canada, Japan, USA** This solemn day commemorates the day that United States dropped the first atomic bomb in Hiroshima, Japan in 1945. People from different backgrounds unite on this day to declare their commitment to never letting another nuclear bomb be used against humans again.

**Aug 8-17 Fravardeghan Zoroastrian** Fravardeghan lasts ten days in preparation for Now Ruz for those who follow the Shenshai calendar. Ancestors are memorialized during this time.

**Aug 15 Assumption Christian** This refers to Mary's death and ascent to heaven and is celebrated by Catholic and Orthodox Churches. Special mentions: Sicilian - Canadians hold an outdoor procession for the Madonna del Assunta, Polish - Canadians celebrate the Feast of the Mother of God of the herbs, an early harvest festival, Armenian Orthodox bless the first grapes of the season, Ukrainians take flowers to the church to be blessed.

**Aug 15 Korean Liberation Day Korea** The day celebrates the national liberation from Imperial Japan in 1945. On the same day in 1948, the government of the Republic of Korea was established.

**Aug 16 Now Ruz (Shenshai) Zoroastrian** Now Ruz means 'new day' and is celebrated by Zoroastrians who follow the Shenshai calendar and by all Ismaili Muslims around the world. The New Year celebrates the creation of fire on this day on which Zarathustra received his revelation.

**Aug 24 Birth of Prophet Zarathustra (Shenshai) Zoroastrian** Zarathushtra (Zoroaster in Greek; Zartosht in India and Persia) is the founder of the Zoroastrian religion, dating back to sometime between 1500 and 1000 BCE. He lived in Persia, modern day Iran. Zoroastrianism became the state religion of various Persian empires, until the 7th Century CE. When Arabs, followers of Islam, invaded Persia in 650 CE, a small number of Zoroastrians fled to India where most are concentrated today.

**Aug 25-Sep 1 Paryushana-Parva Jain** Celebrated for eight days, Paryushana-Parva is the holiest time of the year and is marked by fasting and worship of the 24 teachers of the Jain faith known as Tirthankaras or Jinas.

**Aug 26 Notting Hill Festival UK** The Notting Hill Festival is held during the last weekend in August. This is a West Indian Street carnival with floats, bands, and stalls. It began in 1964 with the focus of racism toward Caribbean and deterring other Black immigrants and bringing together the people of the Notting Hill area.

**Aug 29 Onam India** Onam is a Hindu festival celebrated by the people of Kerala in India. Lasting for four to ten days, it is a harvest festival commemorating the homecoming of the legendary Emperor Mahabali from Patala (the underworld) who visits every Malayali home and during this time.

**Aug 30 Raksha Bandhan Hindu** According to legend, God Indra was warring with demons. His wife tied a silk charm around his wrist to protect him and he was able to defeat his enemies. Hindu girls now tie a threaded amulet or 'rakhi' on their brothers for protection against evil.

**Aug 30 Victory Day Turkey** Honors the warriors who died in the 1922 Battle of Dumlupinar, the final battle in the war of independence. The Mehtar band, the world's oldest military band, plays, and celebrations include military parades.

**Aug 30 St. Rosa of Lima Peru** Commemorates a Peruvian saint who lived in Lima. Her home is now a pilgrim site, where every 30th of August, people come to pray and throw coins, messages and icons into a water well near her home.

# AUGUST 2023

Native Wild Rice Harvest <b>Indigenous</b>		Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																								
<b>Hopi Snake Dance</b> <b>Indigenous</b> <table border="1" style="margin-left: 20px;"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">July 2023</th> </tr> <tr> <th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td></tr> <tr><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td></tr> <tr><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td></tr> <tr><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table>		July 2023							S	M	T	W	T	F	S							1	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	31						<b>1</b> Full Moon  Lugnasad Wicca Confederation Day Switzerland	<b>2</b>  Ilinden Macedonia	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>  Emancipation Day Turks & Caicos Islands
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<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>  Int'l Day for Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition UN	<b>24</b>  Birth of Prophet Zarathustra (Shenshai) Zoroastrian Independence Day Ukraine	<b>25</b>  Paryushana-Parva (Aug 25-Sep 1) Jain Independence Day Uruguay	<b>26</b>  Notting Hill Festival UK, England																																																								
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# September 2023 Observances

**National Hispanic Heritage Month USA** Initiated in 1968 as 'National Hispanic Heritage Week' but was established in 1988 by the U.S. Congress, and includes the days between September 15 through October 15. Hispanic Heritage Month begins on September 15 because this day marks the anniversary of independence for five Hispanic countries – Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala and Nicaragua. In addition, Mexico achieved independence on September 16, and Chile on September 18. Latinos from all across the nation take a moment to reflect upon their history, customs and culture, as well as the contributions their people have made to the U.S.

**September Sunrise Dance Indigenous Apache** This is an ancient rite of passage for 14-year old girls and lasts four days. After a girl's first menstruation, the girl is massaged and prayed for by an elder female relative. Then, the girl's family decides which ceremony will be sponsored, which medicine man to choose, and whom to ask to be her godparents and co-sponsors of the ceremony.

- Sep 3 Red Earth Native American Fair Indigenous, USA** Cultural Festival takes place in Oklahoma City for 3 days. Over 150 Native tribes from U.S. and Canada gather in Downtown Oklahoma City to share and participate in their rich and diverse heritage through highest quality original art, drum and dance juried competitions.
- Sep 4 Labour Day USA** On June 29, 1894, the U.S. Congress voted Labour Day as a National Holiday to honour working people's contribution of labour. The day is celebrated with parades and speeches.
- Sep 4 Labour Day Canada** National Holiday to honour working people's contribution of labour. The day is celebrated with parades and speeches.
- Sep 7 Janmashtami Hindu** Celebrates the birth of Lord Krishna and his rescue from potential death by the demon Kansa. Lord Krishna was born in a prison, then carried by his father to another village where he was secretly exchanged with a cow herder's daughter for his safety.
- Sep 11 Day Of Remembrance USA** The effects of the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon in 2001 impacted Americans and most other nations and has brought us to focus on the devastation terrorism has caused in the world.
- Sep 11 Meskerem (New Year) Ethiopia** Coptic Orthodox Christians are found in all of Africa. They include Egypt, Libya, Sudan and Ethiopia. During the time of Pharaohs 4,000 years ago, the appearance of Soothis (Dog Star) marked the signal that the Nile River would rise, flooding the fertile plains so that planting could begin. The end of the rainy season became known as the New Year.
- Sep 12-16 Gahambar Paitishahem Zoroastrian** This day celebrates the creation of earth.
- Sep 16-17 Rosh Hashanah/New Year Jewish** Begins previous sundown at 6pm and observed for two days. Literally 'Head of the Year' marks the first and second day of the Jewish New Year and the anniversary of the creation of the world. It, ends 10 days later with Yom Kippur. It is celebrated with prayers and religious services.
- Sep 16 Oktoberfest Germany** Originally it was meant to be just a simple horse race event but the bavarian character quickly took over and it became a happy gathering of cheerful beer drinkers. The Oktoberfest attracts approximately 7 million visitors each year.
- Sep 17 Constitution Day USA** Constitution Day (or Citizenship Day) is an American federal observance that recognizes the adoption of the United States Constitution and those who have become U.S. citizens.
- Sep 18 Keiro No Hi Japan** Respect of the Aged Day, or Keiro no Hi, was established as a national holiday in 1966 to express respect for the elders in the community, and to recognise and thank them for their contributions to society and last but not least, celebrate their long lives.
- Sep 19 Ganesh Chaturthi Hindu** It is in honour of one of Hindu's major deity, Ganesh, the elephant-headed god. He is known as the 'remover of all obstacles' and is invoked at the beginning of all new undertakings.
- Sep 20 Dashalakshani-Parva Jain** Celebrated by the Digambara sect and lasts ten days, each day dedicated to a virtue: humility, honesty, purity, forgiveness, truthfulness, selfrestraint, asceticism, study, celibacy and detachment.
- Sep 23 Mabon Wicca** This day celebrates the fall equinox and the end of the harvest season. Apples are juiced for cider and grapes for wine.
- Sep 23 Shuki sorei sai Japan, Shinto** On this Autumnal Equinox Day, the Japanese honour family ancestry, visiting ancestral graves and having family reunions.
- Sep 23 Chichen Itza Festival Mexico** During the Autumn Equinox, thousands gather at the Mayan Temple of Kukulkan to see the interplay of sun and shadow as it forms the impression of a long-tailed serpent leading downward to the stone head of the serpent Kukulkan.
- Sep 24 Heritage Day South Africa** Celebrates cultural diversity and serves as a time for South Africans of various heritages to strengthen bonds.
- Sep 24 Our Lady of Las Mercedes Dominican Republic, Peru** In Carhuaz, Peru celebrations are held in honor of the virgin, with traditional processions, bands of musicians, bullfights and fireworks. In the Dominican Republic, a procession held at the site of the 16th century shrine of Our Lady of Las Mercedes, where Columbus fought a battle against the Indians and the Virgin Mary appeared to him.
- Sep 25 Yom Kippur Jewish** The Day of Atonement is the holiest and most solemn of all days in the Jewish year. They believe that once you atone for your mistakes, you can be 'at one' with God. Jews do not work, and they fast, from sunset to sunset.
- Sep 28 Pavarana Buddhist** Buddha went into intensive practice during the rainy season. This marks the end of the retreat.
- Sep 28 Fiesta San Miguel Mexico** The festival of the Archangel San Miguel is in honor of the Patron Saint of the city of San Miguel. Cultural, social, artistic and sporting events are held throughout the city, along with bullfights.
- Sep 28 Eid-Maulad-un-Nabi Islam** Anniversary of the birth of Prophet Muhammad. Some Muslims mark this occasion by special prayers, whilst other Muslims may mark the occasion by dedicating more time to reading the Koran.
- Sep 29 Harvest Moon Festival China, Hong Kong, Taiwan** The festival is celebrated with family reunions, moon gazing and eating of moon cakes. In Vietnam, it is called 'Trung Thu.' On that night children form a procession and travel through the streets with bright lanterns, singing and dancing to the beat of drums.
- Sep 29 Chuseok Korea** Chuseok is referred to as Korean Thanksgiving Day. It's a celebration of the harvest and thanksgiving for the bounty of the earth. Family members come from all over the country to visit their ancestral homes.
- Sep 29 Ksamavani Jain** Ksamavani is the 'day of universal forgiveness' for wrongs committed by them and to them.
- Sep 29 Kathina Buddhist** New robes and necessities are given to ordained monks and nuns.
- Sep 30-Oct 1 Sukkot Jewish** Begins previous sundown at 6pm. The Feast of Booths is a joyful harvest festival lasting 9 days. A little hut called 'sukkah' is built outdoors where families eat to remember the time Israelites wandered in the desert for 40 years, sleeping and eating under the stars.
- Sep 30 San Geronimo Day Indigenous, USA** Named after St. Jerome (1829-1909), an Apache fighter, this day is celebrated by the Native Americans in Taos Pueblo, New Mexico. Ceremonies are the morning races, the sacred clowns and the pole climb.
- Sep 30 National Day of Truth and Reconciliation Indigenous People, Canada** This day honours the survivors of the residential school system, their families, and communities.

