

DAYS OF RELIGIOUS and CEREMONIAL SIGNIFICANCE

* Adapted from University of Toronto, Multi-faith Centre *Days of Significance 2024–2025 calendar*

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2024	2025	2026	
JAN 6	JAN 6	JAN 6	Epiphany/Orthodox Christianity Theophany • Christian Celebrates the manifestation of Christ to the world, the visiting of the wise men who acknowledged Jesus as the son of God Common Greetings: Happy Epiphany/Theophany
JAN 7	JAN 7	JAN 7	Orthodox Christmas • Orthodox Christian A 3-day celebration of the birth of Jesus. This may include fasting on Christmas Eve and Holy Night Supper at the appearance of the first star. Common Greetings: Merry Christmas
JAN 13	JAN 13	JAN 13	Lohri • Sikhism Mostly celebrated in Northern India, this day marks the end of the short days of winter and the onset of longer days and spring. It is also a time to pray for prosperity and be thankful for harvest, food and joy. Common Greetings: Happy Lohri
JAN 14	JAN 14	JAN 14	Orthodox Christian New Year • Orthodox Christian This New Year is based on the Julian calendar and can include New Year’s Day’s liturgies at churches. Celebrations include social gatherings. Common Greetings: Happy New Year
JAN 15	JAN 14	JAN 14	Makar • Hinduism This day follows the solar calendar and the transitioning of the sun that marks the end of winter. Generally, this day includes expressions of gratitude and prayers for a prosperous year; however, it is celebrated in unique ways among the various cultures found in South Asia. Common Greetings: Happy Makar



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JAN 20	JAN 20	JAN 20	Guru Gobind Singh Jayanti • Sikhism This day honours Sikh leader Guru Gobind Singh and marks his birthday. It is a day of reflection on his teachings. Common Greetings: No greeting
JAN 25	JAN 14	JAN 30	Mahayana New Year • Buddhism For Mahayana Buddhists, the new year is a time for meditation and self-reflection. The goal is to find ways to improve and learn from past mistakes. Common Greetings: Happy Mahayana
FEB 6	JAN 26	JAN 16	Lailat al-Miraj • Islam Observance to commemorate the miraculous journey of Prophet Muhammad from Makkah to Al Quds and the heavens. Common Greetings: No specific or traditional greeting.
FEB 15	FEB 15	FEB 15	Nirvana Day • Buddhism Commemorating the day of Buddha's passing away and attaining Nirvana. People meditate and visit places of worship. Families and friends also gather for food and exchanging of gifts. Celebrated by Mahayana Buddhists.
FEB 10	JAN 29	FEB 17	Lunar New Year • Cultural - Asian Holidays are celebrated in Asia in a variety of ways according to the diversity of cultures and traditions. People of Buddhist, Confucian and Daoist traditions celebrate this holiday. Common Greetings: Happy New Year or Happy Lunar New Year

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FEB 10	JAN 29	FEB 18	First day of Ramadan • Islam Ramadan is celebrated worldwide as a month of fasting from sunrise to sunset, prayer, reflection, and community. Common Greetings: Ramadan Mubarak, or Ramadan Kareem.
FEB 14	FEB 2	JAN 23	Vasant Panchami • Hinduism This festival is celebrated by various Dharmic faiths in preparation for the arrival of spring. This festival also includes the worship of Saraswati, the goddess of knowledge. Common Greetings: Happy Vasant Panchami
FEB 14	MAR 5	FEB 18	Ash Wednesday • Christian Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent that Christians can observe by praying, fasting, abstaining from meat, and/or using ashes from burned palm leaves to mark one's head. No formal greeting
FEB 24	FEB 13	MAR 3	Magha Puja Day (magha puja) • Buddhism Refers to the worship that takes place on the full moon day of the third lunar month. The celebration is held to commemorate the day on which Lord Buddha gave "Ovadha Patimokkha" (the Fundamental Teaching) to the assembly of Buddhist monks. Celebrated in South and Southeast Asia in different cultural ways. No formal greeting
MAR 8	FEB 26	FEB 15	Mahashivratri • Hinduism Maha Shivratri is a major Hindu observance and worship of Lord Shiva. It is a more solemn holiday that includes chanting of prayers and mantras, meditating, and self-reflection on virtues like non-violence and honesty. Common Greetings: Wish everyone to observe a meaningful Maha Shivratri



