

January 2012

January 5th

Sikh Birthday of Guru Gobind Singh (Nanakshahi Calendar) - Guru Gobind Singh (1666-1708) was the tenth and last of the Sikh Guru's. He instituted the Five K's and established the Order of the Khalsa.

January 5th

Jewish - Fast of Tevet, The 10th of Tevet is observed as a day of fasting, mourning and repentance. The day commemorates the siege of Jerusalem.

January 6th

Christian - Epiphany is an ancient Christian feast day and is significant in a number of ways. It celebrates the baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist and also celebrates Jesus' birth. Roman Catholics celebrate this day on January 9th.

January 6th

Christmas Eve (Orthodox Christian).

January 7th

Christmas Day (Orthodox Christian).

January 14th

Hindu - Makara Sankramana is one of the most important festivals of the Hindu calendar and celebrates the sun's journey into the northern hemisphere.

January 27th

Holocaust Memorial Day - this is a national event in the United Kingdom dedicated to the remembrance of the victims of The Holocaust.



February 2012

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) Month - this month emphasises a diversity of "sexuality and gender identity-based cultures"

February 1st

Pagan - Imbolc, also called Oimelec and Candlemas celebrates the awakening of the land and the growing power of the sun, this is a festival marking the beginning of spring.

February 2nd

Christian. Candlemas- this is often called The Presentation of Christ in the Temple and commemorates the day Mary took Jesus to the Temple at Jerusalem to present him to God.

February 2nd

Chinese New Year - (Rabbit) is the longest and most important festivity in the Chinese Lunar Calendar.

February 4th

Muslim - Mawlid Al Nabi, "Birth of the Prophet" is a term used to refer to the observance of the birthday of the Muslim prophet Muhammad (Pbuh) which occurs in Rabi' al-Awwal, the third month in the Islamic calendar.

February 7th - 8th

Jewish - Tu B'Shevat - the Jewish New Year for trees - For religious accounting purposes all trees have their anniversaries on this festival, regardless of when they were planted.

February 19th

Hindu - Maha Shivaratri is a Hindu festival dedicated to Shiva, one of the deities of the Hindu Trinity.

February 22nd

Christian - Ash Wednesday.

The first day of Lent for Western Christian churches. Lent is the season marking the time Jesus spent in the wilderness.

February 27th

In Eastern Orthodox Christianity, Lent starts on Clean Monday and ends on the Friday before Palm Sunday. It is a period of 40 days of repentance, with prayer, fasting and abstinence and Confession.



March 2012

March 1st

St David's Day - is the feast day of Saint David, the patron saint of Wales.

March 7th

Jewish - The Fast of Esther, is a Jewish fast from dawn until dusk on Purim eve, commemorating the three-day fast observed by the Jewish people in the story of Purim.

March 7th

Hindu - Holi, is a spring religious festival celebrated by Hindus and Sikhs.

March 8th

International Women's Day (100 yrs) is a global day celebrating the economic, political and social achievements of women past and present.

March 8th

Jewish - Purim commemorates the time when the Jewish people living in Persia were saved from extermination by the courage of a young Jewish woman called Esther.

March 17th

St Patricks Day - is a religious holiday and named after Saint Patrick (circa AD 387-461), the most commonly recognised of the patron saints of Ireland.

March 20th

Pagan - Spring Equinox celebrates the renewed life of the Earth that comes with the spring. It is a solar festival, celebrated when the length of the day and the night are equal.

March 20th

Shi'a Muslim - Nawrooz, refers to the celebration of the traditional Iranian New Year holiday in Kurdish society.

March 20th

Zoroastrian - Jamsheedi NoRuz is New Year celebration, and occurs on the spring equinox.

March 21st

Bahai - is the first day of Farvardin, the first month of the Iranian solar year.

March 21st

International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination - is a day when people around the world come together in their communities to work toward ending racism.

March 23rd

Hindu - Yugadi is the first day of the first month in the Hindu calendar.

March 25th

Zoroastrian - Khordad Sal, The birth anniversary of prophet Zarathushtra.

March 31st

Hindu - Rama Navami is a famous Hindu festival that celebrates the birth of Lord Rama



April 2012

April 5th

Jain - Mahavir Janma Kalyanak, the important religious holiday celebrating the birth of Mahavira, the last Tirthankara.

April 5th

Christian - Maundy Thursday, commemorates the Last Supper of Jesus Christ with the Apostles.

April 6th

Christian - Good Friday is the Friday before Easter, it commemorates the execution of Jesus by crucifixion. Orthodox Christians celebrate this on the 13th.