# S E P T E M B E R 2 0 2 3

**National Hispanic Heritage  
Month USA  
September Sunrise Dance  
Indigenous**

August 2023							October 2023						
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					Friday	Saturday
					<b>1</b>  <span style="color: green;">■</span> Independence Day Vietnam	<b>2</b>  <span style="color: green;">■</span> Red Earth Native American Fair Indigenous, USA
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday		
<b>3</b>  <span style="color: green;">■</span> Father's Day Australia, New Zealand	<b>4</b>  <span style="color: green;">✓■</span> Labour Day Canada, USA	<b>5</b>  <span style="color: yellow;">●</span> International Day of Charity UN	<b>6</b>  <span style="color: green;">■</span> Defence Day Pakistan	<b>7</b>  <span style="color: green;">✓▲</span> Janmashtami Hindu <span style="color: green;">■</span> Independence Day Brazil	<b>8</b>  <span style="color: purple;">▲</span> Ízzat (10th Month) Bahá'í <span style="color: yellow;">●</span> International Literacy Day UN	
<b>10</b>  <span style="color: green;">■</span> Day Of Remembrance USA <span style="color: green;">■</span> Meskerem (New Year) Ethiopia	<b>11</b>  <span style="color: green;">■</span> Day Of Remembrance USA <span style="color: green;">■</span> Meskerem (New Year) Ethiopia	<b>12</b>  <span style="color: purple;">▲</span> Gahambar Paitishahem (12-16) Zoroastrian	<b>13</b>  <span style="color: green;">■</span> Defence Day Pakistan	<b>14</b>  <span style="color: grey;">●</span> New Moon	<b>15</b>  <span style="color: green;">■</span> Hispanic Heritage Month (until Oct.15) USA <span style="color: green;">■</span> Independence Day Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua	<b>16</b>  <span style="color: green;">✓▲</span> Rosh Hashana (Sep 16-17) Jewish <span style="color: green;">■</span> Oktoberfest Germany <span style="color: green;">■</span> Día de la Independencia Mexico <span style="color: yellow;">●</span> Int'l Day For Preservation Of The Ozone Layer UN
<b>17</b>  <span style="color: green;">■</span> Constitution Day USA	<b>18</b>  <span style="color: green;">■</span> Keiro No Hi Japan <span style="color: green;">■</span> Independence Day Chile	<b>19</b>  <span style="color: purple;">▲</span> Ganesh Chaturthi Hindu <span style="color: green;">■</span> Independence Day Saint Kitts/Nevis	<b>20</b>  <span style="color: purple;">▲</span> Dashlakshani-Parva Jain	<b>21</b>  <span style="color: green;">■</span> Independence Day Armenia, Malta <span style="color: yellow;">●</span> Int'l Day Of Peace UN	<b>22</b>  <span style="color: green;">■</span> Independence Day Bulgaria, Mali	<b>23</b>  <span style="color: red;">AUTUMN EQUINOX</span> International  <span style="color: purple;">▲</span> Mabon Wicca <span style="color: green;">■</span> Shuki sorei sai Japan, Shinto <span style="color: green;">■</span> Chichen Itza Festival Mexico <span style="color: green;">■</span> Unification Day Saudi Arabia
<b>24</b>  <span style="color: green;">■</span> Our Lady of Las Mercedes Dominican Republic, Peru <span style="color: green;">■</span> Heritage Day South Africa <span style="color: green;">■</span> Republic Day Trinidad & Tobago	<b>25</b>  <span style="color: green;">✓▲</span> Yom Kippur Jewish	<b>26</b>  <span style="color: purple;">▲</span> Mashiyyat (11th Month) Bahá'í	<b>27</b>  <span style="color: purple;">▲</span> Mashiyyat (11th Month) Bahá'í	<b>28</b>  <span style="color: green;">✓▲</span> Eid-Maulad-un-Nabi Islam <span style="color: purple;">▲</span> Pavarana Buddhist <span style="color: green;">■</span> Fiesta San Miguel Mexico	<b>29</b>  <span style="color: grey;">○</span> Full Moon  <span style="color: purple;">▲</span> Kathina Buddhist <span style="color: green;">■</span> Harvest Moon Festival China, Hong Kong, Taiwan Ksamavani Jain <span style="color: green;">■</span> Trung Thu Vietnam <span style="color: green;">■</span> Chuseok Korea	<b>30</b>  <span style="color: green;">✓▲</span> Sukkot (Sep 30 - Oct 1) Jewish <span style="color: green;">■</span> National Day of Truth & Reconciliation Indigenous, Canada <span style="color: green;">■</span> San Geronimo Day Indigenous, USA <span style="color: yellow;">●</span> World Maritime Day UN

# October 2023 Observances

**Disability Employment Awareness Month USA** In 1945, in an effort to assist disabled veterans, Congress designated the first week of October as National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week. In the 1970s, a historic shift in disability public policy occurred. For the first time, the exclusion of people with disabilities was viewed as discrimination. The efforts of disability activists led to significant changes in laws, such as the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act in 1990 and the designation of a full month to recognize the potential of America's millions of working-age people with disabilities.

**Women's History Month Canada** Established in 1992 by the Government of Canada, this special month provides an opportunity to learn more about women's historic accomplishments and their contributions to Canadian society.

**Black History Month UK** In Britain, Black History Month was first celebrated in October 1987 as part of African Jubilee Year. The decision to make this an annual event each October was endorsed by the Association of London Authorities. It has since grown to recognise and embrace the contributions and traditions of other black communities.

**Latin American Heritage Month Canada** Proclaimed by the Parliament of Canada on June 21, 2018, this month is an opportunity for Canadians to recognize the valuable contribution of members of the Latin American community to this country's social, economic, political and cultural fabric.

**Oct 2 Mehragan Iran, Zoroastrian** The word 'Mehr' in Persian means kindness, love and friendship. Mehragan is celebrated by Zoroastrian and Persian (Iranian) people and was based on the concept that all of the farmers would bring their harvest in the middle of the town square and split it up evenly.

**Oct 3 Gandhi's Birthday India** Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi (1869-1948) is the National Father of India, who adopted 'non-violence' in fighting for the country's freedom.

**Oct 3 Day of German Unity Germany** Commemorates the date in 1990 when, after 45 years of division, East and West Germany were reunited as one country.

**Oct 4 Feast of St. Francis of Assisi Italy** St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals was born in 1182 at Assisi. He abandoned his dream of becoming a knight, donned the clothes of a poor farmhand and began caring for the sick. He founded the Franciscan Order, which today has about 33,000 members. He died on 3rd October 1226.

**Oct 7 Shemini Atzeret Jewish** On the eighth day of Sukkot, special prayers for rain are offered.

**Oct 8 Simchat Torah Jewish** Simchat Torah or Rejoicing in the Torah is the beginning of the synagogue's annual reading cycle. It begins at previous sundown.

**Oct 9 Taiiku no hi Japan** Also known as Health Sports Day or Sports Day, is a national holiday in Japan held annually on the second Monday in October. It commemorates the opening of the 1964 Summer Olympics being held in Tokyo, and exists to promote sports and an active lifestyle.

**Oct 9 Han-Gul Day Korea** This day commemorates the creation of the Korean alphabet of 29 phonetic symbols called han-gul by King Sejong between 1443 and 1446.

**Oct 9 Columbus Day USA** This day commemorates the anniversary of Christopher Columbus' discovery of the New World.

**Oct 9 Thanksgiving Canada** Early Canadian settlers gave thanks for good harvests by decorating their churches with fruits and vegetables and celebrated dinner with venison and waterfowl.

**Oct 9 Indigenous Peoples' Day USA** Many cities in USA are replacing Columbus Day with Indigenous Peoples' Day. This day honours Native American heritage.

**Oct 11 Coming Out Day LGBT** The first National Coming Out Day was held on October 11, 1988. It is an international event which gives gay, lesbian and bisexual people the opportunity to 'come out' to others about their sexuality. It also provides a means of increasing the visibility of gay people.

**Oct 11 Int'l Day of the Girl UN** International Day of the Girl officially declared December 19, 2011 by the United Nations General Assembly, recognizes the rights of girls and the particular challenges they face in the world.

