



RESPECT, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

Religious Observance Dates (July 1 - June 30)

This resource* can assist in planning and scheduling meetings, events, and exams. While this isn't comprehensive, it does highlight the major days of observance of many of the various religions.

Note: These dates may require some form of accommodation for religious observances.

*Adapted and used with permission from the University of Calgary.

Tradition	2021–2022	2022–2023	2023–2024	Holiday/Observance/Celebration
Bahá'í Badí' Calendar Year 1 = 1844 CE This marks the beginning of the Bahá'í Era or Badí' Era.	July 9, 2021	July 10, 2022	July 10, 2023	Martyrdom of The Báb – the memorial of the execution of The Báb in 1850.
	Nov. 6, 2021	Oct. 26, 2022	Oct. 26, 2023	The birth anniversary of The Báb – twin holy birthdays honouring the birth of The Báb in 1819
	Nov. 7, 2021	Oct. 27, 2022	Oct. 27, 2023	The birth anniversary of Báha'u'lláh – twin holy birthdays honouring the birth of Báha'u'lláh in 1817.
	March 21, 2022	March 21, 2023	March 21, 2024	Naw-Rúz – Bahá'í New Year's Day.
	April 21–May 2, 2022	April 21–May 2, 2023	April 21–May 2, 2024	The Festival of Ridván – observes the day on which Bahá'u'lláh, the founder of the Bahá'í Faith, publicly proclaimed His mission in 1863. The 1st, 9th and 12th days are the most important days in this festival.
	May 24, 2022	May 24, 2023	May 24, 2024	The Declaration of The Báb – commemorates the day in 1844, when The Báb announced His mission as the Herald of a new Messenger of God.
	May 29, 2022	May 29, 2023	May 29, 2024	Ascension of Báha'u'lláh – the anniversary of the passing of Bahá'u'lláh in 1892.
Buddhist The Buddhist calendars are a set of lunisolar calendars primarily used in mainland Southeast Asian countries Types of Buddhists: Theravada Mahayana Zen Tibetan Year 1 = 543–542 BCE	Feb. 1, 2022 (tiger)	Jan. 22, 2023 (rabbit)	Feb. 10, 2024 (dragon)	Lunar New Year – the first day after the new moon. A religious and cultural festival for Chinese, Vietnamese and Koreans of Buddhist and other backgrounds.
	March 3, 2022	Feb. 21, 2023	Feb. 10, 2024	Tibetan New Year – Losar – a 15-day celebration, with the main celebration on the first three days.
	Feb. 15, 2022	Feb. 15, 2023	Feb. 15, 2024	Nirvana Day – Nehan-e is the Mahayana memorial of the historical Buddha's passing away.
	April 16–18, 2022	April 6–8, 2023	April 24–26, 2024	Theravada New Year – because the beginning is marked by sighting the moon, the actual date is not always predictable (it takes place three days from the first full moon in April).
	May 16, 2022	May 5, 2023	May 23, 2024	Wesak/Buddha Day/Visakha Puja – the most important day of the year for Theravada Buddhists. It commemorates the birth, awakening and passing away of the historical Buddha, Siddhartha Gautama. This date is changed based on sect and area. These dates shown are the dates celebrated at the UN headquarters.



