JULY 2018

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

July 22  TISHA B’AV • Jewish
       Mourning of the destruction of the First and Second Temples in Jerusalem in 586 BCE and 70 CE.

July 27  DHARMA DAY • Buddhist
       Also known as Asala Puja, it commemorates the historical Buddha's first discourse following his spiritual awakening.

AUGUST 2018

August 22–25  EID AL-ADHA • Islamic
       The “Feast of Sacrifice” concludes the Hajj (pilgrimage to Mecca), and is a three-day festival recalling Ibrahim’s willingness to sacrifice his son in obedience to God.

August 25  ULLAMBANA (also known as Obon) • Buddhist
       Ullambana, a Sanskrit term that means “hanging upside down and suffering,” honors the spirits of past ancestors and strives to relieve aching souls from suffering. It lasts about half of the month of August. Obon, the Japanese transliteration of Ullambana, is only three days and varies from region to region—July in the eastern region and August in the western region.

August 26  RAKSHA BANDHAN • Hindu
       Also called Rakhi, this festival celebrates the protective relationship between brothers and their sisters.

SEPTEMBER 2018

September 2  KRISHNA JANMASHTAMI (Also known as JAYANTI) • Hindu
       Celebrates Krishna’s birthday, Vishnu’s eighth incarnation on earth.

## 2018-2019

### Major Religious Holidays and Observances

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Religion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 10-11</td>
<td><strong>ROSH HASHANAH • Jewish</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Beginning of the Jewish New Year and first of the High Holy Days, which marks the beginning of a ten-day period of penitence and spiritual renewal.</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 12</td>
<td><strong>MUHARRAM • Islamic</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The month of Muharram marks the beginning of the Islamic liturgical year. The first day of the month, al-Hijra, remembers the migration of Muhammad and his followers from Mecca to Medina in 622 CE. It also marks the beginning of the ten-day Shi’ite Remembrance of Muharram, a period of intense grief and mourning of the martyrdom of Hussein, the son of Ali and grandson of Muhammad.</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 13</td>
<td><strong>GANESH CHATURTHI • Hindu</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>September 16</td>
<td><strong>MEXICAN INDEPENDENCE DAY</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>September 19</td>
<td><strong>YOM KIPPUR • Jewish</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>The “Day of Atonement” marks the end of the Ten Days of Penitence that begin with Rosh Hashanah.</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 21</td>
<td><strong>ASHURA • Islamic</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A day of fasting observed on the 10th day of the month of Muharram to celebrate Moses’ exodus from Egypt. For Shi’a Muslims, it also marks the climax of the ten-day Remembrance of Muharram, which mourns the martyrdom of Hussein at the Battle of Kerbala in 680 CE.</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 24-30</td>
<td><strong>SUKKOT • Jewish</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The week-long “Feast of Booths” commemorates the 40-year wandering of the Israelites in the desert on the way to the Promised Land.</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### OCTOBER 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>October 1</td>
<td><strong>SHEMINI ATZERET • Jewish</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>“The Eighth (Day) of Assembly” is observed on the day immediately following Sukkot.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source:** Anti-Defamation League: [https://www.adl.org/education/resources/tools-and-strategies/calendar-of-observances](https://www.adl.org/education/resources/tools-and-strategies/calendar-of-observances) - Prepared by the Office of Institutional Diversity and Inclusion
**2018-2019**

**Major Religious Holidays and Observances**

**October 2**
**SIMCHAT TORAH • Jewish**
“Rejoicing in the Torah” celebrates the conclusion of the public reading of the Pentateuch and its beginning anew.

**October 10 – 18**
**NAVARATRI • Hindu**
Nine-day festival celebrating the triumph of good over evil. It worships God in the form of the universal mother commonly referred to as Durga, Devi or Shakti, and marks the start of fall.

**October 19**
**DASSERA • Hindu**
Anniversary of the day when Rama killed the evil demon Ravana. Also known as *Durga Puja*, which celebrates the goddess Durga.