**Oct 12-16 Gahambar Ayathrem Zoroastrian** This day celebrates the creation of plant life.

**Oct 12 Day of Respect for Cultural Diversity Argentina** Known as Día de la Raza in many South American countries, it celebrates the Hispanic influence on the Americas.

**Oct 12 Dia de la Raza Mexico** This day celebrates the Hispanic and Latino heritage in the Americas.

**Oct 12 Nossa Senhora de Aparecida Brazil** In 1717, a group of Brazilian fisherman pulled up a wooden statue of the Virgin Mary which was followed by an abundant catch after a fruitless fishing day. They enshrined the statue and in 1929, the Brazilian nation declared Nossa Senhora De Aparecida the Patroness of Brazil.

**Oct 15 Navratri Hindu** It means 'nine nights' beginning on the new moon and ending on Dussehra. It is dedicated to the goddess Durga who had nine incarnations and has the power of good to destroy demons.

**Oct 16 Birthday Of The Báb Bahá'í** Born Siyyid 'Ali Muhammad in Southwestern Iran in 1819. His title, in Arabic, means 'The Gate'. Work is suspended and Bahá'ís come together for prayer and festivities.

**Oct 17 Birth Of Bahá'u'lláh Bahá'í** Born Mirza Husayn 'Ali into one of the leading noble families of Persia in 1817. His name is a title, in Arabic, meaning 'The Glory of God'.

**Oct 22 Abu Simbel Festival Egypt** Built by Ramses II, his temple is angled so that the inner sanctum lights up twice a year: on the anniversary of his rise to the throne and, once again, on his birthday. Crowds pack the temple before sunrise to watch the shafts of light illuminate the statues of Ramses, Ra and Amon. The other date for this event is February 22.

**Oct 22 Durga Puja Hindu** This day celebrates the divine creative force of the universe and honours the 10-armed goddess Durga, wife of Shiva, and the destroyer of demons.

**Oct 23 Chulalongkorn Day Thailand** This day commemorates the birth of Rama V, a progressive ruler who lived in 1868-1910.

**Oct 23 Chung Yeung Festival China, Hong Kong, Taiwan** Families visit the graves of their ancestors.

**Oct 24 Dussehra Nepal, Hindu** Dussehra means 'the tenth' and celebrates the triumph of Lord Ram over the demon Ravan who stole his wife Sita. The great Hindu epic poem, the Ramayana, is read and enacted, called Ram Lila. A big effigy of Ravan is burnt accompanied by fireworks. In Nepal it is called Dashain and is a major holiday.

**Oct 31 Samhain Wicca** Traditionally, animals were slaughtered for winter provisions and the spirits of those who have died in the last year are invited to a final celebration.

**Oct 31 Halloween Canada, USA** This tradition goes back to the Celtic people 2,000 years ago who celebrated their New Year in late autumn and honoured Samhain or Lord of the Dead.

# OCTOBER 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																					
<p><b>1</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ National Day <i>China</i></li> <li>■ Independence Day <i>Cyprus, Nigeria</i></li> <li>● Int'l Day For The Elderly <i>UN</i></li> </ul>	<p><b>2</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Gandhi's Birthday <i>India</i></li> <li>■ Mehragan <i>Iran, Zoroastrian</i></li> <li>● Int'l Day of Non-Violence <i>UN</i></li> </ul>	<p><b>3</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Foundation Day <i>Korea</i></li> <li>■ Day of German Unity <i>Germany</i></li> </ul>	<p><b>4</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Feast of St. Francis of Assisi <i>Italy</i></li> </ul>	<p><b>5</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Republic Day <i>Portugal</i></li> <li>● World Habitat Day <i>UN</i></li> <li>● World Teachers' Day <i>UN</i></li> </ul>	<p><b>6</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Armed Forces Day <i>Egypt</i></li> <li>■ Constitution Day <i>Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico</i></li> </ul>	<p><b>7</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓▲ Shemini Atzeret <i>Jewish</i></li> </ul>																																																																																					
<p><b>8</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓▲ Simchat Torah <i>Jewish</i></li> <li>■ Independence Day <i>Croatia</i></li> </ul>	<p><b>9</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓■ Thanksgiving <i>Canada</i></li> <li>✓■ Indigenous Peoples' Day <i>Indigenous, USA</i></li> <li>✓■ Columbus Day <i>USA</i></li> <li>■ Han-Gul Day <i>Korea</i></li> <li>■ Independence Day <i>Uganda</i></li> <li>● World Post Day <i>UN</i></li> </ul>	<p><b>10</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Fiji Day <i>Fiji</i></li> <li>■ Independence Day <i>Cuba</i></li> <li>■ Double Tenth Day <i>Taiwan</i></li> <li>■ Curacao Day <i>Curacao</i></li> <li>● World Mental Health Day <i>UN</i></li> </ul>	<p><b>11</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Coming Out Day <i>LGBT</i></li> <li>■ National Boss Day <i>USA</i></li> <li>● Int'l Day of the Girl <i>UN</i></li> </ul>	<p><b>12</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▲ Gahambar Ayathrem (12-16) <i>Zoroastrian</i></li> <li>■ Dia de la Raza <i>Mexico</i></li> <li>■ Day of Respect for Cultural Diversity <i>Argentina</i></li> <li>■ Discovery Day <i>Bahamas</i></li> <li>■ National Day <i>Spain</i></li> <li>■ Nossa Senhora de Aparecida <i>Brazil</i></li> </ul>	<p><b>13</b></p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● New Moon ANNULAR SOLAR ECLIPSE <i>America, Mexico, south &amp; central America.</i></li> <li>● Int'l Day for Natural Disaster Reduction <i>UN</i></li> </ul>																																																																																					
<p><b>15</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▲ Navratri <i>Hindu</i></li> <li>▲ 'Ilm (12th Month) <i>Bahá'í</i></li> </ul>	<p><b>16</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▲ Birthday Of The Báb <i>Bahá'í</i></li> <li>■ National Heroes Day <i>Jamaica</i></li> <li>● World Food Day <i>UN</i></li> </ul>	<p><b>17</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▲ Birth Of Bahá'u'lláh <i>Bahá'í</i></li> <li>● Int'l Day For Eradication Of Poverty <i>UN</i></li> </ul>	<p><b>18</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Independence Day <i>Azerbaijan</i></li> </ul>	<p><b>19</b></p>	<p><b>20</b></p>	<p><b>21</b></p>																																																																																					
<p><b>22</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▲ Durga Puja <i>Hindu</i></li> <li>■ Abu Simbel Festival <i>Egypt</i></li> </ul>	<p><b>23</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Chung Yeung Festival <i>Taiwan, Hong Kong, China</i></li> <li>■ Labour Day <i>New Zealand</i></li> <li>■ Chulalongkorn Day <i>Thailand</i></li> </ul>	<p><b>24</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓▲ Dussehra <i>Nepal, Hindu</i></li> <li>■ Bank Holiday <i>Ireland</i></li> <li>■ Suez Victory Day <i>Egypt</i></li> <li>■ Independence Day <i>Zambia</i></li> <li>● United Nations Day <i>UN</i></li> <li>● World Development Information Day <i>UN</i></li> </ul>	<p><b>25</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Republic Day <i>Kazakhstan</i></li> </ul>	<p><b>26</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ National Day <i>Austria</i></li> </ul>	<p><b>27</b></p>	<p><b>28</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Full Moon PARTIAL LUNAR ECLIPSE <i>e America, Europe, Africa, Asia, Australia.</i></li> <li>■ National Day <i>Czech Republic</i></li> <li>■ National Day 'Ochi' <i>Greece</i></li> </ul>																																																																																					
<p><b>29</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Republic Day <i>Turkey</i></li> </ul>	<p><b>30</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Bank Holiday <i>Ireland</i></li> </ul>	<p><b>31</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▲ Samhain <i>Wicca</i></li> <li>■ Halloween <i>Canada, USA</i></li> <li>■ Reformation Day <i>Chile</i></li> </ul>	<p><b>Women's History Month</b></p> <p><b>Canada</b></p> <p><b>Disability Employment Awareness Month USA</b></p> <p><b>Black History Month</b></p> <p><b>Canada, UK</b></p>			<p>September 2023</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>S</th> <th>M</th> <th>T</th> <th>W</th> <th>T</th> <th>F</th> <th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> <td>7</td> <td>8</td> <td>9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10</td> <td>11</td> <td>12</td> <td>13</td> <td>14</td> <td>15</td> <td>16</td> </tr> <tr> <td>17</td> <td>18</td> <td>19</td> <td>20</td> <td>21</td> <td>22</td> <td>23</td> </tr> <tr> <td>24</td> <td>25</td> <td>26</td> <td>27</td> <td>28</td> <td>29</td> <td>30</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	S	M	T	W	T	F	S						1	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	<p>November 2023</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>S</th> <th>M</th> <th>T</th> <th>W</th> <th>T</th> <th>F</th> <th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> <td>7</td> <td>8</td> <td>9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10</td> <td>11</td> <td>12</td> <td>13</td> <td>14</td> <td>15</td> <td>16</td> </tr> <tr> <td>17</td> <td>18</td> <td>19</td> <td>20</td> <td>21</td> <td>22</td> <td>23</td> </tr> <tr> <td>24</td> <td>25</td> <td>26</td> <td>27</td> <td>28</td> <td>29</td> <td>30</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	S	M	T	W	T	F	S						1	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
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# November 2023 Observances

**National Indigenous Month USA.** Since 1900, many have sought to recognize the great influence American Natives have had on the history, cultural development, and continuing growth of the US. Various dates and weeks were acknowledged until 1976, when Congress authorized a week in October as Native American Awareness Week. Finally, in 1990, the month of November was chosen because it is traditionally a time when many American Natives gather for fall harvest festivals, world-renewal ceremonies, and pow wows.

