

Calendar of Religious Festivals 2008

Religion	Symbol	Description
Baha'i		The Bahá'í Faith is a religion founded by Bahá'u'lláh in 19th-century Persia, emphasizing the spiritual unity of all humankind. There are around six million Bahá'ís in more than 200 countries and territories around the world.
Buddhism		Buddhism is often described as a religion and collection of various philosophies, based initially on the teachings of Siddhartha Gautama, known as Gautama Buddha. To many, however, Buddhism is not a religion, or a philosophy or a set of doctrines, but rather teachings to guide one to directly experiencing reality.
Chinese Taoism		Taoism (or Daoism) is the English name referring to a variety of related Chinese philosophical and religious traditions and concepts. Taoist propriety and ethics emphasize the Three Jewels of the Tao; namely, compassion, moderation, and humility. An emphasis is placed on the link between people and nature.
Christianity		Christians believe Jesus is the Son of God and the Messiah prophesied in the Old Testament, and that the New Testament records the Gospel that was revealed by Jesus. Christianity began as an offshoot of Judaism, and includes the Hebrew Bible (known to Christians as the Old Testament) as well as the New Testament.
Hinduism		Hinduism (known as Hindú Dharma in modern Indian languages) is a religious tradition that originated in the Indian subcontinent. A conglomerate of diverse beliefs and traditions, Hinduism has no single founder. It is the world's third largest religion following Christianity and Islam, with approximately a billion adherents.
Islam		Islam is a monotheistic religion originating with the teachings of Muhammad, a 7th-century Arab religious and political figure. The word Islam means "submission", or the total surrender of oneself to God. An adherent of Islam is known as a Muslim, meaning "one who submits (to God)".
Japanese Shinto		Shinto is the native religion of Japan and was once its state religion. It involves the worship of kami, spirits. Some kami are local and can be regarded as the spiritual beings/spirit or genius of a particular place, but other ones represent major natural objects and processes: for example, Amaterasu, the Sun goddess, or Mount Fuji. Shinto is an animistic belief system.
Judaism		Judaism is the religion of the Jewish people, based on principles and ethics embodied in the Hebrew Bible (Tanakh) and the Talmud. According to Jewish tradition, the history of Judaism begins with the Covenant between God and Abraham the patriarch and progenitor of the Jewish people. Judaism is among the oldest religious traditions still in practice today.
Paganism		Paganism (from Latin paganus, meaning "an old country dweller, rustic") is a term which, from a Western perspective, has come to connote a broad set of spiritual or cultic practices or beliefs of any folk religion, and of historical and contemporary polytheistic religions in particular.
Rastafarian		The Rastafari movement, is a cultural value system that accepts Haile Selassie I, the former Emperor of Ethiopia, as God incarnate, whom they call Jah. About five to ten percent of Jamaicans identify themselves as Rastafari. Other characteristics of Rastafari include the teachings of Jamaican publicist, organiser, and black separatist Marcus Garvey (also often regarded as a prophet), whose political and cultural vision helped inspire a new world view.
Sikhism		Sikhism advocates the pursuit of salvation through disciplined, personal meditation on the name and message of God. A key distinctive feature of Sikhism is a non-anthropomorphic concept of God, to the extent that one can interpret God as the Universe itself. The followers of Sikhism are ordained to follow the teachings of the ten Sikh gurus, or enlightened leaders, as well as the holy scripture entitled the Guru Granth Sahib.
Zoroastrian		Zoroastrianism is the religion and philosophy based on the teachings ascribed to the prophet Zoroaster (Zarathustra, Zartosht). Mazdeism is the religion that acknowledges the divine authority of Ahura Mazda, proclaimed by Zoroaster to be the one uncreated Creator of all (God). While Zoroastrianism was once the dominant religion of much of Greater Iran, the number of adherents has dwindled to not more than 200,000 worldwide, with concentrations in India and Iran.