April 6th - 8th

Jewish - Passover is one of the most important religious festivals in the Jewish calendar. Jews celebrate the Feast of Passover to commemorate the liberation of the Children of Israel who were led out of Egypt by Moses.

April 7th

Christian - Holy Saturday, falls between Good Friday and Easter Sunday in the United Kingdom. It commemorates the day when Jesus Christ lay in the tomb after his death, according to the Christian bible.

April 8th

Christian - Easter Sunday, commemorates the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Orthodox Christians celebrate this on the 15th.

April 12th - 14th

Jewish - Passover ends.

April 13th

Hindu - Baisakhi - also spelled Vaisakhi, is an ancient harvest festival in the Punjab region, which marks beginning of a new solar year and new harvest season.

April 14th

Sikh - Vaisakhi the Sikh New Year Festival, which also commemorates the founding of the Khalsa by the tenth Guru (Guru Gobind Singh) in 1699. Also spelt Baisakhi.

April 21st

Bahai - First day of Ridvan, celebrating the first day of the 12-day Festival.

April 23rd

St George's day - is celebrated by the several nations, kingdoms, countries, and cities of which Saint George is the patron saint. St George's Day is England's National Day.

April 29th

Bahai - Ninth day of Ridvan, commemorates the gathering of the believers on the island in the Euphrates named Ridvan.

May 2012

May 1st

Pagan - Beltane. Pagans celebrate with maypole dances, symbolising the mystery of the Sacred Marriage of Goddess and God.

May 2nd

Bahai - Twelfth day of Ridvan, the last day of the festival and signals the end of the holiday period.

May 9th

World Fair Trade day - World Fair Trade Day is the first global campaign for The Fair Trade movement connecting producers and customers around the world.

May 15th

International Day for Families - celebrates the importance of families and the work started during the International Year of Families.

May 17th

Christian - Ascension Day, celebrates the ascension of Jesus to heaven after his resurrection on Easter Day. The day is celebrated by Roman Catholic prisoners on the 20th and Orthodox prisoners on the 24th.

May 17th

IDAHO 2011 - International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia.

May 23rd

Bahai - Declaration of the Bab, The Bahá'í holy day celebrating the Báb's announcement of his mission.

May 25th - 28th

Jewish - Shavuot, is also known as the festival or feast of 'Weeks'. Shavuot marks the time that the Jews received the Torah on Mount Sinai. It is considered a highly important historical event.

May 27th

Christian - Pentecost - Whitsun. The seventh Sunday after Easter, commemorating the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples and the birth of the Christian Church.

May 29th

Bahai - Ascension of Bahá'u'lláh, The commemoration of the death of Bahá'u'lláh, founder of the Bahá'í faith.



June 2012

Gypsy Roma Traveller Month - The month aims to explain the history and culture of Gypsy Roma Traveller communities, challenge myths, breakdown barriers and celebrate the richness that Gypsy Roma Traveller's contribute to everyday life.

June 3rd

Shi'a Muslims - Birthday Imam Ali (AS).

June 4th

Buddhist - Buddha Day (Vesak) which commemorates the Birth, Enlightenment and the Parinibbana of the Buddha.

June 5th

World Environment Day - is a day that stimulates awareness of the environment.

June 5th

International Children's Day - a day of renewing commitment to improving the lives of children around the world.

June 7th

Christian - Corpus Christi, celebrates the Eucharist as the body of Christ.

June 10th

Roman Catholic - Corpus Christi. Festival celebrating the "real presence of Christ in the Eucharist." The festival falls on the Thursday after Trinity Sunday.

June 16th

Sikh - Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev. Guru Arjan was the fifth Sikh Guru and the first Sikh martyr: he gave up his life for the Sikh people.

June 16th

Muslim - Laylat al Israa Wal-Miraj. Commemorates the journey of the Prophet Muhammad (Pbuh) from Makkah to Jerusalem.

June 20th

World Refugee Day - is dedicated to raising awareness of the situation of refugees throughout the world.

June 20th

Pagan - Midsummer, Summer Solstice - Litha, Longest day of the year.

June 25th

Armed Forces Day - commemorates the service of men and women in the British Armed Forces.

June 29th

Christian - St Peters Day, (Roman Catholic holy day of Obligation).



July 2012

July 3rd

Hindu - Guru Purnima is a festival traditionally celebrated by Hindus and Buddhists. On this day, disciples offer puja (worship) or pay respect to their Guru (Spiritual Guide). It falls on the day of full moon, Purnima, in the month of Ashadh.