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2024	2025	2026	
MAR 21	MAR 21	MAR 21	Norooz/Nowruz • Zoroastrian, Baha'i The Iranian New Year, also known as the Persian New Year, begins on the spring equinox, marking the first day of Farvardin, the first month of the Iranian solar calendar. Common Greetings: "Nowruz Mobarak" (Happy Nowruz). "Eyd e Shoma Mobarak" (Happy Eyd e Nowruz). "Sal e No Mobarak" (Happy New Year)
MAR 23	MAR 13	MAR 2	Purim • Judaism Purim is a day of celebration commemorating a story from the Hebrew Bible of the survival of Jewish people from Haman. It is a day of public celebrations, parades and wearing costumes and masks. Common Greetings: Happy Purim or Chag Purim Sameach
MAR 24	APR 13	MAR 29	Palm Sunday • Christian Celebrates the day Christ entered Jerusalem where he was greeted by people waving palm branches. Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week. Common Greetings: No formal greeting but can wish people a Happy Palm Sunday
MAR 25	MAR 14	MAR 4	Holi • Hinduism Festival of Spring or Festival of Colours, this Hindu festival is commonly celebrated by throwing colourful powders, dancing and sharing sweets. Common Greetings: Happy Holi or Wishing you a joyful Holi
MAR 29	APR 18	APR 3	Good Friday • Christian Commemorates the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. Can include fasting and prayer as part of the Holy Week. Common Greetings: Wishing you a blessed Good Friday

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MAR 31	APR 20	APR 5	Easter • Christian Celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is a joyful day with prayer and gathering of family and friends for games and festivities. Common Greetings: Happy Easter
APR 9	MAR 30	MAR 20	Eid Al-Fitr • Islam A major Muslim holiday that celebrates the end of Ramadan with prayer, feasts and family/social gatherings. Common Greetings: Happy Eid or Eid Mubarak
MAR 24	APR 13	MAR 29	Sikh New Year's Day/Vaisakhi • Sikhism This holiday celebrates the Solar New Year and spring harvest festival. Also commemorates the establishment of the Khalsa under Guru Gobind Singh. Common Greetings: Happy Vaisakhi
APR 17	APR 6	MAR 26	Ram Navami • Hinduism Ram Navami celebrates the birth of Lord Rama - the seventh avatar of Lord Vishnu by reciting/re-enacting stories of Lord Rama, visiting temples, offering prayers and participating in puja ceremonies. Common Greetings: Happy Ram Navami

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APR 22-30	APR 12-20	APR 1-9	Pesach - Passover • Judaism Passover, Pesach or the Festival of Liberation is a major Jewish holiday that celebrates the Exodus from ancient Egypt. This week-long celebration includes storytelling, lighting candles, and a ritual feast. Common Greetings: Chag Sameach (Happy Holidays) or Chag Pesach Sameach (Happy Passover Holiday)
MAY 3	APR 18	APR 10	Orthodox Christian Holy Friday • Christian A solemn day of mourning marking the crucifixion of Christ. Can include fasting and prayer and the Passion of Christ in Church. No greeting
MAR 31	APR 20	APR 1	Hanuman Jayanti • Hinduism A major Hindu festival celebrating the birth of the Hanuman, an ardent devotee of Lord Rama. It is celebrated differently in different parts of India and amongst the Indian diaspora around the world by offering prayers, distributing sweets and prasad and chanting devotional hymns. Common Greetings: Happy Hanuman Jayanti
MAY 5	APR 20	APR 12	Pascha (Orthodox Christianity Easter) Christian Day of Easter for Orthodox Christians that celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Common Greetings: Happy Easter

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MAY 23	MAY 12	MAY 31	Vesak/Buddha Day • Buddhism Vesak/Buddha Day/Visakha Puja is the most important day of the year for Theravada and Tibetan Buddhists. It commemorates the birth, awakening and passing away of Buddha. Common Greetings: Happy Buddha Purnima (South Asia), Wishing you joy on Vesak Day, Happy Buddha Day
JUN 11-13	JUN 1-3	MAY 21-23	Shavuot • Judaism Feast of Weeks commemorating the revelation of the Torah on Mount Sinai. Common Greetings: Chag Sameach (Happy Holiday) or Happy Shavuot
JUN 16	JUN 6	MAY 26	Eid al-Adha (Islam) • Islam Eid al-Adha falls on the 12th and final month of the Islamic calendar. During Eid al-Adha, Muslims remember the sacrifice made by Prophet Ibrahim in prioritizing Allah (God) over worldly matters. Common Greetings: Happy Eid or Eid Mubarak
JUN 21	JUN 21	JUN 21	National Indigenous Peoples Day • Indigenous It is a time for Canadians to celebrate the unique heritage, traditions, and knowledge of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Peoples. No greeting