Month	Religion	Festivals
JANUARY	Baha'i	2 World Religion Day
	Christianity	1 Naming of Jesus (circumcision) 6 Epiphany 6 Christmas Day (Armenian Orthodox) 7 Christmas Day (Orthodox) 18 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (start) 25 St Paul's Day
FEBRUARY	Baha'i	26 - 1 Mar Ayyam - I - Ha
	Christianity	2 Candlemas 5 Shrove Tuesday 6 Ash Wednesday 7 Lent 14 St Valentines Day 24 St Matthias Day
MARCH	Baha'i	2 - 20 Nineteen Day Fast (start) 21 Naw-Ruz (New Year)
	Christianity	2 Candlemas 21 Good Friday 16 Palm Sunday 23 Easter Sunday 17 St Patricks Day 24 Easter Monday 19 St Joseph 25 Annunciation 20 Maundy Thursday
APRIL	Baha'i	21 Ridvan First - day 29 Ridvan Ninth Day
	Christianity	23 St George's Day 25 St Marks Day 27 Easter (Orthodox)
MAY	Baha'i	2 Ridvan - 12 Day Declaration of the Bab 23 Ascension of Baha'u'llah
	Christianity	1 St Philip & St James Day 1 Ascension Day 11 Pentecost/Whitsuntide 18 Trinity Sunday 18 All Saints Day (Orthodox) 25 Corpus Christi
JUNE	Baha'i	2 Vesakha Puja Birthday of Buddha 4 Asalha Puja (Theravada) 30 Asalha Puja (Theravada)
	Christianity	11 St Barnabas' Day 24 St John The Baptist Day 29 St Peter's Day
JULY	Baha'i	9 Martyrdom of the Bab
	Christianity	13 Holy Apostles Peter & Paul (Orthodox) 15 St Swithin 22 St Mary Magdalene's Day 25 St James' Day
AUGUST	Baha'i	9 Martyrdom of the Bab
	Christianity	6 Transfiguration 15 Assumption 24 St Bartholomew's Day
SEPTEMBER	Baha'i	20 Birth of the Bab
	Christianity	8 Blessed Virgin Mary 21 St Matthew's Day 27 Holy Cross Da (Orthodox) 29 St Michael's Day
OCTOBER	Baha'i	12 Birth of Baha'u'llah 26 The day of the covenant 28 Ascension Abdul'baha
	Christianity	13 St Edwards Day 18 St Luke's Day 23-30 Inter Faith Week (Prayer for World Peace) 28 St Simon & St Jude's Day 31 All Hallow's Eve
NOVEMBER	Baha'i	5 Kathina Day
	Christianity	1 All Saints Day 2 All Soul's Day 30 St Andrew's Day 30 Advent Sunday
DECEMBER	Baha'i	8 Bodhi Day
	Christianity	8 Immaculate Conception 13 St Lucy's Day 19 St Nicholas Day (Orthodox) 24 Christmas Eve 25 Christmas Day 26 Boxing Day 26 St Stephens Day 27 St John the Evangelists Day 28 Holy Innocents
JANUARY	Hinduism	14 Makar Sankrant 23 Basant Panchani/Sarawati Puja
	Islam	19 Ashura 20 Al Hijra (Islamic New Year)
FEBRUARY	Hinduism	11 Vasant Panchami 16 Maha - Shiv - Ratri 23 Varsha Pratipada (The spring New Year Festival)
	Islam	20 Birth of Prophet Muhammed (pbuh) Milad un Nabi 25 Milad un Nabi (Shia)
MARCH	Hinduism	6 Mahashivrati 21 Holi (Festival of colour) 29 Hindu New Year
	Islam	21 Purim
APRIL	Hinduism	6 Bikarami Samuat 14 Rama Navomi 19 Hanuman Jayanti
	Islam	20 Passover (Pesach)
MAY	Hinduism	29 Guru Purnima
	Islam	2 Yom Hashoah (Independence Day) 6 Lag B'Omer
JUNE	Hinduism	11 St Barnabas' Day 24 St John The Baptist Day 29 St Peter's Day
	Islam	9 Shavout
JULY	Hinduism	13 Holy Apostles Peter & Paul (Orthodox) 15 St Swithin 22 St Mary Magdalene's Day 25 St James' Day
	Islam	20 17th Tammuz
AUGUST	Hinduism	6 Transfiguration 15 Assumption 24 St Bartholomew's Day