**Oct-Nov Iroquois Harvest Ceremony Indigenous** This a day-long ceremony giving thanks to earth spirits for providing now and in the future.

- Nov 1 All Saints' Day Christian** This day is for honouring saints, known and unknown.
- Nov 1 Karva Chauth Hindu** A one-day fast kept by married Hindu women for the well-being and longevity of their husbands. The husbands feed the first bite to their wives only after they see the moon.
- Nov 2 All Souls Day Christian** Catholic Christians day of prayers of intercession for the dead. Prayers of the faithful are seen as helping to cleanse the souls of the departed.
- Nov 2 Dia de Finados Portugal** This holiday is celebrated by people visiting the deceased. They bring hearts and crowns made of flowers to the graves.
- Nov 2 Dia de los Muertos Mexico** Known as the Day of the Dead. Is celebrated in parts of the United States and Central America. Families build altars in their homes surrounded with flowers, food and burning candles.
- Nov 3 Bunka No Hi Japan** A national holiday dedicated to the love of freedom and promotion of Japanese culture.
- Nov 5 Guy Fawkes Day UK** This is also known as Bonfire Night. Guy Fawkes was a leader of a group of Catholic men who were plotting to blow up the king and Parliament but were arrested in time. The English and Irish burn bonfires topped by a figure known as the guy.
- Nov 11 Remembrance Day Australia, Canada, UK** This day commemorates the soldiers killed in World Wars I and II and is in remembrance for all those who have given their lives in service of their country. Canadians always set aside this day in memory of those who gave their lives for freedom. Many observers wear red poppies as a symbol of this day.

**Nov 11 Veterans Day USA** It was first proclaimed as Armistice Day in 1919 to commemorate the termination (at 11 AM on November 11, 1918) of World War I.

**Nov 12 Diwali Sikh, Hindu** It means 'row of lights' and is the Hindu New Year. Diwali lasts for 5 days: Day 1 - New Year for business, Day 2 - the triumph of god Vishnu over the evil demon, Day 3 - Lakshmi, the goddess of prosperity visits homes lit by lamps, Day 4 - Bali worship day, Day 5 - devoted to brothers and sisters.

**Nov 12 Mahavira Nirvana Jain** This day celebrates the attainment of Moksa by Lord Mahavira and is the 'Festival of Lamps'.

**Nov 15 Shichi-Go-San Japan** Prayers are offered for children's growth. The ages of three and five for boys, three and seven for girls, are celebrated. On this day, children dress up in their gala dresses and go with their parents to a Shinto shrine to pay a visit to the tutelary deity. Children are given thousand-year candy which is red and white (auspicious colours) with crane and turtle illustrations (symbols of long life).

**Nov 23 Thanksgiving Day USA** Early American settlers gave thanks for good harvests by decorating their churches with fruits and vegetables and celebrating dinner with venison and waterfowl.

**Nov 23 Kinro Kansha No Hi Japan** This is the Japanese Labour Thanksgiving Day when people express gratitude to each other for their labours throughout the year.

**Nov 24 Martyrdom of Guru Teg Bahadur Sikh** This day commemorates his martyrdom (1621-1675). He was the ninth of the Ten Sikh Gurus and executed in Delhi by the Mughal emperor. He died for the Sikh faith and also for religious liberty.

**Nov 25 St. Catherine's Day Canada, France** She is the patron saint of virgins and philosophers, lived in Alexandria in the 4th century A.D. and was martyred after being tortured on a spiked wheel. At one time, match-making balls were held on this day.

**Nov 26 Day of Covenant Bahá'í** The eldest son and appointed successor of Bahá'u'lláh, 'Abdu'l-Bahá, referred to this day as the 'Centre of the Covenant' which was established to safeguard the unity of the community.

**Nov 27 Guru Nanak's Birthday (Bikarami) Sikh** Born in 1469 CE, he was the first of the Ten Gurus of the Sikh faith and founded Sikhism. An accomplished poet, 974 of his hymns are in the Sikh scriptures, the Sri Guru Granth Sahib.

**Nov 27 Lokashah Jayanti Jain** This day commemorates the birth of a famous 15th century reformer, Lonka Saha, who opposed temple worship and use of images.

**Nov 28 Ascension Of Abdu'l-Bahá; Bahá'í** After years of serving his father and safeguarding the unity of the Faith, Abdu'l-Bahá; passed away in Haifa, Israel in 1921.

**Nov 30 St. Andrew's Day Romania, Scotland** This day commemorates the life of the patron saint of Scotland.

# NOVEMBER 2023

**National Indigenous Peoples Month USA**

October 2023

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			Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																	
			1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▲ All Saints' Day <i>Christian</i></li> <li>▲ Karva Chauth <i>Hindu</i></li> <li>■ Take Our Kids to Work <i>Canada</i></li> <li>■ Independence Day <i>Antigua &amp; Barbuda</i></li> <li>■ Revolution Day <i>Algeria</i></li> </ul>	2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▲ All Souls Day <i>Christian</i></li> <li>■ Dia de los Muertos <i>Mexico</i></li> <li>■ Dia de Finados <i>Portugal</i></li> </ul>	3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Bunka No Hi <i>Japan</i></li> <li>■ Independence Day <i>Panama, Dominica</i></li> </ul>	4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▲ Qudrat (13th Month) <i>Bahá'í</i></li> </ul>																																																	
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	8 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Independence Day <i>Cambodia</i></li> </ul>	9	10	11 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Veterans Day <i>USA</i></li> <li>■ Remembrance Day <i>Australia, Canada, UK</i></li> <li>■ Armistice Day <i>France</i></li> <li>■ Independence Day <i>Poland</i></li> </ul>																																																	
5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS</li> <li>■ Guy Fawkes Day <i>UK, England</i></li> </ul>	6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Int'l Day For Preventing The Exploitation Of The Environment <i>UN</i></li> </ul>	7	12 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓▲ Diwali <i>Sikh, Hindu</i></li> <li>▲ Mahavira Nirvana <i>Jain</i></li> </ul>	13 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● New Moon</li> <li>● Int'l World Kindness Day <i>International</i></li> </ul>	14 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● World Diabetes Day <i>UN</i></li> </ul>	15 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Shichi-Go-San <i>Japan</i></li> <li>■ National Day <i>Palestine</i></li> <li>■ Republic Day <i>Brazil</i></li> </ul>	16 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Int'l Day of Tolerance <i>UN</i></li> </ul>	17	18 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Independence Day <i>Latvia, Morocco</i></li> </ul>																																														
19 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Discovery Day <i>Puerto Rico</i></li> <li>● Int'l Men's Day <i>International</i></li> <li>● World Toilet Day <i>UN</i></li> </ul>	20 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Transgender Day of Remembrance <i>LGBT</i></li> <li>■ National Sovereignty Day <i>Argentina</i></li> <li>● Universal Children's Day <i>UN</i></li> </ul>	21 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● World Television Day <i>UN</i></li> </ul>	22 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▲ Qawl (14th Month) <i>Bahá'í</i></li> <li>■ Independence Day <i>Lebanon</i></li> </ul>	23 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓■ Thanksgiving Day <i>USA</i></li> <li>■ Kinro Kansha No Hi <i>Japan</i></li> </ul>	24 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▲ Martyrdom of Guru Teg Bahadur <i>Sikh</i></li> </ul>	25 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ St. Catherine's Day <i>Canada, France</i></li> <li>■ National Day <i>Bosnia</i></li> <li>● Int'l Day For Elimination Of Violence Against Women <i>UN</i></li> </ul>																																																	
26 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▲ Day of Covenant <i>Bahá'í</i></li> </ul>	27 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Full Moon</li> <li>✓▲ Guru Nanak's Birthday (Bikarami) <i>Sikh</i></li> <li>▲ Lokashah Jayanti <i>Jain</i></li> </ul>	28 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▲ Ascension Of Abdu'l-Bahá <i>Bahá'í</i></li> <li>■ Independence Day <i>Albania</i></li> <li>■ National Day <i>Panama</i></li> </ul>	29 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Int'l Day of Solidarity with Palestinian People <i>UN</i></li> </ul>	30 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ St. Andrew's Day <i>Scotland</i></li> <li>■ Independence Day <i>Barbados</i></li> </ul>	<p>December 2023</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td></tr> <tr><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td></tr> <tr><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td></tr> <tr><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table>		S	M	T	W	T	F	S						1	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	31						
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# December 2023 Observances

**Universal Human Rights Month** **UN** The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) was adopted by the UN in 1948 as a response to the Nazi holocaust and to set a standard by which the human rights activities of all nations, rich and poor alike, are to be measured. Some of the Rights are: No one shall be subjected to cruel and inhuman punishment, being entitled to a fair and public hearing by an impartial tribunal, the right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion, and the right to a standard of living to include food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, the right to education, the right to participate in the cultural life of the community, not being arbitrarily deprived of his property, a speedy juried trail and right to legal counsel.