**October 20**
**BIRTH OF THE BÁB • Bahá’í**
Bahá’í observance of the anniversary of the birth in 1819 of Siyyid, “the Báb,” the prophet-herald of the Bahá’í Faith, in Shíráz, Persia.

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

**October 31**
**REFORMATION DAY • Christian**
Commemorates the beginning of the Protestant Reformation in 1517.

**October 31**
**HALLOWEEN**
The eve of All Saints’ Day.

**NOVEMBER 2018**

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

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

**Source:** Anti-Defamation League: [https://www.adl.org/education/resources/tools-and-strategies/calendar-of-observances](https://www.adl.org/education/resources/tools-and-strategies/calendar-of-observances) • Prepared by the Office of Institutional Diversity and Inclusion
2018-2019
Major Religious Holidays and Observances

November 7
DIWALI • Hindu
Also called Deepavali, “Festival of Lights”, it celebrates the victory of good over evil, light over darkness, and knowledge over ignorance.

November 7
BANDI-CHHOR DIWAS • Sikh
A commemorative occasion having no fixed date which occurs in October or November and celebrates the release of the Sixth Guru Har Gobind Sahib from imprisonment and coincides with Diwali, the Hindu festival of lights.

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

November 20
MAWLID AL-NABI (Also known as MILAD AL-NABI) • Islamic (Sunni)
The observance of the birthday of Islam founder Prophet Muhammad, which is celebrated in Rabi’ al-awwal, the third month in the Islamic calendar. Shi’a Muslims celebrate it five days later than Sunni Muslims.

November 23
GURU NANAK DEV JI’S BIRTHDAY • Sikh
A very important holiday in the Sikh faith as Guru Nanak Dev’s was the First Guru of the Sikhs and the Founder of Sikhism. He was born in mid-November; the holiday is celebrated according to the lunar date.

November 25
MAWLID AL-NABI (Also known as MILAD AL-NABI) • Islamic (Shi’a)
The observance of the birthday of Islam founder Prophet Muhammad, which is celebrated in Rabi’ al-awwal, the third month in the Islamic calendar. Sunni Muslims celebrate it five days earlier than Shi’a Muslims.

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

DECEMBER 2018

December 2–24
ADVENT • Christian
Advent is a season of spiritual preparation in observance of the birth of Jesus. In Western Christianity, it starts on the fourth Sunday before Christmas. In Eastern Christianity, the season is longer and begins in the middle of November.

### 2018-2019

**Major Religious Holidays and Observances**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Holiday</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>December 2–10</td>
<td><strong>CHANUKAH • Jewish</strong></td>
<td>Eight-day “Festival of Lights”, celebrating the rededication of the Temple to the service of God in 164 BCE. Commemorates the victory of the Maccabees over the Greek King, Antiochus, who sought to suppress freedom of worship.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 8</td>
<td><strong>BODHI DAY • Buddhist</strong></td>
<td>Also known as <em>Rohatsu</em>, it observes the spiritual awakening (bodhi) of founder Siddharta Gautama, the Buddha, ca. 596 BCE. Celebrated on the eighth day either of December or the 12th month of the lunar calendar.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 12</td>
<td><strong>OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE • Christian</strong></td>
<td>Celebrates the apparition of the Blessed Virgin Mary (by her title, Our Lady of Guadalupe, the Patroness of Mexico and the Americas) before Juan Diego, an indigenous convert to Roman Catholicism, on the Mexican hill of Tepeyac in 1531.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 25</td>
<td><strong>CHRISTMAS • Western Christian</strong></td>
<td>Commemorates the birth of Jesus.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 26– January 1, 2019</td>
<td><strong>KWANZAA</strong></td>
<td>A seven-day celebration honoring African American heritage and its continued vitality. “Kwanzaa” means “first fruits (of the harvest)” in Swahili.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**JANUARY 2019**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 5</td>
<td><strong>GURU GOBIND SINGH JI’S BIRTHDAY • Sikh</strong></td>
<td>Guru Gobindh Singh was the 10th Sikh guru of Nanak and founder of the Khalsa.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 6</td>
<td><strong>EPIPHANY • Christian</strong></td>
<td>Known as <em>Theophany</em> in Eastern Christianity, it celebrates the manifestation of Jesus as Christ. In addition, the Western Church associates Epiphany with the journey of the Magi to the infant Jesus, and the Eastern Church with the baptism of Jesus by John.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 6</td>
<td><strong>CHRISTMAS • Armenian Orthodox Christian</strong></td>
<td>Armenian Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus on Epiphany, except for Armenians living in Israel, who celebrate Christmas on January 19th.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
January 7  CHRISTMAS • Eastern Christian
Most Orthodox churches celebrate Christmas 13 days later than other Christian churches based on their use of the Julian rather than the Gregorian version of the Western calendar.