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JUL 6	JUN 25	JUN 16	Islamic New Year • Islam Also called the Hijri New Year, it takes place on the 1st of Muharram, the first month in the Islamic calendar. Historically marks the moment Mohammed migrated from Mecca to Yathrib (now called Medina) to escape religious persecution. Common Greetings: May Allah bless you throughout the new year.
JUL 16	JUL 6	JUN 25	Ashura • Islam The day of Ashura is commemorated by Muslims as a whole, but for Shia Muslims, it signifies the major religious observance of the martyrdom of Hussein, a grandson of the Prophet Muhammad, at Karbala. No greeting
JUL 21	JUL 10	JUL 29	Guru Purnima • Jainism/Buddhism/Hinduism Is a sacred festival celebrated by Hindus, Jains, and Buddhists. Honouring spiritual and academic guides, teachers, and mentors who impart knowledge and wisdom. Common Greetings: Happy Guru Purnima
AUG 9	AUG 9	AUG 9	International Day of the World's Indigenous People International Day of the World's Indigenous People is a United Nations day of observance. No greeting

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AUG 12-13	AUG 2-3	JUL 22-23	Tisha B'Av • Judaism a time of fasting, mourning, and prayer to commemorate the destruction of the First and Second Temples in Jerusalem, along with other tragedies that happened on this date. No greeting
AUG 19	AUG 9	AUG 28	Raksha Bandhan • Hinduism Dedicated to the sibling love. This Hindu and South Asian ceremony celebrates the bond between siblings. Sisters tie a rakhi around their brothers' wrists for protection, and brothers give gifts to their sisters. Common Greetings: Happy Rakhi or Happy Raksha Bandhan
AUG 26	AUG 15	AUG 4	Sri Krishna Jayanthi (Krishna Janmashtami) • Hinduism A two-day festival celebrates the birthday of Lord Krishna, the eighth Hindu avatar of Vishnu. This major Hindu holiday is marked by prayers, ceremonies, dance, and other festivities. Common Greetings: Happy Janmashtami
SEP 7	AUG 27	SEP 14	Ganesh Chaturthi • Hinduism A major Hindu festival celebrates Lord Ganesh's descent to earth. Idols of Ganesh are created and displayed for ten days, after which they are immersed in water to symbolize his return home to the divine. Common Greetings: Happy Ganesh Chaturthi or May Lord Ganesh bless you with prosperity and luck.
SEP 16	SEP 5	AUG 26	Mawlid (Eid-e-Milad an-Nabid al-Adha) • Islam Celebrated in Muslim communities as the birthday of their prophet, Muhammad. Common Greetings: Happy Mawlid al-Nabi

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SEP 30	SEP 30	SEP 30	National Day for Truth and Reconciliation The National Day for Truth and Reconciliation is a federal statutory holiday that falls on the same day as Orange Shirt Day, September 30th. This day is in honour of the lost children and survivors of residential schools. No greeting
OCT 2-4	SEP 22-24	SEP 11-13	Rosh Hashanah • Judaism The Jewish New Year. It is a time to rejoice and reflect, celebrating the completion of another year. Marks the beginning of the Days of Awe, a 10-day period of introspection and repentance that culminates in the Yom Kippur. Common Greetings: Shanah tovah (good year)
OCT 3-11	SEP 22- OCT 1	OCT 11-20	Navratri begins (9-night festival) • Hinduism Navratri is a major Hindu festival that celebrates the triumph of good over evil and focuses on worshipping the Goddess Durga. Hindu communities around the world celebrate this holiday in unique cultural and regional ways. Common Greetings: Happy Navratri
OCT 11-12	OCT 1-2	SEP 20-21	Yom Kippur • Judaism the Day of Atonement is known as the holiest day in the Jewish faith. The holiday is observed with a 25-hour fast and a special religious service. Yom Kippur and Rosh Hashanah are known as Judaism's "High Holy Days." Common Greetings: Have an easy fast or Good Yuntif, or Yom Tov.