- Dec 1 Rosa Parks Day** **USA** Commemorates the arrest of Rosa Parks, in 1955, for defying segregation by refusing to give up her seat on the bus for a white passenger. The incident led to the end of segregation.
- Dec 3 First Sunday of Advent** **Christian** The Christian church year begins with Advent (from the Latin adventus meaning 'coming' or 'arrival') which is also a time when Christians prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ.
- Dec 6 St. Nicholas Day** **Christian** He is the patron saint of Russia and came from a town in Turkey. Being known as a protector of children, the tradition of leaving shoes out in the hopes of receiving treats is practiced in the Dutch, German and Eastern European communities.
- Dec 7 Pearl Harbor Day** **USA** This day commemorates the attack of the Imperial Japanese Navy and Air Force on the armed forces of the United States stationed at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, killing two thousand people. This caused the United States to enter into World War II.
- Dec 7-15 Hanukkah** **Jewish** Begins previous sundown at 6pm. The Festival of Lights is celebrated for eight days. Approximately in 164 B.C., Maccabees, a small group of Jews fighting for religious freedom won victory over the Syrians. The legend goes that to rededicate the Temple, they found only one jar of holy oil and miraculously the candelabra remained lit for 8 days. An eight candle menorah is lit.
- Dec 8 Bodhi Day** **Buddhist** In Japanese Zen, Bodhi Day is called "Rohatsu" and is the observance of enlightenment of the historical Buddha. Zen monasteries observe this day with a meditation retreat lasting several days. On the last night of a Rohatsu sesshin, monks and students often sit in meditation until dawn, as the Buddha did 25 centuries ago.
- Dec 8 Feast of the Immaculate Conception** **Christian** According to the Catholic religion, Mary, the mother of Jesus, was conceived without Original Sin in the womb of her mother, St. Anne.
- Dec 12 Our Lady of Guadalupe** **Mexico** An important religious festival in Mexico. It commemorates the appearance of the Blessed Virgin to an Indian boy in 1531. Processions, dances and visits are led to her Mexico City shrine.
- Dec 13 Aga Khan's Birthday** **Islam Ismaili** He is the religious head of the Ismaili sect.
- Dec 16-24 Posadas** **Mexico** A nine-day traditional celebration throughout Mexico. Processions of pilgrims go door to door asking for posada, which means shelter, commemorating the search by Mary and Joseph for shelter.
- Dec 16 Bijoy Dibash** **Bangladesh** Signifies independence after a 9-month Liberation War against Pakistan in 1971. East Pakistan became Bangladesh.
- Dec 22 Solstice** **International** In the Northern Hemisphere, winter begins today. In the Southern Hemisphere, today is the beginning of summer. Between the equator and the Arctic Circle, the sun rises and sets farthest south on the horizon for the year and the period of daylight is at its shortest - 12 hours, 8 minutes at the equator and decreasing to zero at the Arctic Circle.
- Dec 22 Yule** **Wicca** During the winter solstice – the longest night of the year, the rebirth of the sun which is life sustaining is celebrated. The Yule tree is decorated with fruit and candles are lit to represent the sun.
- Dec 22 Tohji-Tasai** **Shinto** The sun is of central importance in Japan and this day celebrates the end of the Yin period of the Sun in its declining strength and the growing power of the Yang period.
- Dec 23 Joseph Smith's Birthday** **Christian - Mormon** He was the American Mormon Leader, founder of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.
- Dec 25 Christmas Day** **Christian** This day celebrates Jesus Christ's birth over 2000 years ago. Customs include lighting candles, exchanging gifts and using ever green decorations to celebrate this day, the most widely observed Christian festival of the year. In most communities it is a family day.
- Dec 26 Junkanoo** **Bahamas** A festival that combines elements of Mardi Gras, mummers' parades, and ancient African tribal rituals. Continues on January 1.
- Dec 26 Wren Day/St Stephen's Day** **Ireland** On Wren Day, boys in wren costumes go from house to house with a captured wren, singing songs and gathering coins. These coins help to pay for a big celebratory feast in the evening.
- Dec 26 Kwanzaa** **African-American/Canadian, USA** A professor who wanted to encourage African Americans to celebrate their heritage started Kwanzaa's in California in 1966. Kwanzaa means first fruit in Swahili and is a harvest festival. Families exchange gifts and have African-style feasts. Seven-pronged candleholders are lit on each consecutive night for the seven principles: unity, self-determination, working together, sharing, purpose, creativity and faith.
- Dec 26 Death of Prophet Zarathustra** **Zoroastrian** This day marks the death of the founder of the Zoroastrian faith.
- Dec 30 Rizal Day** **Philippines** This day commemorates the death of Jose Mercado Rizal in 1896, a Philippine doctor and author whose books denounced Spanish administration. He was an inspiration to the Philippine nationalist movement.
- Dec 31-Jan 4 Gahambar** **Maidyarem Zoroastrian** This day celebrates the creation of animals. It is also a time for the equitable sharing of food.
- Dec 31 Omisoka** **Japan** To usher in the new year, families clean their homes, eat toshi-koshi buckwheat noodles in the hope that one's life will be stretched out as long as these noodles. As midnight approaches, Shinto temples around the country begin ringing out the old year, sounding the temple bell 108 times, signifying the 108 human worldly desires removed by the striking of the bell.

# DECEMBER 2023

**Universal Human Rights Month**  
UN

*It's time to order your  
2024 calendar!*

November 2023

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	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		

January 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	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	31			

					Friday	Saturday
					1	2
					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Rosa Parks Day USA</li> <li>■ National Day Romania, Laos, UAE</li> <li>■ Independence Day Portugal</li> <li>● World AIDS Day UN</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Int'l Day for the Abolition of Slavery UN</li> </ul>
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday		
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▲ First Sunday of Advent Christian</li> <li>● Int'l Day for Disabled Persons UN</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Discovery Day Haiti</li> <li>● Int'l Volunteer Day for Economic &amp; Social Development UN</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▲ St. Nicholas Day Christian</li> <li>■ Independence Day Finland</li> <li>■ Constitution Day Spain</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓▲ Hanunukah (Dec 7-15) Jewish</li> <li>■ Pearl Harbor Day USA</li> <li>● Int'l Civil Aviation Day UN</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▲ Feast of the Immaculate Conception Christian</li> <li>▲ Bodhi Day Buddhist</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Independence Day Tanzania</li> <li>● Int'l Anti-Corruption Day UN</li> </ul>
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Constitution Day Thailand</li> <li>● Human Rights Day UN</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▲ Masá'il (15th Month) Bahá'í</li> <li>● Int'l Mountain Day UN</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● New Moon</li> <li>■ Jamhuri (Independence Day) Kenya</li> <li>■ Our Lady of Guadalupe Mexico</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓▲ Aga Khan's Birthday Islam Ismaili</li> <li>■ Luciadagen Sweden</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Bill of Rights Day USA</li> <li>■ Navidades Puerto Rico</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Posadas (Dec 16-24) Mexico</li> <li>■ Day of Reconciliation South Africa</li> <li>■ Independence Day Bahrain</li> <li>■ Bijoy Dibash Bangladesh</li> </ul>
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ National Day Bhutan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Independence Day Qatar</li> <li>● Int'l Migrants Day UN</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Human Solidarity Day UN</li> </ul>		<p>WINTER SOLSTICE International</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▲ Yule Wicca</li> <li>▲ Tohji-Tasai Shinto</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▲ Joseph Smith's Birthday Christian - Mormon</li> </ul>
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Independence Day Libya</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓▲ Death of Prophet Zarathustra Zoroastrian</li> <li>■ Boxing Day Canada, UK, Ireland</li> <li>■ Kwanzaa African - American/Canadian</li> <li>■ Wren Day/St Stephen's Day Ireland</li> <li>■ Junkanoo Bahamas</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Full Moon</li> </ul>			
31						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▲ Gahambar Maidyarem (Dec 31-Jan 4) Zoroastrian</li> <li>■ Omisoka Japan</li> <li>■ Hogmanay Scotland</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓▲ Christmas Day Christian</li> <li>■ Jinnah's Birthday Pakistan</li> </ul>				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ TIndependence Day Mongolia</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▲ Sharaf (16th Month) Bahá'í</li> <li>■ Rizal Day Philippines</li> </ul>

# Explanations of Religions



## Indigenous Peoples

The circle and the four cardinal directions are: sacred objects, sacred feathers, sacred herbs and sacred art.

Indigenous Peoples' religions represent examples of primal traditions that have existed for some 30,000 to 60,000 years. Due to their migrations across North America over successive time periods, generalizations regarding Indigenous People traditions are difficult to make. Differences amongst hundreds of tribal groups with their languages, together with contrasts of geography and climate to which the people have adapted has resulted in specific ceremonies unique to each tribe. In no Indigenous People language is there a term that translates as 'religion' and thus the term 'tradition' is preferable. Basic Indigenous People concepts are grounded in the experience of time and process. Therefore, the seasons of nature are understood in a cyclical manner. They have developed an interrelation with the natural environment and the sacred lore, thus the ending of seasons for activities such as hunting, fishing and agricultural pursuits are celebrated through dance, song and recital of legends, mythical stories and clan histories.

Indigenous Peoples' festivals have been listed as a separate group each month, since different tribes perform their ceremonies according to individual tribal time frames.



## Bahá'í

The nine-pointed star is used to symbolize the teachings of the Bahá'í Faith regarding the oneness of humanity and the oneness of religion.

The Bahá'í Era began in 1844 with the declaration of the Báb (1819-1850) who claimed to be the forerunner of Bahá'u'lláh (1817-1892), the Promised One of all ages and religions. There are over 5 million Bahá'ís who come from virtually every ethnic group, culture, profession and social or economic class, and are from more than 235 countries of the world. The Bahá'í World Center is located on Mount Carmel in Haifa, Israel. In the words of Bahá'u'lláh, the Founder of their Faith, "The earth is but one country, and mankind its citizens." The Badi' Calendar was established by the Báb. Based on the solar year, each year is divided into nineteen months of nineteen days, each with four intercalary days (five in leap year).

The Bahá'í year begins on March 21 and the Bahá'í day begins at sunset. Fasting season lasts 19 days beginning March 2. Baha'i holy days begin at sundown the day before the date listed and end at sundown on the date listed.



## Buddhist

The eight-spoked wheel represents the Eight-Fold Path which, when practiced together, enables a person to reach a state of equanimity and compassion.