	Islam	9 Lailat al Miraj (Rajab)
SEPTEMBER	Hinduism	8 Blessed Virgin Mary 21 St Matthew's Day 27 Holy Cross Da (Orthodox) 29 St Michael's Day
	Islam	13 - 16 O - bon
OCTOBER	Hinduism	3 Shri Krishan Janam - Ashtami 3 Ganesh - Chaturthi 29 Navaratri (start)
	Islam	10 Tisha B'av
NOVEMBER	Hinduism	9 Vijay Dashami - Dussehra 28 Karva Clowth 28 Diwali
	Islam	9 Rosh Hashanah (New Year)
DECEMBER	Hinduism	1 Lailat - UI - Bara'h (Night of forgiveness) 2 Ramadhan - Sawm (The month of fasting)
	Islam	9 Yom Kippur (Day of Attonement) 14 Sukkot 21 Shemini Atzeret 21 Simchat Torah
JANUARY	Judaism	1 Oshogatsu (New Year) 15 Seijin Shiki (Adults Day)
	Paganism	2 Imbolic
FEBRUARY	Judaism	3 Rissun - Set subun (Bean Scattering)
	Paganism	20 Spring Equinox - Eoster
MARCH	Judaism	8 Hina Matsuri (Doll festival) 21 Shunubun Sai (Equinox Day)
	Paganism	21 Groundation Day
APRIL	Judaism	20 Passover (Pesach)
	Paganism	1 Beltane
MAY	Judaism	2 Yom Hashoah (Independence Day) 6 Lag B'Omer
	Paganism	16 Litha - Summer Solstice
JUNE	Judaism	9 Shavout
	Paganism	16 Ethiopian Constitution Day 23 Birthday of Haile Selassie 1
JULY	Judaism	20 17th Tammuz
	Paganism	17 Birthday of Marcus Garvey
AUGUST	Judaism	10 Tisha B'av
	Paganism	11 Ethiopian New Year
SEPTEMBER	Judaism	9 Rosh Hashanah (New Year)
	Paganism	22 Autumn Equinox
OCTOBER	Judaism	9 Yom Kippur (Day of Attonement) 14 Sukkot 21 Shemini Atzeret 21 Simchat Torah
	Paganism	31 Samhain
NOVEMBER	Judaism	15 Schichi Go San (7-5-3 Festival) 23 Niinamesei
	Paganism	2 Coronation of Haile Selassie 1
DECEMBER	Judaism	22 Hanukkah (The festival of lights) 31 10th Tevet
	Paganism	21 Yule Winter Solstice
JANUARY	Rastafarian	7 Christmas Day (Ethiopian)
	Sikhism	5 Birthday of Guru Gobind Singh 23 Basant 31 Birthday of Guru Har Rai
FEBRUARY	Rastafarian	7 Christmas Day (Ethiopian)
	Sikhism	13 Vaisakhi 14 Birthday of Guru Nanak 18 Birthday of Guru Tegh Bahadur 18 Birthday of Guru Angad Dev
MARCH	Rastafarian	20 Spring Equinox - Eoster
	Sikhism	2 Birthday of Guru Arjan Dev 23 Birthday of Guru Amar Das
APRIL	Rastafarian	21 Groundation Day
	Sikhism	16 Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev
MAY	Rastafarian	16 Litha - Summer Solstice
	Sikhism	5 Birthday of Guru Hargobind 23 Birthday of Guru Har Krishen
JUNE	Rastafarian	17 Birthday of Marcus Garvey
	Sikhism	19 Jamshedi Noruz New Years Day (Shenshai) 24 Khordad Sal (Shenshai)
JULY	Rastafarian	11 Ethiopian New Year
	Sikhism	26 Khordad Sal (Qadimi)
AUGUST	Rastafarian	22 Autumn Equinox
	Sikhism	5 Birthday of Guru Hargobind 23 Birthday of Guru Har Krishen
SEPTEMBER	Rastafarian	31 Samhain
	Sikhism	19 Jamshedi Noruz New Years Day (Shenshai) 24 Khordad Sal (Shenshai)
OCTOBER	Rastafarian	2 Coronation of Haile Selassie 1
	Sikhism	9 Birthday of Guru Ram Das 28 Diwali
NOVEMBER	Rastafarian	2 Coronation of Haile Selassie 1
	Sikhism	9 Birthday of Guru Ram Das 28 Diwali
DECEMBER	Rastafarian	21 Yule Winter Solstice
	Sikhism	13 Birthday of Guru Nanak Dev 24 Martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur (The ninth Guru)