



Monthly Cultural and Heritage Observances Overview

Months	Observance	Months	Observance
January	National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month	July	Disability Pride Month
February	Black History Month	August	National Civility Month and National Wellness Month
March	Women's History Month Irish-American Heritage Month March 31: International Day of Transgender Visibility	September	Latinx Heritage Month / Hispanic Heritage Month (runs through Oct 15)
April	Arab American Heritage Month Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month	October	Italian-American Heritage Month Filipino American History Month German-American Heritage Month LGBTQ+ History Month National Disability Employment Awareness Month October 11: National Coming Out Day October 13: Indigenous Peoples' Day
May	Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month Jewish American Heritage Month Mental Health Awareness Month May 6: Holocaust Remembrance Day (Yom HaShoah)	November	Native American History Month November 8: National First-Generation Day
June	LGBTQ+ Pride Month Caribbean-American Heritage Month June 19: Juneteenth	December	International Human Rights Day December 3: International Day of Persons with Disabilities



2025-26 Cultural, Heritage, and Religious Observances Calendar

* Some holy days (*) start at sundown of the evening of the listed start date and end at sundown or nightfall of the concluding listed date.

Some of these dates are not fixed to a calendar but based on the actual sighting of the moon and therefore there may be some variance by a day.

Note: This list does not include all religions. This list also is subject to change.

Fall 2025 Observances

Date	Name	Description	Faith Tradition
September 22-24, 2025	Rosh Hashanah*	Jewish New Year, marking the anniversary of creation. Recommended Accommodations: Avoid scheduling important deadlines; provide Kosher food accommodations.	Jewish
Oct 1-2, 2025	Yom Kippur*	Holiest day in Judaism, the Day of Atonement. Recommended Accommodations: Avoid scheduling deadlines or events; fasting ends at nightfall, so plan limited activities after this time.	Jewish
October 2, 2025	Navaratri	Hindu festival celebrating the Divine Feminine with dance and fasting. Recommended Accommodations: Avoid major deadlines as some students may observe fasting and other rituals, especially in the evening.	Hindu
Oct 6-13, 2025	Sukkot*	A week-long festival commemorating the sheltering of ancestors in huts after the Exodus. Recommended Accommodations: Avoid deadlines and events on the first two days; provide Kosher food if requested.	Jewish
October 15, 2025	Shemini Atzeret/Simchat Torah*	Celebration marking the completion of the Torah reading cycle. Recommended Accommodations: Avoid scheduling important deadlines; provide Kosher food as requested.	Jewish
October 20, 2025	Diwali	Festival of lights, symbolizing the victory of light over darkness.	Hindu, Sikh, Jain



		Recommended Accommodations: Avoid scheduling important deadlines; many may request time off for family gatherings.	
October 23, 2025	Birth of Bahá'u'lláh	<p>Celebrates the birth of Bahá'u'lláh, founder of the Bahá'í Faith.</p> <p>Recommended Accommodations: Avoid scheduling important deadlines or events; Bahá'í students may request the day off.</p>	Bahá'í
November 1, 2025	All Saints' Day	<p>Christian holiday honoring all saints and martyrs.</p> <p>Recommended Accommodations: No specific accommodations typically required.</p>	Christian
December 8, 2025	Bodhi Day	<p>Marks the day Buddha attained enlightenment under the Bodhi tree.</p> <p>Recommended Accommodations: No specific accommodations required; quiet observance.</p>	Buddhist
December 14–22, 2025	Hanukkah*	<p>Jewish Festival of Lights, commemorating the rededication of the Second Temple in Jerusalem.</p> <p>Recommended Accommodations: Academics and work permitted, but provide Kosher food as requested; fried foods are customary.</p>	Jewish
December 25, 2025	Christmas	<p>Celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ.</p> <p>Recommended Accommodations: National holiday; no academic accommodations typically needed.</p>	Christian
December 26, 2025 - January 1, 2026	Kwanzaa	<p>African-American cultural holiday celebrating family, community, and culture. Each day emphasizes one of seven principles, such as unity and self-determination.</p> <p>Recommended Accommodations: No specific accommodations typically needed; however, respect for observances and cultural gatherings is encouraged.</p>	Cultural Observance
January 1, 2026	Gantan-sai (New Year's)	Shinto New Year celebration, marked by various	Shinto



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	Day)	traditional rituals for good fortune. Recommended Accommodations: No specific accommodations typically needed.	
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Spring 2026 Observances

Date	Name	Description	Faith Tradition
January 6, 2026	Epiphany	Commemorates the visit of the Magi to the baby Jesus, celebrated with various traditions. Recommended Accommodations: No specific accommodations needed.	Christian
February 1-2, 2026	Tu B'Shevat	"New Year of the Trees" marking the season for tithing fruit; today celebrated with environmental awareness, seders and tree-planting Recommended Accommodations: No fasting restrictions; limited accommodations needed. Provide vegetarian/vegan options if hosting events.	Jewish
February 15, 2026	Maha Shivaratri	Festival honoring the god Shiva with fasting and night worship. Recommended Accommodations: Avoid scheduling major academic events, as observers may have reduced energy.	Hindu
February 17, 2026	Lunar New Year	Chinese/Lunar New Year ushers in a new year on the lunisolar calendar. It begins a 15-day festival marked by family reunions, fireworks, red envelopes and blessings Recommended Accommodations: Avoid evening deadlines; some students may travel home; respect cultural celebrations	East and Southeast Asian traditions
February 18 - Marach 19, 2026	Beginning of Ramadan*#	Month of fasting from dawn to sunset, marking the first revelation of the Quran to the Prophet Muhammad. Recommended Accommodations: Avoid scheduling exams or important deadlines during this month, especially near sunset when fasting ends.	Islamic