January 15  MAKR SANKRANTI • Hindu
Seasonal celebration marking turning of the sun toward the north.

January 20  WORLD RELIGION DAY • Bahá’í
Observance to proclaim the oneness of religion and the belief that world religion will unify the peoples of the earth.

January 21–23  MAHAYANA NEW YEAR • Buddhist
In Mahayana countries the New Year starts on the first full moon day in January.

January 21  TU B’SHVAT • Jewish
New Year's Day for Trees, and traditionally the first of the year for tithing fruit of trees. Now a day for environmental awareness and action, such as tree planting.

January 27  HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

FEBRUARY 2019

February 5  LUNAR NEW YEAR • Confucian, Daoist and Buddhist
Also known as the Spring Festival, an important festival celebrated at the turn of the traditional lunisolar Chinese calendar.

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

February 26 –March 1  AYYÁM-I-HA OR INTERCALARY DAYS • Bahá’í
The Ayyám-i-ha, or “Days of Ha” are devoted to spiritual preparation for the fast, celebrating, hospitality, charity and gift giving. They are celebrated the four days, five in leap year, before the last month of the Bahá’í year by inserting days into the calendar in order to maintain their solar calendar.

2018-2019
Major Religious Holidays and Observances

MARCH 2019

March 2– March 20  NINETEEN-DAY FAST • Bahá’í
Baha’is between 15 and 70 years of age do not eat or drink from sunrise to sunset and set aside time for prayer and meditation.

March 4  MAHA SHIVARATRI • Hindu
Also called Shiva Ratri, the Great Night of Shiva, is a festival in reverence of the god Shiva. The festival is celebrated at the 13th night or 14th day of the waning moon in the Hindu calendar (month of February or March of the English calendar).

March 5  SHROVE TUESDAY • Western Christian
A day of penitence as well as the last chance to feast before Lent begins. Also known as Mardi Gras, Fat Tuesday and Carnival Day as this day is observed in many ways worldwide.

March 6  ASH WEDNESDAY • Western Christian
The first day of Lent for Western Christian churches, a 40-day period of spiritual preparation for Easter, not counting Sundays.

March 11  CLEAN MONDAY • Eastern Christian
The beginning of Great Lent for Eastern Christian churches, which starts 40 days before Orthodox Easter (Pascha), counting Sundays.

March 17  ST. PATRICK’S DAY • Christian
Feast day of the patron saint of Ireland. In the U.S., a secular version is celebrated by people of all faiths through appreciation of all things Irish.

March 21  NOWRÚZ • Zoroastrian
A traditional ancient Iranian festival celebrating the first day of Spring and the Iranian New Year. Also celebrated as New Year’s Day in Baha’i tradition (Naw-Ruz).

March 21  HOLLA MOHALLA • Sikh
An annual event which is a martial arts parade historically coinciding with Holi, the Hindu festival of colors. Celebrations related to Holla Mohalla may be held in various locations over several weekends preceding the actual date of the holiday.