The word buddha means 'one who has woken up'. Siddhatha, the founder was born in India in 6th century BCE and gained enlightenment at the age of 35. Buddhism teaches that the way to Nirvana is

through leading a moral life and meditation on the Eight-fold path. It is based on compassion for all living beings. Buddhists accept belief in reincarnation and karma, the result of good and evil actions. Buddhism coexists with indigenous religious traditions, adapting to local folk religions such as Hinduism, Confucianism, Shinto and Taoism. The three great traditions of Buddhism are distinct historically and geographically: Southern Buddhism, with 100 million followers who live in Sri Lanka, Burma, Cambodia and Thailand; Eastern Buddhism practiced in China, Japan, Korea and Vietnam; Northern Buddhism covers Tibet, Mongolia, the Himalayas and parts of Soviet Union. There is no single Buddhist calendar and events related to the Buddha are celebrated at different times in different temples. The full moon is commonly recognized as the most important day for celebration.



## Christian

The Crucifix is a symbol used to represent the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The term 'Christian' was first recorded in the New Testament in Acts 11:26 in Antioch, Syria to describe a group of people who demonstrated attachment to 'Christos', a Greek translation of the Hebrew term 'Messiah' used by the Jews. The Christian movement has produced a diversity of expressions, but allegiance to 'Christ', Jesus the Son of God, who began preaching at age 30, is crucial to them all. Jesus proclaimed the coming of the Kingdom of God here on earth and taught that the greatest commandments of the Bible are to love God and to love our neighbours as ourselves. Sharpened by geographical isolation, five 'great traditions' of Christianity have developed. These may be identified as Eastern, Oriental, Latin, Western and African. In most Christian communities, Sunday is the first day of the week, although many minority groups i.e. Seventh-day Adventists and many African churches, insist on a literal observance of the Ten Commandments and the special status of Saturday.

The Gregorian (Western) calendar has been adopted by all Roman Catholic and Protestant Churches. Most Eastern churches, however, continue to use the Julian (Eastern) calendar for religious purposes, though only a few use it exclusively. At the present time, the Julian and Gregorian calendars are approximately 13 days out of phase.

## Christian - Coptic and Eastern Orthodox

The Eastern Orthodoxy is the main group of the Eastern Christianity. The Eastern Orthodox Church comprises of Russian Orthodox, Greek and Cypriot Churches and uses the Julian (Eastern) Calendar for moveable feasts such as Easter. The modern use of the term "Coptic" describes Egyptian Christians. The Coptic Church is based on the teachings of Saint Mark who brought Christianity to Egypt during the reign of the Roman emperor Nero in the first century. The Coptic Orthodox Church's clergy is headed by the Pope of Alexandria and includes Bishops who oversee the priests ordained in their dioceses. There are over 10 million Copts in Egypt and another 2.2 million emigrant Copts all over the world.

## Christian - Mormon

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, widely known as the LDS Church or the Mormon Church was founded by Joseph Smith Apr. 6, 1830. The church is headquartered in Salt Lake City Utah and has established congregations and temples worldwide. The church teaches that it is a restoration of the church instituted by Jesus Christ. It teaches that before Joseph Smith restored the true church, an apostasy occurred shortly after the death of Peter and the other original apostles.

Latter-day Saints believe in the divine authority of the Old Testament and New Testament and also have additional books in the scriptural canon: The Book of Mormon, the Doctrine and Covenants and the Pearl of Great Price.



## Hindu

OM expresses the complete nature of God. 'Hindu' is, in origin, simply the Persian word for people of the Indus Valley civilization. The earliest indications are derived from artifacts 4000-2200 BCE. Hinduism teaches that there is one ultimate reality or energy behind the universe, called Brahman. The many gods and goddesses are the various manifestations of Brahman. God also takes birth on earth as different Incarnations or Avatars.

The same reality exists in human beings, who through reincarnation, or repeated births, try to realize their unity with God. The word 'Hinduism' is used to refer to the complex religious tradition which has evolved in the Indian subcontinent and is represented by highly diverse beliefs and practices of over 500 million Hindus. Hinduism has no founder nor is it prophetic. No particular doctrine, dogma or practice is essential to it. The major scriptures of Hinduism are the Vedas, the Upanishads and the Bhagavad Gita. Buddhism, Jainism and Sikhism arose within the Hindu tradition. Hinduism has been described as a religion of fasts, feasts and festivals. As with pilgrimage, festivals are local, regional and all-Indian. Festivals are connected with seasons as well as with major gods of Hinduism. Hindu festivals and holy days are based on a lunar calendar.



## Islam

The Islamic crescent symbolizes the new moon that determines the Islamic calendar. For its followers, Islam is a total way of life. Islam, which in Arabic means 'submission' (to God), proclaims a religious faith and sets forth certain rituals as well as prescribing patterns of order for society in matters of family life, law, business, food, dress and etiquette. There are five fundamental religious duties, called the Pillars of Islam, incumbent upon every Muslim. Muslims believe that God's final message was revealed to Muhammad (born approximately 570 AD) through the angel Gabriel, and is contained in the Qu'ran. With over 700 million Muslims, Islam is the second largest religious group in the world. There are over 72 sects, the major ones being the Sunnis and the Shi'ites. The largest Islamic community is in the Indian sub-continent, followed by South-East Asia and Indonesia; Arab countries; Turkey, Iran and Afghanistan; Sub-Saharan Africa; Russia and China; and Europe (Balkans). The times of observance

of annual practices, notably Ramadan and the pilgrimage to Mecca, are determined by the Islamic lunar year of 354 days.

Although Islamic dates are always on the same day of the Islamic calendar, the date on the Gregorian calendar varies from year to year, since the Gregorian calendar is a solar calendar and the Islamic calendar is a lunar calendar. This difference means the Islamic dates move in the Gregorian calendar approximately 11 days every year. The dates also vary from country to country depending on whether the moon has been sighted or not. The dates vary by a day depending on whether the Saudi Arabia or the North American Calendar is being observed. This calendar follows the North American dates which is a day later.

## Islam Ismaili

The Ismailis are considered another branch of Shia Islam. It grew out of a dispute over who should lead the Shia community after the death of the Sixth Imam, Jaafar al-Sadiq. Ismailis believe it was Ismail, the son of the sixth Imam, and so the sect takes its name from Ismail. Ismaili groups today can be found in India, Pakistan, Yemen, and East Africa. They are led today by the Harvard educated Aga Khan who oversees a global economic development and charitable program much respected in progressive Western circles.



## Jain

The stylized hand is in a gesture of blessing. On the palm is inscribed "Ahimsa" meaning 'non-injury'. The phrase at the bottom of the symbol translates "All life is bound by mutual support and interdependence."

Jainism is one of the oldest religions of the world. Jains take their name from the term 'Jina' which means 'conqueror' and is given to honour the twenty-four great teachers. The founder of Jainism, Vardhamana Mahavira (599-527 BCE) was the last of the great teachers. India's most famous Jain was Mahatma Gandhi, the greatest champion of non-violence. The Jain philosophy encompasses the principal of non-violence, harmony through compassion towards all living beings, tolerance and forgiveness, and following a vegetarian diet. At present, the community includes approximately 10 million Jains (about one-half of one per cent of India's population). Because of their philosophy of non-injury towards any living thing, most Jains are members of mercantile and professional classes.



## Shinto

The torii is the gateway to a Shinto shrine. The ends of the horizontal bars reach toward heaven. Shinto means "Way of the Kami", and is the oldest religion in Japan. The Shinto worship all the deities of Heaven and Earth and their belief is that the world is populated by millions of Kami, spirits that inhabit the nature world which is regarded with awe and respect rocks, trees, heavenly bodies; the guardian deities: souls of ancestors, renowned persons and Buddha incarnations. Shinto ceremonies dedicated to Kami, are held at shrines in homes and processions.



## Jewish

The Shield of David or “six-pointed star” is the symbol of Judaism. Judaism is based on the covenant, or promise made by the Jewish people to follow the teachings of the Torah and by God to protect the people who followed those laws. Though Abraham is considered the first Jew because he eschewed idols for an invisible, all powerful deity, the covenant took place when God gave the Torah, or sacred law, to the Jewish people through Moses at Mount Sinai about 4000 years ago. The Torah, which means laws, consists of the first five books of Moses.

Modern religious Jews, whether affiliated with an Orthodox, Conservative, Reconstructionist, or Reform synagogues, are members of a worldwide faith community. Today there are nearly 15 million Jews in the world, the biggest concentration in the U.S.A., followed by Israel and the Soviet Union. Jews of all races live throughout the world, primarily in France, Britain, Canada, South America and South Africa.

The main precepts of Judaism are obedience to moral law, justice, mercy, and compassion. The Jewish year is based on a lunar calendar of 12 months. Each month begins with the new moon. The year begins in late September/early October with Rosh Hashanah, the “head of the year,” and the holy day on which Jews reflect on their actions the previous year. A week later on Yom Kippur, Jews repent for their mistakes and sins, but not before having asked how to make retribution to those wronged. All holidays and Sabbaths (Friday -Sat). begin and end at sundown. No matter where Jews live, their rituals, music, holidays and Sabbaths are celebrated in fundamentally the same ways. Judaism is a religion, not a race or a nationality. The language of prayer is Hebrew.



## Sikh

The Sikh symbol, known as the “Khanda”, represents two basic principles of the faith: the need to balance temporal obligations with spiritual duties, and the duty of every Sikh to first serve those who are poor, oppressed, voiceless or disadvantaged in any way. Sikhism began in 15th century Punjab - a land that now spans across modern-day India and Pakistan - with the simple message that there is One Creator, and therefore all people, regardless of gender, caste, race, color, ethnicity or religious belief, are equal. Sikhs are unequivocally monotheistic and reject all forms of ritual, superstition and idol worship. They are guided by the teachings of Ten Teachers, the first being Nanak (1439-1539) and the last Gobind Singh (1666-1708). Their compositions, in poetry and set to music, constitute the Guru Granth Sahib, the Sikh Scripture also revered as the Living Teacher.

