

Religious Holidays 2017-2018

Buddhist:

Asalha Puja Day/Dharma Day July 9, 2017

Buddhist observance of the day when Gautama Buddha made his first public proclamation to five ascetics at Deer Park, Banares. He taught the middle way, the noble eight-fold path and the four noble truths.

Obon July 13, 2017

Japanese Buddhist festival to honor deceased ancestors. Involves lighting of bonfires, traditional meals, paper lanterns, folk dances.

Rohatsu (Bodhi Day) December 8, 2017

Buddhist celebration of the enlightenment of Buddha.

Mahayana New Year January 2, 2018

Chinese New Year February 16, 2018

Begins a fifteen Day Festival for Chinese people of all religions. Family reunions with thanksgiving and remembrance of departed relatives take place. Traditionally a religious ceremony honors Heaven and Earth.

Nirvana Day February 15, 2018

A regional observance of the death of the Buddha.

Magha Puja Day March 15, 2018

Celebration of the presentation of teaching by Lord Buddha to an assembly of holy men.

Visakha Puja Day April 29, 2018

Marking of the birth, enlightenment and death (attainment of Nirvana) of Lord Buddha.

Therevadin New Year April 30, 2018

BOLD titles are primary holy days of tradition

Christian:

Assumption of Mary August 15, 2017

All Saint's Day November 1, 2017

All Soul's Day November 2, 2017

(Catholic Christian)

Advent – First Sunday December 3, 2017

Immaculate Conception December 8, 2017

Christmas December 25, 2017

Christian celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. Observed by prayers, exchanging of gifts and family parties

Shrove Tuesday February 13, 2018

Ash Wednesday – February 14, 2018

Lent begins

Palm Sunday March 25, 2018

Maundy Thursday March 29, 2018

Good Friday** March 30, 2018

Christian remembrance of the crucifixion of Jesus and related events.

Easter April 1, 2018

The most holy of Christian Sacred days. The day commemorates the resurrection of Jesus Christ from his death by crucifixion.

Divine Mercy Sunday April 8, 2018

Ascension Thursday May 10, 2018

Pentecost(Whit Sunday) May 20, 2018

Christian observance of the day when the God the Holy Spirit came to the disciples in the forms of tongues of fire and rushing wind. It is a traditional day for baptism and confirmation of new Christians.

Trinity Sunday May 27, 2018

Corpus Christi May 31, 2018

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**Fasting may be observed in these communities on this day

Orthodox Christian:

The Indictus September 1, 2017

The New Ecclesiastical Year

Nativity of the Theotokos September 8, 2017

Mother of God

Exaltation of the Holy Cross September 14, 2017

Presentation of the Theotokos November 21, 2018

in the Temple

Feast of the Nativity December 25, 2017

Feast of the Theophany January 6, 2018

Nativity of Christ January 7, 2018 (old calendar)

Presentation February 2, 2018

of Our Lord in the Temple

Great Lent begins February 12, 2018

Sunday of Orthodoxy February 18, 2018

The Annunciation March 25, 2018

Saturday of Lazarus March 31, 2018

Palm Sunday April 1, 2018

Great and Holy Friday April 6, 2018

Orthodox Easter (Pascha) April 8, 2018

Ascension May 17, 2018

Pentecost May 27, 2018

Hindu:

Raksha Bandhan August 7, 2017

Festival honoring the loving ties between brothers and sister in a family.

Krishna Janmashtami August 15, 2017

Commemoration of the birth of Krishna – the 8th incarnation of god Vishnu

Ganesh Chaturthi September 25, 2017

Festival honoring the god of prosperity, prudence and success.

Navaratri September 21-29, 2017

Festival of the divine mother honoring Durga, wife of Shiva, and seeking her blessings.

Dasera/Dussehra September 30, 2017

Celebration of victory and valor. Lord Rama is remembered as winning a victory over evil.

Diwali October 19, 2017

Festival of lights symbolizing the human urges to move toward the light.

Makar Sankranti January 14, 2017

Seasonal celebration recognizing the increasing length of days.

Vasant Panchami January 22, 2018

Celebration dedicated to Saraswati, goddess of learning.

Maha Shivaratri February 14, 2018

Festival in honor of Lord Shiva and his marriage to Goddess Parvati.