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OCT 12	OCT 2	OCT 20	Dussehra • Hinduism The festival commemorates the victory of the Hindu god Ram over the 10-headed demon king Ravan, symbolizing the triumph of good over evil. Dussehra is celebrated across Hindu communities with various rituals and activities. Common Greetings: Happy Dussehra
OCT 16-23	OCT 6-13	SEP 25-OCT 2	Sukkot • Judaism Sukkot is a weeklong Jewish holiday that occurs five days after Yom Kippur. Sukkot celebrates the gathering of the harvest and commemorates the miraculous protection G-d provided for the children of Israel when they left Egypt. Common Greeting: Chag Sameach! (Happy Holiday).
OCT 20	OCT 20	OCT 20	Inaugural installation of the Adi Granth, the first rendition of the Sri Guru Granth Sahib in the Golden Temple in Amritsar, Punjab in 1604 • Sikhism The Sikh community celebrates the installation of the Adi Granth, the first rendition of the Sri Guru Granth Sahib in the Golden Temple in Amritsar, Punjab in 1604. Today, the Sri Guru Granth Sahib is considered the primary scripture of the Sikh community and is regarded as the final, sovereign, and eternal Guru. No greeting
OCT 23-25	OCT 13-15	OCT 2-4	Shemini Atzeret • Judaism Celebrating the conclusion Jewish festival of Sukkot are Shemini Atzeret and Simchat Torah. This holiday marks the completion of the annual cycle of weekly Torah readings. This is a joyous time spent in family and community. Common Greetings Chag Sameach (Happy Holidays)

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2024	2025	2026	
OCT 31	OCT 20	NOV 8	Bandi Chhor Divas • Sikhism Bandi Chhor Divas is a significant celebration in the Sikh community. It translates to "prisoner release day." Sikhs commemorate this day as the day of liberation for their Sixth Guru, Hargobind Sahib, along with 52 Hindu political prisoners. Common Greetings: Happy Bandi Chhor Divas
OCT 31	OCT 20	NOV 8	Diwali • Hinduism Diwali, or Dipawali, or the Festival of Lights is a major holiday observed by Hindu, Jain, Sikh and some Buddhist communities. Over five days, people take part in festive gatherings, fireworks displays, feasts and prayer. Common Greeting: Happy Diwali
NOV 1	NOV 1	NOV 1	All Saints Day • Christian All Saints' Day is a Christian holiday that honours all church saints, known or unknown. It is part of a tradition that also includes All Hallows' Eve (Halloween) on October 31st and All Souls' Day on November 2 nd . Common Greeting: Happy All Saints Day or Happy All Souls Day
NOV 3-9	NOV 2-8	NOV 1-7	Treaties Recognition Week • Indigenous Treaties Recognition Week is recognized annually with events to learn about and honour the treaties between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people. No specific greeting.

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NOV 7	NOV 7	NOV 7	Inuit Day International Circumpolar Inuit Day • Indigenous International Inuit Day celebrates the rich history and culture of Inuit communities in Arctic regions of the world. No specific greeting
NOV 15	NOV 5	NOV 24	Guru Nanak Dev Ji Gurburab • Sikhism It is celebrated to commemorate the birth anniversary of the first Sikh Guru, Guru Nanak Dev also known as Gurburab or Prakash Utsav. It is a day of reflection on the teachings of Sikhism. No greeting
DEC 25	DEC 25	DEC 25	Christmas • Christian A religious and cultural holiday. Christians celebrate Christmas Day as the birthday of Jesus with gift-giving and other festivities. Common Greetings: Merry Christmas
Dec 25 – JAN 2	DEC 14-22	DEC 4-12	Hanukkah • Judaism Hanukkah (Chanukah) is the Jewish eight-day, wintertime “festival of lights,” celebrated with a nightly menorah lighting, special prayers and foods. Common Greetings: Happy Hanukkah or Chag Hanukkah Sameach

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DEC 26 - JAN 1	DEC 26 - JAN 1	DEC 26 - JAN 1	Kwanzaa (kwaan·zuh) • Cultural African-American Kwanzaa is a week-long festival observed from December 26 to January 1. Rooted in ancient African harvest celebrations and is a non-religious festival that celebrates African heritage, unity, and culture. Established by Dr. Maulana Karenga in 1966, the term Kwanzaa is derived from the Swahili phrase "matunda ya kwanza," meaning "first fruits of the harvest." Each day of Kwanzaa highlights one of the seven principles known as Nguzo Saba (pronounced en·goo·zo sah·bah): Umoja, Kujichagulia, Ujima, Ujamaa, Nia, Kuumba, and Imani. Common Greetings: Happy Kwanzaa or "Heri za Kwanzaa!" (Swahili for "Happy Kwanzaa!")

Sources

[Days of Significance](#) (University of Toronto, Multi-faith Centre)

[Interfaith Calendar 2025](#) (Diversity Resources)

[Holidays and Observances in Canada in 2025](#) (Time and Date)

[Learn about significant religious and cultural days](#) (University of Toronto, Student Life)

[Religious Observance Calendar – 2023-2026](#) (Golden Gate University)