The word ‘Sikh’ literally means ‘student’ or ‘one who is learning’. Sikhs are easily recognized by their turbans. Those who take on the full discipline adopt the five “K’s”: Kangha (wooden comb); Kara (steel bracelet); Kirpan (sword); Kaccha (pair of shorts); Kesh (long hair).

Today, it is the fifth largest world religion with more than 25 million adherents living mainly in Punjab, Hong Kong, Singapore and other Commonwealth countries. Approximately 1.2 million Sikhs now call North America their home. Since 1999, Sikh high holidays have been demarcated in the solar Nanakshahi Calendar, which does not vary from year to year (as was the case with the traditional lunar Bikarami calendar) and is now in accordance with the western calendar.



## Wicca

The Pentacle is the most common symbol used in Wicca. Its five points symbolize Air, Fire, Water, Earth and Spirit, in the circle of eternity. Wicca is the common term for many different traditions of Neo-Pagan nature religions that celebrate seasonal and life cycles, and revere a Goddess and a God. There are eight seasonal festivals called Sabbats: four equinoxes and four agricultural and herd-farming times. The basic tenets are: worship of the Goddess in her three aspects, Maiden, Mother and Crone; worship of her consort Pan, the Horned God; the use of magic within a definite code of ethics, including the Wiccan rede, “And ye harm none, do what ye will”; reverence for nature and ecological principles; belief that the divine is in everything; that there are multiple deities and many different pathways to the divine; and acceptance of reincarnation. Wiccans are found in Great Britain, U.S.A., Canada, Australia, Germany and Holland.



## Zoroastrian

FRAVASHI, the divinity in humanity, is represented by symbol. The prophet Zarathustra lived in Persia around 1800 BCE. The Zoroastrians of India are called Parsis and follow the Shenshai calendar. The Zoroastrians in Iran follow the Fasli calendar. Zarathustra in his Gathas or ‘verses’ declared the sovereignty of the one God, Ahura Mazda “Lord of All Wisdom”, and the opposition of good and evil forces. Zoroastrian worship centers around a continually burning sacred fire. Although prosperous, the community is numerically very small, residing primarily in India, Iran, England, Canada, Australia and the U.S.A. There are seven obligatory holy days known as the six gahambars and Nowruz (‘New Day’) which celebrates the beginning of the year and is dedicated to the seventh creation, fire, the symbol of righteousness.

# Summary of Religious Holidays for 2023

✓ THE MOST IMPORTANT DATES TO TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION WHEN SCHEDULING MEETINGS AND EVENTS AT WORK. SOME FORM OF ACCOMMODATION FOR RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCES MAY BE REQUIRED.



## Indigenous Peoples

Indigenous Peoples' Day - Canada ✓ Jun 21  
National Day of Truth and Reconciliation - Canada Sep 30  
Indigenous Peoples' Day-US ✓ Oct 9



## Bahá'í

All holy days begin at sunset the day before the date listed and end at sundown on the date listed

Intercalary Days Feb 25-Mar 1  
Alá (19-Day Fast Begins) Mar 2-Mar 20  
Now Ruz (New Year) ✓ Mar 21  
Feast Of Ridvan ✓ Apr 21-May 2  
Declaration of Báb May 24  
Ascension of Bahá'u'lláh ✓ May 29  
Martyrdom of The Báb Jul 10  
Birthday Of The Báb Oct 16  
Birth Of Bahá'u'lláh Oct 17  
Day of Covenant Nov 26  
Ascension Of Abdu'l-Bahá; Nov 28



## Buddhist

Chinese New Year ✓ Jan 22  
Losar (New Year Tibet) ✓ Feb 21  
Great Prayer Festival (Tibet) Feb 24-Mar 3  
Butter Lamp Festival (Tibet) Mar 7  
Wesak ✓ May 5  
Dalai Lama's Birthday (Tibet) Jul 6  
Wassana / Dhamma Day Jul 3  
Pavarana Sep 28  
Kathina Sep 29  
Bodhi Day Dec 8



## Christian

Occidental calendar (Gregorian)

Epiphany Jan 6  
Three Kings' Day Jan 6  
Christmas - Armenia ✓ Jan 6  
Shrove Tuesday Feb 21  
Ash Wednesday (Lent Begins) Feb 22  
St. Joseph's Day Mar 19  
Annunciation Mar 25  
Palm Sunday Apr 2  
Holy Thursday Apr 6  
Good Friday ✓ Apr 7

Easter ✓ Apr 9  
Easter Monday Apr 10  
St. George's Day Apr 23  
Ascension May 18  
Pentecost May 28  
Assumption Aug 15  
All Saints' Day Nov 1  
All Souls Day Nov 2  
First Sunday of Advent Dec 3  
St. Nicholas Day Dec 6  
Feast of the Immaculate Conception Dec 8  
Christmas Day ✓ Dec 25

## Christian - Coptic & Eastern Orthodox

Coptic & Eastern Orthodox (Julian) Calendar

Christmas ✓ Jan 7  
New Year - Eastern Orthodox Jan 14  
Timkat / Theophany Jan 20  
Clean Monday (Great Lent Begins) Feb 27  
Maundy Thursday Apr 13  
Holy Friday ✓ Apr 14  
Pasha/Easter ✓ Apr 16  
Easter Monday Apr 17  
Ascension May 25  
Pentecost Jun 4

## Christian - Mormon

Organization of The Church Apr 6  
Pioneer Day Jul 24  
Joseph Smith's Birthday Dec 23



## Hindu

Lohri Jan 13  
Makar Sankranti Jan 14  
Basant Panchami Jan 26  
Shivratri Feb 18  
Holi ✓ Mar 7  
Ram Navami Mar 30  
Baisakhi ✓ Apr 14  
Guru Purnima Jul 3  
Raksha Bandhan Aug 30  
Janmashtami ✓ Sep 7  
Ganesh Chaturthi Sep 19  
Navratri Oct 15  
Durga Puja Oct 22  
Dussehra ✓ Oct 24  
Karva Chauth Nov 1  
Diwali ✓ Nov 12



## Islam

Dates are subject to sighting of moon

Ramadan Begins Mar 23  
Laylat al-Qadr Apr 18  
Eid-ul-Fitr ✓ Apr 22  
Day of Hajj (Day of Arafat) Jun 26  
Eid-ul-Adha ✓ Jun 28  
1st Muharram - Islamic New Year Jul 20  
Ashura ✓ Jul 28  
Eid-Maulad-un-Nabi ✓ Sep 28

## Islam Ismaili

Now Ruz (New Year) ✓ Mar 21  
Imamat Day ✓ Jul 11  
Aga Khan's Birthday ✓ Dec 13



## Jain

Mahavira Jayanti ✓ Apr 4  
Akshaya Tritiya Apr 22  
Guru Purnima Jul 3  
Paryushana-Parva ✓ Aug 25-Sep 1  
Samvatsari Sep 20  
Dashalakshani-Parva Sep 20  
Ananta-Chaturdasi Sep 28  
Ksamavani Sep 29  
Mahavira Nirvana Nov 12  
Lokashah Jayanti Nov 27



## Jewish

All holy days begin at previous sundown

\*Some Jews may abstain from work

Tu B'Shevat (Arbor Day) Feb 6  
Purim ✓ Mar 7  
Pesach /Passover ✓ Apr 6-Apr 13  
Yom HaShoah Apr 18  
Lag BaOmer May 9  
Shavuot ✓ May 26-27  
Tish'a B'Av Jul 27  
Rosh Hashana ✓ Sep 16-17  
Yom Kippur ✓ Sep 25  
Sukkot ✓ Sep 30-Oct 1  
Shemini Atzeret ✓ Oct 7  
Simchat Torah ✓ Oct 8  
Hanunukah ✓ Dec 7-15

## Shinto

Gantan-Sai Jan 1  
Shunki-Sorei-Sai Mar 20  
Oh-Harai-Taisai Jul 30  
Shuki sorei sai Sep 23  
Tohji-Tasai Dec 22



## Sikh

The old lunar calendar is Bikarami; the new solar calendar is Nanakshahi.

The dates below are mostly Nanakshahi unless otherwise indicated

Guru Gobind Singh's Birthday Jan 5  
Lohri Jan 13  
Holi ✓ Mar 7  
Hola Mohalla (Bikarami) Mar 8  
Baisakhi ✓ Apr 14  
Martydom of Guru Arjan Dev Jun 16  
Diwali ✓ Nov 12  
Martyrdom of Guru Teg Bahadur Nov 24  
Guru Nanak's Birthday (Bikarami) ✓ Nov 27



## Wicca

Imbolg Feb 2  
Eostre Mar 20  
Beltane May 1  
Litha Jun 20  
Lugnasad Aug 1  
Mabon Sep 23  
Samhain Oct 31  
Yule Dec 22



## Zoroastrian

Sadeh Jan 30  
Gahambar Hamaspathmaedem Mar 16-20  
Now Ruz (New Year) ✓ Mar 21  
Birth Of Prophet Zarathustra (Fasli) Mar 26  
Gahambar Maidyozaem Apr 30-May 4  
Gahambar Maidyoshem Jun 29-Jul 3  
Fravardaghan Aug 8-17  
Now Ruz (Shenshai) ✓ Aug 16  
Birth of Prophet Zarathustra (Shenshai) Aug 24  
Gahambar Patishahem Sep 12-16  
Mehragan Oct 2  
Gahambar Ayathrem Oct 12-16  
Death of Prophet Zarathustra ✓ Dec 26  
Gahambar Maidyarem Dec 31-Jan 4