February 18- April 2, 2026	Beginning of Lent and Ash Wednesday	<p>The start of the 40-day Christian Lenten season of fasting, reflection, and preparation for Easter.</p> <p>Recommended Accommodations: Some Christians may observe fasting or abstain from certain foods; no specific accommodations required but be mindful of dietary restrictions.</p>	Christian
March 2, 2026	Purim	<p>Celebrates the Jewish community's deliverance from a plot of destruction in ancient Persia.</p> <p>Recommended Accommodations: Academics and work permitted; celebrations may include costumes, food, and drink.</p>	Jewish
March 4, 2026	Holi	<p>Festival of Colors welcomes the arrival of spring. It begins in the evening of March 4 and ends during the evening of March 5.</p> <p>Recommended Accommodations: Academics and work permitted; celebrations may include costumes, food, and drink.</p>	Hindu
March 16, 2026	Lailat al-Qadr	<p>"Night of Power," commemorating the night the Quran was revealed to the Prophet Muhammad.</p> <p>Recommended Accommodations: Avoid scheduling significant deadlines; Muslims may engage in night prayers and may request time off the next day.</p>	Islamic
March 17, 2025	St. Patrick's Day	<p>Commemorates St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland. Celebrated widely, including within some Christian traditions.</p> <p>Recommended Accommodations: No specific accommodations needed.</p>	Christian
March 19, 2026	Naw Ruz	<p>Baha'i New Year coinciding with the spring equinox, celebrating renewal and the relationship between the Creator and creation</p> <p>Recommended Accommodations: Avoid scheduling major deadlines;</p>	Bahá'í



		observants may celebrate with prayers and community gatherings.	
March 29, 2026	Eid al-Fitr#	<p>Celebration marking the end of Ramadan.</p> <p>Recommended Accommodations: Avoid scheduling important academic events; Muslim students may request time off for family gatherings.</p>	Islamic
April 1-9, 2026	Pesach (Passover)	<p>Celebrates the liberation of the Jewish people from slavery in Egypt.</p> <p>Recommended Accommodations: Avoid scheduling important academic deadlines on the first two nights; Kosher food options recommended.</p>	Jewish
April 3, 2026	Good Friday	<p>Commemoration of the crucifixion of Jesus Christ.</p> <p>Recommended Accommodations: Avoid scheduling significant academic deadlines; quiet reflection time may be appropriate.</p>	Christian
April 5, 2026	Easter	<p>Celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ.</p> <p>Recommended Accommodations: No accommodations required but avoid scheduling exams as some may observe additional family obligations.</p>	Christian
April 14, 2026	Vaisakhi	<p>Sikh festival marking the creation of the Khalsa and reaffirming equality among Sikhs</p> <p>Recommended Accommodations: Provide flexibility for worship services; avoid major deadlines.</p>	Sikh



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May 1, 2026	Vesak	Commemorates Buddha's birth, enlightenment, and death. Recommended Accommodations: Provide vegetarian food options as requested and avoid scheduling significant exams.	Buddhist
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Summer 2026 Observances

Date	Name	Description	Faith Tradition
June 21, 2026	Shavuot	Marks the giving of the Torah on Mt. Sinai. Recommended Accommodations: Avoid scheduling important deadlines, events, and provide Kosher options; dairy foods are often customary.	Jewish
June 26-27, 2026	Eid al-Adha*#	Commemorates Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his son. Recommended Accommodations: Avoid scheduling major academic events; provide food accommodations if requested and be mindful of Islamic dietary restrictions.	Islamic
Jul 9–10 2026*	Martyrdom of the Báb	Anniversary of the execution of the Báb, forerunner of Bahá'u'lláh. Recommended Accommodations: Avoid scheduling significant events; observants may request time off.	Bahá'í
Jul 16–17 2026*	Al-Hijra / Islamic New Year	First day of Muharram marking the Prophet Muhammad's migration (Hijra) from Mecca to Medin Recommended Accommodations: Be mindful that some may fast or attend special prayers; minimal academic impact.	Islamic
July 25, 2026	Ashura*#	Marks the martyrdom of Husayn, grandson of the Prophet Muhammad, and the Exodus of Moses. Recommended Accommodations: Observers may request a vacation day; avoid scheduling major events if requested by students or employees.	Islamic
Aug 1 2026	Lammas / Lughnasadh	Pagan festival celebrating the first harvest of grain and the abundance of the earth Recommended Accommodations: Minimal accommodations needed; observants may hold rituals or feasts.	Pagan



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- Forms of learning evident in scholarship, partnership, and leadership that thoughtfully engages with children and youth, families, schools, higher education institutions, businesses and nonprofits with diverse perspectives and backgrounds.
- Continuous collective reflection and self-reflection on the ways in which race, ethnicity, economic resources, languages, abilities, histories, geography, first-generation status, age, gender, sexual identities, veteran status, and cultural and faith practices surface and inform our shared commitments and interactions.
- Prioritizing psychological, emotional, and physical safety.
- Prioritizing the sense of belonging for all members of our community.
- Courage in our commitments to risk, reflect, and improve.