Holi March 3, 2018

Spring festival dedicated to the god of pleasure. Observed in a colorful and boisterous manner.

Ramayana March 18, 2018

Ramanavami March 26, 2018

Celebration of the birth of Lord Rama, hero of the religious epic poem, The Ramayana.

Hanuman Jayanti March 31, 2018

Celebration of Hanuman who was an embodiment of Lord Rama. Devotion and selfless work are encouraged.

BOLD titles are primary holy days of tradition

Jewish:

Tisha B'Av August 1, 2017

Day of fasting in remembrance of the destruction of the Temple in 586 b.c.e. and 70 c.e.

Rosh HaShanah* September 21-22, 2017

Jewish New Year. A time of introspection, abstinence, prayer and penitence.

Yom Kippur September 30, 2017

Jewish Day of Atonement. This holiest day of the Jewish year is observed with strict fasting and ceremonial repentance.

Sukkot* October 5-11, 2017

Feast of Tabernacles which celebrates the harvest and the protection of the people of Israel as they wandered in the wilderness dwelling in tents.

Shemini Atzeret October 12, 2017

Completion of the annual cycle of reading of the Torah.

Simhat Torah October 13, 2017

Day to celebrate the reading of the Law.

Hanukkah December 13-20, 2017

Festival of Lights. Commemorates the Maccabean recapture and rededication of the Jerusalem Temple in 165-164 b.c.e.

Tu BiShvat January 31, 2018

Celebration of the coming of spring by preparation of foods native to Israel. Also known as "New Year for Trees".

Purim March 11, 2018

Celebration of the deliverance of the Jewish minority in Persia from genocide.

Pesach* March 31, 2018

Jewish 8 day pilgrimage festival celebrating the Exodus from slavery to freedom. Also known as Passover. The first two and the last two days are

the primary days of obligation.

Yom HaShoa April 12, 2018

Jewish Holocaust Day. Remembering the six million Jews killed by the Nazis in 1933-45.

Lag B'Omer May 3, 2018

Observation of the counting of the day – the link – between Pasach and Shavout.

Shavuot* May 20-21, 2018

Celebration of Moses' descent from Mt. Sinai with the Ten Commandments.

BOLD titles are primary holy days of tradition

*All Jewish holidays begin at sundown the night before the date listed. Sukkot and Passover are 8 day festivals. Although the first two days and the last two days have the strictest holiday observance (i.e. no driving, no writing, etc.), all 8 days have certain restrictions and should be considered according to the levels of stated observance by the diverse Jewish religious communities at Cornell. Holidays marked with an asterisk are observed for one day only by Reform Jews. Holidays noted in **bold** are days on which no work is permitted and absences from school or work should be excused.

Muslim:

Eid al Adha* September 1, 2017

Festival of Sacrifice. The day after Arafat, marks the end of the Hajj.

Muharram (Al-Hijra*– New Year) September 21, 2017

The date of the Emigration of Muhammad and his followers to Medina in 622 c.e. Islamic New Year.

`Ashura* October 1, 2017

There is an optional fast this day. The Shi'a observance is based on the martyrdom of Prophet Muhammad's grandson, Husayn, martyred on this day in 683/684 c.e. at the battle off Karbala. Sunni observance is related to numerous Biblical and Qur'anic events.

Mawlid an-Nabi* December 1, 2017

Commemoration of the birthday of Prophet Muhammad, founder of Islam, in about 570 c.e. Not universally observed.

Laylat al-Mi`raj April 13, 2018

Commemorates Muhammad's night journey from Mecca to Jerusalem and ascension to heaven.

Laylat al-Bara`ah May 1, 2018

Night of Forgiveness (also known as Shab-e bara'at). A night of prayer to God for forgiveness for oneself and for the dead. Preparation for Ramadan through intense prayer begins on this date.

Ramadan Begins* May 16, 2018

9th month on Islamic calendar, devoted fasting from first light to sunset. In this month, the Prophet Muhammad's reception of the divine revelation the Qur'an, is commemorated. It is the holiest period of the Islamic Year. The start date is set either by following Saudi practice of by moon sighting.

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*Actual sightings of the crescent moon may mean these dates are one day earlier or one day later.