<b>Kenya</b> Jamhuri (Independence Day)	Dec 12	<b>Indigenous/Maori, New Zealand</b> Poutuerangi Matariki	Mar 20 Jun 24	Hogmanay	Dec 31	<b>United Kingdom</b> Valentine's Day	Feb 14
<b>Korea</b> Solnal	Jan 22	<b>New Zealand</b> Anniversary Day -Wellington	Jan 20	Independence Day	Apr 4	Pancake Tuesday	Feb 21
Buddha's Birthday	May 26	Anniversary Day - Auckland	Jan 31	National Day	Feb 15	Mothering Sunday	Mar 19
Korean Liberation Day	Aug 15	Waitangi Day	Feb 6	National Day	Aug 9	April Fools' Day	Apr 1
Chuseok	Sep 29	Anzac Day	Apr 25	National Day	Jun 26	Emancipation Day	Apr 17
Foundation Day	Oct 3	Father's Day	Sep 3	Independence Day	Jun 26	May Day Bank Holiday	May 8
Han-Gul Day	Oct 9	Labour Day	Oct 23	Independence Day	Jun 26	Spring Bank Holiday	May 29
<b>Kuwait</b> National Day	Feb 25	<b>Nicaragua</b> Independence Day	Sep 15	Family Day	Apr 18	Trooping The Colour	Jun 10
<b>Laos</b> Bown Pinai/New Year	Apr 14	<b>Nigeria</b> Independence Day	Oct 1	Freedom Day	Apr 27	Father's Day	Jun 18
Children's Day	Jun 1	<b>Norway</b> Constitution Day	May 17	National Women's Day	Aug 9	Notting Hill Festival	Aug 26
National Day	Dec 1	<b>Pakistan</b> Independence Day	Aug 14	Heritage Day	Sep 24	Summer Bank Holiday	Aug 28
<b>Latvia</b> Independence Day	Nov 18	<b>Pakistan</b> Defence Day	Sep 6	Day of Reconciliation	Dec 16	Guy Fawkes Day	Nov 5
<b>Lebanon</b> Independence Day	Nov 22	<b>Pakistan</b> Jinnah's Birthday	Dec 25	Mother's Day	May 1	Remembrance Day	Nov 11
<b>LGBT</b> Day Against Homophobia	May 17	<b>Pakistan</b> National Day	Nov 15	Feast of St. Ignatius Loyola	Jul 31	Boxing Day	Dec 26
Stonewall Rebellion Day	Jun 28	<b>Pakistan</b> National Day	Nov 15	National Day	Oct 12	<b>Ukraine</b> Independence Day	Aug 24
Coming Out Day	Oct 11	<b>Pakistan</b> National Day	Nov 15	Constitution Day	Dec 6	<b>UN</b> International Women's Day	Mar 8
Transgender Day of Remembrance	Nov 20	<b>Pakistan</b> National Day	Nov 15	Constitution Day	Dec 6	Int'l Day for Elimination of Racial Discrimination	Mar 21
<b>Liberia</b> Independence Day	Jul 26	<b>Paraguay</b> Independence Day	May 15	Independence Day	Feb 4	World Day of Water	Mar 22
<b>Libya</b> Independence Day	Dec 24	<b>Peru</b> Inti Raymi	Jun 21	Independence Day	Apr 13	Autism Awareness Day	Apr 2
<b>Lithuania</b> Independence Day	Feb 16	Independence Day	Jul 28	Songkran/New Year	Apr 15	World Health Day	Apr 7
<b>Luxembourg</b> National Day	Jun 23	St. Rosa Of Lima	Aug 30	Adam's Peak Pilgrimage	Apr 15	World Environment Day	Jun 5
<b>Macedonia</b> Illiinden	Aug 2	Our Lady of Las Mercedes	Sep 24	Independence Day	Jan 1	International Youth Day	Aug 12
<b>Madagascar</b> Independence Day	Jun 26	<b>Philippines</b> People Power Day	Feb 25	Independence Day	Jan 1	International Day Of Peace	Sep 21
<b>Malaysia</b> Gawai Dayak	Jun 1	Santa Cruzan Day	May 1	Independence Day	Jan 13	World Habitat Day	Oct 5
Merdeka (Freedom) Day	Aug 31	Independence Day	Jun 12	Independence Day	Jan 13	International Day of the Girl	Oct 11
<b>Mali</b> Independence Day	Sep 22	Rizal Day	Dec 30	St. Knut's Day	Apr 30	World Food Day	Oct 16
<b>Malta</b> Independence Day	Sep 21	<b>Poland</b> Constitution Day	May 3	Walpurgis Night	May 28	United Nations Day	Oct 24
<b>Mauritius</b> Abolition of Slavery	Feb 1	Independence Day	Nov 11	Mother's Day	Jun 6	Int'l Day of Tolerance	Nov 16
Thaiposam Cavadee	Feb 5	<b>Poland</b> Independence Day	Nov 11	National Day	Dec 13	Int'l Day For Elimination Of Violence Against Women	Nov 25
National Day	Mar 12	<b>Poland</b> Independence Day	Nov 11	Luciadenagen	Dec 13	World AIDS Day	Dec 1
Ugadi	Apr 13	<b>Portugal</b> Mothers Day	May 1	Confederation Day	Jan 2	Human Rights Day	Dec 10
<b>Mexico</b> Cinco De Mayo	May 5	Our Lady Of Fatima	May 13	Independence Day	Mar 1	<b>Uruguay</b> Independence Day	Aug 25
Dia de la Independencia	Sep 16	Portugal Day	Jun 10	Independence Day	Aug 1	<b>Indigenous Peoples - USA</b> Gathering Of Nations Pow Wow	Apr 28
Chichen Itza Festival	Sep 23	Republic Day	Oct 5	Independence Day	Apr 17	Red Earth Native American Fair	Sep 2
Fiesta San Miguel	Sep 28	Dia De Finades	Nov 2	Independence Day	Apr 17	San Geronimo Day	Sep 30
Dia de la Raza	Oct 12	Independence Day	Dec 1	Independence Day	Apr 17	<b>USA</b> Martin Luther King Jr. Day	Jan 16
Dia de los Muertos	Nov 2	<b>Puerto Rico</b> Emancipation Day	Mar 22	Independence Day	Apr 17	Lincoln's Birthday	Feb 12
Our Lady of Guadalupe	Dec 12	Dia de San Juan	Jun 24	Independence Day	Apr 17	Presidents Day (Obsvd)	Feb 20
Posadas	Dec 16-24	Munoz-Rivera Day	Jul 20	Independence Day	Apr 17	Emancipation Day	Apr 17
<b>Moldova</b> Independence Day	Aug 27	Constitution Day	Oct 6	Independence Day	Apr 17	Daughter/ Son to Work Day	Apr 27
<b>Mongolia</b> Nadaam Festival	Jul 11	Discovery Day	Nov 19	Independence Day	Apr 17	Arbor Day	Apr 28
Independence Day	Dec 29	Navidades	Dec 15	Independence Day	Apr 17	Mother's Day	May 14
<b>Morocco</b> Independence Day	Nov 18	<b>Qatar</b> Independence Day	Dec 18	Independence Day	Apr 17	Armed Forces Day	May 21
<b>Myanmar</b> Independence Day	Jan 4	<b>Romania</b> St. Andrew's Day	Nov 30	Independence Day	Apr 17	Memorial Day	May 29
Songkran/New Year	Apr 13	National Day	Dec 1	Independence Day	Apr 17	Father's Day	Jun 18
<b>Nepal</b> Ugadi	Apr 13	<b>Russia</b> Victory Day	May 9	Independence Day	Apr 17	Independence Day	Jul 4
Republic Day	May 27	Russia Day	Jun 12	Independence Day	Apr 17	Hiroshima Day	Aug 6
Dussehra	Oct 24	<b>Rwanda</b> Independence Day	Jul 1	Independence Day	Apr 17	Labour Day	Sep 4
<b>Netherlands</b> Kings Day	Apr 27	<b>Saint Kitts/Nevis</b> Independence Day	Sep 19	Independence Day	Apr 17	Day Of Remembrance	Sep 11
Memorial Day	May 4	<b>Saint Lucia</b> Independence Day	Feb 22	Independence Day	Apr 17	Constitution Day	Sep 17
Liberation Day	May 5	<b>Samoa</b> Independence Day	Jun 1	Independence Day	Apr 17	Halloween	Oct 31
		<b>Saudi Arabia</b> Unification Day	Sep 23	Independence Day	Apr 17	Veterans Day	Nov 11
		<b>Scotland</b> New Year's Bank Holiday	Jan 2	Independence Day	Apr 17	Thanksgiving Day	Nov 23
		Robbie Burns Day	Jan 25	Independence Day	Apr 17	Rosa Parks Day	Dec 1
		May Day Bank Holiday	May 8	Independence Day	Apr 17	Pearl Harbor Day	Dec 7
		Spring Bank Holiday	May 29	Independence Day	Apr 17	<b>Venezuela</b> Independence Day	Jul 5
		Summer Bank Holiday	Aug 7	Independence Day	Apr 17	Simon Bolivar Day	Jul 24
		St. Andrew's Day	Nov 30	Independence Day	Apr 17	<b>Vietnam</b> Chinese Lunar New Year	Jan 22
				Independence Day	Apr 17	Independence Day	Sep 1
				Independence Day	Apr 17	Trung Thu	Sep 29
				Independence Day	Apr 17	<b>Wales</b> St. David's Day	Mar 1
				Independence Day	Apr 17	May Day Bank Holiday	May 8
				Independence Day	Apr 17	Spring Bank Holiday	May 29
				Independence Day	Apr 17	Summer Bank Holiday	Aug 28
				Independence Day	Apr 17	<b>Yemen</b> National Day	May 22
				Independence Day	Apr 17	<b>Zambia</b> Independence Day	Oct 24
				Independence Day	Apr 17	<b>Zimbabwe</b> Independence Day	Apr 18