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Christianity Gregorian Calendar (Catholic/Protestant/Orthodox following modified calendar) Year 1 = 0 CE	Dec. 25, 2021	Dec. 25, 2022	Dec. 25, 2023	Christmas – celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ, the promised messiah. More importance is given to this holiday in Western Christianity.
	April 15, 2022	April 7, 2023	March 29, 2024	Good Friday – commemorates the Passion of Jesus Christ and his submission to death by crucifixion.
	April 17, 2022	April 9, 2023	March 31, 2024	Easter – celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ.
	Jan. 6, 2022	Jan. 6, 2023	Jan. 6, 2024	Nativity of Jesus on Epiphany/Armenian Christmas – celebrated by the Armenian Orthodox Church.
Julian Calendar (Orthodox/Ukrainian Catholic/Coptic) Year 1 = 0 CE	Jan. 7, 2022	Jan. 7, 2023	Jan. 7, 2024	Christmas – celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ, the promised messiah.
	April 22, 2022	April 14, 2023	May 3, 2024	Holy Friday – commemorates the Passion of Jesus Christ and his submission to death by crucifixion.
	April 24, 2022	April 16, 2023	May 5, 2024	Pascha – celebrates the resurrection of Jesus.
	Aug. 30, 2021	Aug. 18, 2022	Sept. 6, 2023	Sri Krishna Jayanti (Janmashtami) – celebrates the birthday of Krishna, the 8th incarnation of the God Vishnu.
Hindu The Indian national calendar or “Saka calendar” was introduced in 1957 based on the traditional regional Hindu calendars. These calendars the names of the twelve months but some festivals differ, and the month that starts the year also varies regionally.	Nov. 4, 2021	Oct. 24, 2022	Nov. 12, 2023	Diwali – a popular festival known as the Festival of Lights. It’s celebrated continuously for five days and is associated with a story about the destruction of evil by Lord Vishnu in one of his many manifestations. <i>*Also celebrated by Sikhs and Jains</i>
	Jan. 14, 2022	Jan. 14, 2023	Jan. 14, 2024	Makar Sankranti – a harvest festival that marks the increase of the sun twinned with the Punjab celebration Lohri , which marks the passing of the winter solstice.
	Feb. 5, 2022	Jan. 26, 2023	Feb. 14, 2024	Vasanta Panchami – a North Indian celebration associated with Saraswati and Lakshmi (the Goddess of Learning and the Goddess of Wealth), as well as the colour yellow.
	March 1, 2022	Feb. 18, 2023	March 8, 2024	Mahashivaratri – “the Great Night of Shiva,” is a major festival in Hinduism, but one that is solemn. It marks a remembrance of “overcoming darkness and ignorance” in life and the world, and honors the God Shiva.
	March 19, 2022	March 8, 2023	March 26, 2024	Holi – the Festival of Colours that welcomes in spring. It’s generally celebrated over two days with people throwing colourful powder and coloured water on each other.
	Indigenous Spirituality The Indigenous calendar is cyclical following the moon, and is connected to the land and the seasons. This calendar includes the typical yearly events offered through UCalgary’s Writing Symbols Lodge.	Usually around the same time as Convocation (check with the Writing Symbols Lodge for exact dates)		
Occurs in the summer season (check with Writing Symbols Lodge for exact dates)			Sundance – a ceremony that occurs in the summer season.	
June 1–30, 2021		June 1–30, 2022	June 1–30, 2023	Indigenous History Month
June 21, 2021		June 21, 2022	June 21, 2023	National Indigenous People’s Day – a day to celebrate First Nations, Inuit and Métis people.
Occurs mid-Sept. (check with Writing Symbols Lodge for exact dates)			Sage Picking – a ceremony to collect sage that is usually done mid-Sept. (weather permitting).	
Sept. 30, 2021		Sept. 30, 2022	Sept. 30, 2023	National Day for Truth and Reconciliation/Orange Shirt Day – the national day of remembrance for the victims of the Canadian residential school system.



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Islam Hijri calendar Lunar Calendar *The actual dates are not always predictable because the beginning of the month is marked by sighting the moon. Year 1 = 622 CE	July 19–23, 2021	July 9–13, 2022	June 28–July 2, 2023	Eid al-Adha' – the Festival of Sacrifice. Abraham offered his son, Ishmael, to God, so Muslims offer goat, sheep and camels, and then distribute the meat to the poor. This is the concluding act of pilgrimage (Hajj) but also observed even when not on pilgrimage. (Observance begins at the sunset of the previous day, but special worship and prayers begin on this day)
	First day: April 2 Last day: May 1, 2022*	First day: March 22 Last day: April 20, 2023*	First day: March 10 Last day: April 8, 2024*	First Day of the Holy Month of Ramadan – the month of fasting, self-examination and devotion during which physically able Muslims don't eat or drink from the first sign of dawn until sunset. Eid al-Fitr – the last day of the month and is "the breaking of the fast" that celebrates the end of Ramadan. (Observance begins at the sunset of the previous day, but special worship and prayers begin on this day)
	March 21, 2022	March 21, 2023	March 20, 2024	Nowruz – the spring equinox and the New Year. It's celebrated by many religious communities originating in Persia, including some Muslims.
Jain The Jain calendar (Panchanga) is a Indian lunisolar calendar.	Sept. 4, 2021	Aug. 24, 2022	Sept. 11, 2023	Paryushana-parva – the holiest periods of the year for the Shvetambara sect. It includes fasting, worship, and reading the life story of Lord Mahavira from the Kalpasutra. It's celebrated over eight days ending on Samvatsari.
	Sept. 11, 2021	Sept. 1, 2023	Sept. 20, 2023	Samvatsari – the Day of Forgiveness. It's the last day of Paryushana-parva, and is observed by fasting, introspection, confession and penance.
	Nov. 4, 2021	Oct. 24, 2022	Nov. 12, 2023	Mahavira Nirvana & Diwali – on this day, the 24th Tirthankara attained nirvana and release from the cycle of rebirth.
	April 14, 2022	April 4, 2023	April 21, 2024	Mahavira-Jayanti – celebrates the birth of the Lord Mahavira, "Great Hero," the 24th and last Tirthankara of his time. He's a savior who has succeeded in crossing over life's stream of rebirths and has made a path for others to follow.
Judaism Hebrew Calendar Year 1 = 3760 BCE Note: While a day in the secular calendar begins and ends at midnight, a Jewish day goes from nightfall to nightfall.	July 18, 2021	Aug. 6, 2022	July 27, 2023	Tish'a B'Av – the ninth of the month of Av is a major fast day. It commemorates the destruction of the first and second temples in Jerusalem in ancient times.
	Sept. 6–8, 2021	Sept. 25–27, 2022	Sept. 15–17, 2023	Rosh Hashanah – New Year's Day in the Jewish calendar (5777). It's the anniversary of the creation of the world and the first of the Ten Days of Awe.
	Sept. 16, 2021	Oct. 5, 2022	Sept. 25, 2023	Yom Kippur – The Day of Atonement, is the year's holiest day and a day of fasting. Jews ask forgiveness from and forgive others. This is to re-establish oneness with God, as well as to confess their sins and ask God for forgiveness.
	Sept. 20–22, 2021	Oct. 9–11, 2022	Sept. 29–Oct. 1, 2023	Sukkot – a pilgrimage feast and a time of thanksgiving for God's presence in creation and among the Jewish people.
	Sept. 27–29, 2021	Oct. 16–18, 2022	Oct. 6–8, 2023	Shmini Atzeret – the Eighth Day of Assembly. It's a holiday that concludes Sukkot and marks the beginning of winter in Israel.
	Sept. 29, 2021	Oct. 18, 2022	Oct. 8, 2023	Simhat Torah – Rejoicing of the Law. It celebrates the beginning of the annual Torah reading cycle at the synagogue.
	April 15–22, 2022	April 5–12, 2023	April 22–29, 2024	Pesah (Passover) – commemorates the departure of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. Celebrated over 7/8 days; the first two days and last two are holidays.
	June 4–6, 2022	May 25–27, 2023	June 11–13, 2024	Shavuot – marks the closing of the seven weeks that follow Pesah and commemorates the giving of the Torah to Moses and the Israelites. It's celebrated over one day in Israel and two days by Jews in the Diaspora (outside of Israel).