March 21  HOLI • Hindu
A spring festival in India and Nepal dedicated to the god of pleasure, also known as the festival of colours or the festival of sharing love.

2018-2019
Major Religious Holidays and Observances

March 21
MAGHA PUJA • Buddhist
Also known as Sangha Day, it commemorates the spontaneous assembly of 1,250 disciples, completely enlightened monks, in the historical Buddha's presence.

March 21
PURIM • Jewish
The “Feast of Lots” marks the salvation of the Jews of ancient Persia from extermination.

March 28
KHORDAD SAL • Zoroastrian
The Zoroastrian celebration of the birth of Zoroaster, the founder of the Zoroastrianism religion. The holiday is specifically celebrated in India and Iran, immediately following the Persian new year, Nowruz.

APRIL 2019

April 14
RAMA NAVAMI • Hindu
Celebrates the birthday of Rama, king of ancient India, hero of the epic Ramayana, and seventh incarnation of Vishnu.

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

April 14
PALM SUNDAY • Christian
Observed the Sunday before Easter/Pascha to commemorate the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem.

April 18
HOLY THURSDAY • Christian
Also known as Maundy Thursday, it is celebrated on the Thursday before Easter commemorating the Last Supper, at which Jesus and the Apostles were together for the last time before the Crucifixion.

April 19
GOOD FRIDAY • Christian
Known as Holy Friday in Eastern Christianity, it commemorates the Crucifixion of Jesus on the Friday before Easter/Pascha.

April 19–21
THERAVADA NEW YEAR • Buddhist
In Theravada countries the New Year is celebrated on the first full moon day in April.

2018-2019
Major Religious Holidays and Observances

April 20–27
PASOVER/PESACH • Jewish
The eight-day “Feast of Unleavened Bread” celebrates Israel’s deliverance from Egyptian bondage.

April 21
EASTER • Christian
Known as Pascha in Eastern Christianity, it celebrates the resurrection of Jesus.

April 21–May 2
FESTIVAL OF RIDVÁN • Bahá’í
Annual festival commemorating the 12 days when Bahá’u’lláh, the prophet-founder of the Bahá’í Faith, resided in a garden called Ridván (Paradise) and publicly proclaimed his mission as God’s messenger for this age. The first (April 21), ninth (April 29), and twelfth (May 2) days are celebrated as holy days when Baha’is suspend work.

MAY 2019

May 2
YOM HASHOAH • Jewish
“Holocaust Remembrance Day” memorializes the heroic martyrdom of six million Jews who perished in the Nazi Holocaust.

May 6–June 4
RAMADAN • Islamic
Observed by Muslims worldwide as a month of fasting to commemorate the first revelation of the Qur’an to the Prophet Muhammad.

May 18
VISAKHA PUJA • Buddhist
Also known as Vesak or Buddha Day, it marks the birth, spiritual awakening and death (nirvana) of the historical Buddha.

May 23
LAG B’OMER • Jewish
Celebrates the end of a divine-sent plague and/or Roman occupation during Rabbi Akiva’s lifetime (died c. 135 CE).

May 24
DECLARATION OF THE BAB • Bahá’í
Commemoration of May 23, 1844, when the Báb, the prophet-herald of the Bahá’í Faith, announced in Shiráz, Persia, that he was the herald of a new messenger of God.

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

2018-2019
Major Religious Holidays and Observances

May 30

ASCENSION DAY • Christian
Celebrated 40 days after Easter/Pascha, it commemorates the ascension of Jesus into Heaven.

JUNE 2019

June 1

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

June 4–6

EID AL-FITR • Islamic
The “Feast of the Breaking of the Fast” marks the end of Ramadan, the holy month of fasting from dawn until dusk.

June 9

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

June 9

RACE UNITY DAY • Bahá’í
Observance promoting racial harmony and understanding and the essential unity of humanity.

June 9–10

SHAVUOT • Jewish
The “Feast of Weeks” celebrates the covenant established at Sinai between God and Israel, and the revelation of the Ten Commandments.