July 5th

Muslim - Laylat al Barrat (Night of Forgiveness) is the 15th night of Shabaan and takes place two weeks before Ramadan. It is the time when Muslims seek forgiveness for their sins and believe that on this night one's destiny is fixed for the year ahead.

July 8th

Jewish - Tammuz is the tenth month in the Hebrew calendar and falls in the summer. This day is an important Jewish fast day.

July 9th

Baha'i - Martyrdom of the Bab. Anniversary of the Bab's execution in 1850 in Tabriz, Iran.

July 20th

Muslim - Ramadan (start). Ramadan is the Muslim month of fasting.

July 28th - 29th

Jewish - Tisha B'Av (Fast of Av) is an annual fast day in Judaism, named for the ninth day (Tisha) of the month of Av in the Hebrew calendar.

August 2012

August 1st

Pagan - Lughnasadh- Lammas. A Harvest festival and one of the Pagan festivals of Celtic origin which split the year into four.

August 1st

Hindu - Raksha Bandhan, is the Hindu festival that celebrated brotherhood and love. "Raksha Bandhan" means a thread for protection.

August 2nd

Buddhist - Dharma Day marks the beginning of the Buddha's teaching - his first sermon, "The Wheel of Truth," after his enlightenment.

August 7th

Shi'a Muslims - Commemoration of Imam Ali (AS).

August 9th

Hindu - Shri Krishna Janmashtami celebrates the birthday of Lord Krishna and is observed on the eighth day of the Shukla Paksha of Bhadrapad month.

August 9th

Shi'a Muslims - Martyrdom of Imam Ali (AS).

August 15th

Christian - Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. A largely Roman Catholic festival celebrating their belief that Mary, the mother of Jesus, was taken body and soul into Heaven.

August 15th

Muslim - Laylat al Qadr, the Night of Power, marks the night in which the Qur'an was first revealed to the Prophet Muhammad (Pbuh) by Allah.

August 18th

Zoroastrian - Shenshai Navroze, Is the Zoroastrian New Year celebration, and occurs on the spring equinox.

August 19th

Muslim - Eid Al Fitr, is a three-day Muslim holiday that marks the end of Ramadan, the Islamic holy month of fasting (swam).

August 23rd

Zoroastrian - Chorded Sal, Is the birth anniversary of prophet Zarathustra as per the Parsee Shenshai calendar.



September 2012

September 1st

Sikh - first reading of *Guru Granth*.

September 16th - 18th

Jewish - Rosh Hashanah (1st day). Jewish New Year. A two day festival during which work is not permitted.

September 19th

Hindu - Shri Ganesha Pooja, on this day Hindus all over the world will celebrate the birthday of Lord Ganesh (*Ganesh Chaturthi*).

September 19th

Jewish - Fast of Gedalliah, in memory of the assassination of Gedalliah Ben Achikam, the Governor of Israel during the days of Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylonia.

September 19th

Jain - Samvatsari, the last day of Paryushan and the holiest day in the Jain calendar.

September 21st

International Day of Peace - also known as World Peace Day. It is dedicated to peace, or specifically the absence of war.

September 22nd

Pagan - Autumn Equinox. This day is celebrated when day and night are of equal duration.

September 25th - 26th

Jewish - Yom Kippur, Day of Atonement, the most solemn day of the Jewish year.

September 30th

Hindu - Shradha Paksha begins. This is a unique ceremony that is religiously performed within a fixed fortnight in the month of Ashwani or Kivar.

September 30th - October 2nd

Jewish - Tabernacles (*Sukkot*) is a Biblical holiday celebrated on the 15th day of the month of Tishrei.

October 2012

Black History Month (BHM) - celebrating black history, culture and contributions.

October 1st

International Day of Older Persons - is celebrated to raise awareness about issues affecting the elderly.

October 7th - 9th

Jewish - Rejoicing of the Law, a Jewish holy day celebrated on the 22nd or 23rd of Tishri to celebrate the completion of the annual cycle of readings of the Torah.

October 10th

World Mental Health Day - Raising public awareness about mental health issues.

October 16th

Hindu - Navaratri (nine nights) is one of the greatest Hindu festivals. It symbolises the triumph of good over evil.

October 17th - 23rd

Disability History Week - raising awareness of the contributions made by people with disabilities.

October 20th

Sikh - formal installation of Guru Granth as guidance for Sikh's.

October 20th

Bahai - Birthday of the Bab, celebrates the birth of the Báb and his mission as a prophet.