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<p>Sikh</p> <p>Nanakshahi Calendar</p> <p>Year 1 = 1469 CE</p> <p>Note: Dates of some festivals are fixed to the Indian Calendar (shift every year) and some have been changed to fit to the Gregorian calendar.</p>	Oct. 20, 2021	Oct. 20, 2022	Oct. 20, 2023	Installation of the Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji – celebrates Guru Gobind Singhi Ji (the 10th Guru) passing the Guruship to the Holy Scriptures.
	Nov. 4, 2021	Oct. 24, 2022	Oct. 12, 2023	Bandi Chhor Divas & Diwali – commemorated the return of Guru Hargobind Ji (the 6th Guru) to the holy city of Amritsar after negotiating the release of himself and 52 princes held for political reasons. This festival falls on the same day as Diwali.
	Nov. 18, 2021	Nov. 2, 2022	Nov. 27, 2023	Birth Date of Guru Nanak Dev Ji – the founder of the Sikh faith, an accomplished poet and the first of the Ten Gurus in 1469 CE.
	Nov. 24, 2021	Nov. 24, 2022	Nov. 24, 2023	Martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji – the ninth of the Ten Gurus. He's remembered for his defense of the Sikh faith, but also for being willing to give up his life for religious liberty of all faiths (1621–1675).
	March 14, 2022	March 14, 2023	March 14, 2024	Sikh New Year's Day – marks the first day of the year in the Nanakshahi Era.
	April 13, 2022	April 13, 2023	April 13, 2024	Vaisakhi – commemorates the day in 1699 that Guru Gobind Singh Ji, the 10th Guru, removed the caste system from Sikhism and affirmed the nationhood of the Khalsa.
<p>Shinto</p> <p>Shinto Calendar = Nen-chu-gyo-ji</p>	Jan. 1, 2022	Jan. 1, 2023	Jan. 1, 2024	Gantan-Sai/Japanese New Year's Day – Shinto people welcome in the new year with prayers for renewal of hearts, good health and prosperity. Those celebrating visit shrines in their best clothes.
<p>Wicca</p> <p>Includes Pagan traditions using the Gregorian calendar.</p>	Sept. 22, 2021	Sept. 22, 2022	Sept. 22, 2023	Mabon – Fall equinox. Similar to Canadian Thanksgiving, this is a time to spend with family, eat food, give thanks and appreciate the goddess for her bounty.
	Oct. 31, 2021	Oct. 31, 2022	Oct. 31, 2023	Samhain – The end and the beginning of the Celtic year. Celebrated by honoring and paying respect to the dead.
	Dec. 21, 2021	Dec. 21, 2022	Dec. 21, 2023	Yule – Winter solstice. A time of hope and renewal as the sun begins to return after this day.
	March 20, 2022	March 20, 2023	March 20, 2024	Ostara – Spring equinox. The first day of spring celebrates a time of growth and balance.
	May 1, 2022	May 1, 2023	May 1, 2024	Beltane – Beginning of summer. Celebrated through a festival of fire and fertility.
<p>Zoroastrian</p> <p>Qadimi Calendar</p>	Dec. 26, 2021	Dec. 26, 2022	Dec. 26, 2023	Death of Prophet Zarathustra , the founder of the Zoroastrian faith who lived somewhere between 6000–2000 BCE.
	March 21, 2022	March 21, 2023	March 21, 2024	Nowruz – "new day," is New Year's Day in the Fasli seasonal calendar. It celebrates the renewal of the world, the creation of fire, and the day Zarathustra received his revelation.