

Religious Holidays 2015-2016

Baha'i:

Martyrdom of the Bab July 9, 2015
Observance of the anniversary of the execution by a firing squad in Tabriz, Persia, of the 30 year old Siyyid 'Ali-Muhammad, the Bab, the prophet-herald of the Baha'i Faith.

Birth of the Bab October 20, 2015
Baha'i observance of the anniversary of the birth in 1819 of Siyyid, "the Bab," the prophet-herald of the Baha'i Faith, in Shiraz, Persia.

Birth of Baha'u'llah November 12, 2015
Anniversary of the birth in 1817 of Baha'u'llah, prophet-founder of the Baha'i Faith, in Nur, Persia.

Day of the Covenant November 26, 2015
Day of the Covenant is a festival observed to commemorate Baha'u'llah's appointment of His son, Abdu'l-Baha, as His successor.

World Religion Day January 17, 2016
Observance to proclaim the oneness of religion and the belief that world religion will unify the people of the earth.

Ayyam-i-ha or Intercalary Days February 26, 2016
"Days of Ha" are devoted to spiritual preparation for the fast, celebrating hospitality, charity and gift giving. They are celebrated the four days, fin in leap year, before the last month of the Baha'i year.

Nineteen Day Fast March 3, 2016
Baha'i is between 15 and 70 years of age do not eat or drink from sunrise to sunset and set aside time for prayer and meditation.

Festival of Ridvan April 21, 2016
commemorate the 12 days when Baha'u'llah, the prophet-founder resided in a garden called Ridvan (Paradise) and publicly proclaimed His mission as God's messenger for this age. The first (4/21), ninth (4/29), and twelfth (5/2) days are celebrated as holy days when Baha'i l's suspend work.

Declaration of the Bab May 23, 2016
Commemoration of the May 23, 1844, when the Bab, the prophet-herald of the Baha'i Faith, announced in Shiraz, Persia, that he was the herald of a new messenger of God.

Ascension of Baha'u'llah May 29, 2016
Observance of the anniversary of the death in exile of Baha'u'llah, the prophet-founder of the Baha'i Faith.

Race Unity Day June 12, 2016
Observance promoting racial harmony and understanding and the essential unity of humanity.

Buddhist:

Asalha Puja Day July 2, 2015
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 August 15, 2015
Japanese Buddhist festival to honor deceased ancestors. Involves lighting of bonfires, traditional meals, paper lanterns, folk dances.

Rohatsu (Bodhi Day) December 8, 2015
Buddhist celebration of the enlightenment of Buddha.

Mahayana New Year January 24, 2016

Chinese New Year February 8, 2016
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, 2016
A regional observance of the death of the Buddha.

Magha Puja Day March 23, 2016
Celebration of the presentation of teaching by Lord Buddha to an assembly of holy men.

Therevadin New Year April 22, 2016

Visakha Puja Day May 15, 2016
Marking of the birth, enlightenment and death (attainment of Nirvana) of Lord Buddha.

BOLD titles are primary holy days of tradition

Christian:

Assumption of Mary August 15, 2015

All Saint's Day November 1, 2015

All Soul's Day November 2, 2015
(Catholic Christian)

Advent – First Sunday November 29, 2015

Immaculate Conception December 8, 2015

Christmas December 25, 2015

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

Mary Mother of God January 1, 2016

Shrove Tuesday February 9, 2016

Ash Wednesday – February 10, 2016

Lent begins

Clean Monday March 14, 2016

Palm Sunday March 20, 2016

Maundy Thursday March 24, 2016

Good Friday** March 25, 2016

Christian remembrance of the crucifixion of Jesus and related events.

Easter March 27, 2016

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

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| Divine Mercy Sunday | April 3, 2016 |
| Ascension Thursday | May 5, 2016 |
| Pentecost(Whit Sunday) | May 15, 2016 |
| Christian observation 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 22, 2016 |
| Corpus Christi | May 29, 2016 |

BOLD titles are primary holy days of tradition

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

Orthodox Christian:

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| The Indictus | September 1, 2015 |
| The New Ecclesiastical Year | |
| Nativity of the Theotokos | September 8, 2015 |
| Mother of God | |
| Exaltation of the Holy Cross | September 14, 2015 |
| Presentation of the Theotokos in the Temple | November 21, 2015 |
| Nativity of Christ the Messiah | December 25, 2015 |
| The Theophany | January 6, 2016 |
| Nativity of Christ | January 7, 2016 |
| (old calendar) | |
| Presentation of Our Lord in the Temple | February 2, 2016 |
| Great Lent begins | March 14, 2016 |
| Sunday of Orthodoxy | March 20, 2016 |
| The Annunciation | March 25, 2016 |
| Saturday of Lazarus | April 23, 2016 |
| Palm Sunday | April 24, 2016 |
| Holy Week | April 25-29, 2016 |
| Great and Holy Friday | April 29, 2016 |
| Orthodox Easter (Pascha) | May 1, 2016 |
| Ascension | June 9, 2016 |
| Pentecost | June 19, 2016 |

Hindu:

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| Raksha Bandhan | August 29, 2015 |
| Festival honoring the loving ties between brothers and sister in a family. | |
| Krishna Janmashtami | September 5, 2015 |
| Commemoration of the birth of Krishna – the 8 th incarnation of god Vishnu | |
| Ganesh Chaturthi | September 17, 2015 |
| Festival honoring the god of prosperity, prudence and success. | |
| Navaratri | October 13 – 21, 2015 |
| Festival of the divine mother honoring Durga, wife of Shiva, and seeking her blessings. | |

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| Dasera/Dussehra | October 22, 2015 |
| Celebration of victory and valor. Lord Rama is remembered as winning a victory over evil. | |

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| Diwali | November 11, 2015 |
| Festival of lights symbolizing the human urges to move toward the light. | |
| Makar Sankranti | January 14, 2016 |
| Seasonal celebration recognizing the increasing length of days. | |
| Vasant Panchami | February 12, 2016 |
| Celebration dedicated to Saraswati, goddess of learning. | |
| Maha Shivaratri | March 8, 2016 |
| Festival in honor of Lord Shiva and his marriage to Goddess Parvati. | |
| Holi | March 23, 2016 |
| Spring festival dedicated to the god of pleasure. Observed in a colorful and boisterous manner. | |
| Ramayana | April 8, 2016 |
| Ramanavami | April 15, 2016 |
| Celebration of the birth of Lord Rama, hero of the religious epic poem, The Ramayana. | |
| Hanuman Jayanti | April 22, 2016 |
| 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:

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| Tisha B'Av | July 26, 2015 |
| Day of fasting in remembrance of the destruction of the Temple in 586 b.c.e. and 70 c.e. | |
| Rosh HaShanah* | September 14-15, 2015 |
| Jewish New Year. A time of introspection, abstinence, prayer and penitence. | |
| Yom Kippur | September 23, 2015 |
| Jewish Day of Atonement. This holiest day of the Jewish year is observed with strict fasting and ceremonial repentance. | |
| Sukkot* | Sept. 28-Oct. 4, 2015 |
| 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 5, 2015 |
| Completion of the annual cycle of reading of the Torah. | |
| Simhat Torah | October 6, 2015 |
| Day to celebrate the reading of the Law. | |
| Hanukkah | December 7-14, 2015 |
| Festival of Lights. Commemorates the Maccabean recapture and rededication of the Jerusalem Temple in 165-164 b.c.e. | |
| Tu BiShvat | January 25, 2016 |
| Celebration of the coming of spring by preparation of foods native to Israel. Also known as "New Year for Trees". | |
| Purim | March 24, 2016 |
| Celebration of the deliverance of the Jewish minority in Persia from genocide. | |
| Pesach* | April 23-30, 2016 |
| 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 May 5, 2016

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

Yom Ha`Atzmaut May 12, 2016

Lag B'Omer May 26, 2016
Observation of the counting of the day – the link – between Pasach and Shavout.

Shavuot* June 12-13, 2016

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:

Ramadan Begins* June 18, 2015

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.

Laylat al Qadr* July 13, 2015

This is the 'Night of Destiny' or 'Night of Power'. It marks the revelation of the Qur'an to the Prophet Muhammad.

Eid al-Fitr* July 18, 2015

Marks the end of Ramadan. It is a festival of thanksgiving to God.

Eid al Adha* September 24, 2015

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

Muharram (Al-Hijra*– New Year) October 14, 2015

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

`Ashura* October 23, 2015

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 24, 2015

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

Laylat al-Mi`raj May 5, 2016

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

Laylat al-Bara`ah May 21, 2016

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*

June 6, 2016

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.

BOLD titles are primary holy days of tradition

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