October 22nd

Hindu - Durga Ashtami, is dedicated to Mata Durga who made the "Earth free from evil forces."

October 24th

Hindu - Vijayadasami, means the 10th day of victory and is supposed to be one of the most auspicious days in the Hindu year.

October 25th

Muslim - Yaum al Arafat, The 9th day of Dhul-Hijjah is the day of Arafat. It is this day when the pilgrims gather on the mountain plain of Arafat, praying and supplicating to their Lord.

October 26th

Muslim - Eid-Al-Adha - the festival of sacrifice. This is a four-day public holiday in Muslim countries. The festival remembers the prophet Ibrahim's willingness to sacrifice his son when God ordered him to.

October 30th

Buddhist - Sangha Day is the second most important Buddhist festival. It is a celebration in honour of the Sangha, or the Buddhist community.

October 31st

Pagan - Samhain, (Hallowe'en). Samhain (pronounced 'Sow Inn') marks the feast of the dead.



November 2012

November 1st

Christian - All Saints Day, is when Anglicans and Roman Catholics honour all saints, known and unknown, of the Christian church. Orthodox churches celebrate it on the first Sunday after Pentecost.

November 2nd

Christian - All Soul's Day, directly follows All Saints' Day, and is an opportunity for Roman Catholics and Anglo-Catholic churches to commemorate the faithful departed.

November 11th

Armistice Day - commemorates the armistice signed between the Allies of World War I and Germany at Compiègne, France, for the cessation of hostilities on the Western Front.

November 12th

Bahai - Birth of Bahá'u'lláh, The holy day celebrates the birth of Bahá'u'lláh, the founder of the Bahá'í Faith.

November 13th

Hindu - Diwali popularly known as the "festival of lights" is an important five-day festival.

November 13th

Sikh - Bandi Chor, commemorates the freeing of Guru Har Govind from a Mogul prison during Diwali, the annual Hindu Festival of Lamps.

November 13th

Jain - Lord Mahavir's Nirvan (Diwali), is one of the most important festivals celebrating the Nirvana of Lord Mahavira who established the dharma as it is followed.

November 14th

Jain - New Year begins the next day of Diwali and is the occasion for joyful gatherings.

Muslim - Islamic New Year 1433 Al-Hijra, the Islamic New Year, is the first day of the month of Muharram. It marks the Hijra in 622 CE when the Prophet Muhammad (Pbuh) moved from Mecca to Medina, and set up the first Islamic state.

November 15th - 24th

Shia Muslims - 10 days of mourning. It is commemorated by Shia Muslims as a day of mourning for the martyrdom of Hussain ibn Ali.

November 16th

International Day for Tolerance - is to educate people about the need for tolerance in society and to help them understand the negative effects of intolerance.

November 19th

International Men's Day

November 24th

Sikh - Martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur. He was the ninth Sikh Guru and was recognised and honoured as a champion of religious freedom.

November 24th

Muslim - Yaum Ashoorah - Islamic holy day observed on the 10th of the Islamic month of Muharram. Shi'a Muslims regard this as a major festival marking the martyrdom of the Prophet's grandson, Hussain.

November 28th

Sikh - the birthday of Guru Nanak. Guru Nanak (1469-1539) was one of the greatest religious innovators of all time and the founder of the Sikh religion.



December 2012

December 1st

World Aids Day - is dedicated to raising awareness of AIDS.

December 2nd

International Day for the Abolition of Slavery - reminds people that modern slavery works against human rights.

December 3rd

International Day of Persons with Disabilities - aims to increase the understanding of the issues around disabilities and attention to the dignity, rights and well-being of persons with disabilities.

December 10th

International Human Rights Day - commemorates the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and the people that have dedicated their lives to defending human rights around the world.

December 8th - 16th

Jewish - Hanukkah is the Festival of Lights and marks the restoration of the Temple by the Maccabees in 164 BCE. Hanukkah is celebrated at roughly the same time as Christmas, but there is no connection at all between the festivals.

December 21st

Pagan - Winter Solstice is one of the oldest winter celebrations in the world and falls on the shortest day of the year.

December 23rd

Jewish - Fast of Tevet, fast day commemorating the date on which the Babylonians laid siege around the walls of Jerusalem, leading to the eventual destruction of the Holy Temple.

December 24th

Christian - Christmas Eve, the day before Christmas.

December 25th

Christian - Christmas Day, the day when Western Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ

December 26th

Secular - Boxing Day, the day after Christmas. A secular festival.

