

2022 KEY HOLIDAYS FOR MAJOR RELIGIONS



MARCH 1, 2022 \\ MAHA SHIVRATI - Solemn Hindu festival worshipping the god Shiva. It is observed at night unlike most other festivals. Rituals include fasting, all night vigils, and sacrifices offerings of wood-apple, cold water, and milk.



MARCH 1, 2022 \\ LAILAT AL MIRAJ – Commemorates Mohammed's night journey from Mecca to Jerusalem on a winged horse. He then ascends to heaven where he is purified and instructed to teach his followers they are to pray times daily. Celebrated by special prayers offered in the evening at the mosque or parents sharing the story with their children.



MARCH 18, 2022 \\ HOLI – Festival starts at night with lighting of bonfires to signify triumph of good over evil. The next day people spend the day throwing colored powder and water at each other which shows the joy and love for everyone.



MARCH 18, 2022 \\ LAILAT AL BARA'A – Meaning is Night of Records or Night of Forgiveness. Muslims believe this is the night Allah writes everyone's destiny for the coming year. Who will live and who will die, who will find great hardship or favor, who will go on the pilgrimage to Mecca, etc. The faithful will pray, worship, and sometimes fast. For most Muslims it is a day of celebration with fireworks. Families who have lost loved ones during the year are showered with sweets from friends.



APRIL 2 - MAY 2, 2022 \\ RAMADAN – This is the month of fasting from sunrise to sunset. No drinking, eating, smoking, or even swallowing saliva. Families rise early to the beating drums of drummers going throughout their neighbors. They eat a large breakfast. Then in the evening they feast long into the night. It is said Muslims actually eat more during Ramadan than at any other time of the year.



APRIL 17, 2022 \\ EASTER – Celebrate Jesus Christ's resurrection from the dead.



APRIL 18, 2022 \\ GLOBAL DAY OF PRAYER FOR TURKEY – A day of prayer for the country of Turkey on the anniversary of the 2007 martyrdom of two Turkish believers and a German missionary in Malatya, Turkey.



APRIL 10, 2022 \\ RAM NAVAMI – Commemorates the birth of Lord Rama which is considered to be the seventh incarnation of Lord Vishnu. Worshipping him this day rids the world of bad powers and brings in good powers.



MAY 5, 2022 \\ NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER – In the USA people gather at noon or in the evening to primarily pray for their federal, state, and local governments.



MAY 15, 2022 \\ VESAK – Buddhist festival celebrating the birth, enlightenment, and death (attaining Nirvana) of Guatama Buddha. Buddhists go to their local temple before dawn to observe the raising of the Buddhist flag. Hymns are sung and offerings of food, flowers, and candles. The offerings symbolize everything will wither and die and only Buddha's dharma truth will survive.



MAY 5, 2022 \\ EID AL FITR – The festival of Breaking the Fast marking the end of Ramadan. Usually celebrated for three days. People dress in new clothes, visit relatives, children are given candy (it's known as "Sugar Holiday" in Turkey), gifts, and money.



APRIL 28, 2022 \\ LAILAT AL KADR – This known as the Night of Power during the month of Ramadan. This is the holiest night of the Muslim calendar. On this night Mohammed was given the first few verses of the Koran. A single good deed or prayer tonight will bring about a blessing worth 1,000 months. Many believe this night Allah will speak to the faithful in dreams and visions.



JULY 7 - 12, 2022 \\ HAJJ – The pilgrimage to Mecca, Saudi Arabia which to done by every adult Muslim once in their lifetime if it is physically and financially possible for them.



JULY 9, 2022 \\ WAQF AL ARAFA – On this day the pilgrims walk about 12 miles from Mecca to this high plain on Mount Arafat where they offer prayers. Muslims around the world fast on this day.



JULY 10, 2022 \\ EID AL ADHA – Festival of Sacrifice. After special morning holiday prayers at the mosque sacrifices are made. These can either be a sheep, lamb, goat, cow, bull or camel. This is to commemorate when Abraham was asked to sacrifice his son which Muslims believe was Ishmael. The meat from the sacrifice is to be split three ways between you and your family, your friends, and the poor. This holiday is usually celebrated over two or three days.



JULY 13, 2022 \\ ASALHA PUJA – Commemorates the day Gautama Buddha gave his first sermon to his five disciples at Deer Park. Buddhist monks celebrates by giving sermons, chanting, leading meditations, and leading a candle procession around their temple three times. People give offerings to the monks on Asalha Puja.



JULY 29, 2022 \\ AL-HIJRA / MUHARRAM – This is the Islamic New Year which is the first day of Muhamarram which is the first month in the year. It marks the Hijra which was the move of Mohammed from Mecca to Medina in 622. All years are calculated from this date and this is why all Muslim date have the suffix A.H. (after Hijra)



AUGUST 7, 2022 \\ ASHURA – Shi'ite Muslims commemorate the death of Husayn ibn Ali (grandson of Mohammed) in the battle of Karbala. It's day of mourning as pilgrimages are taken to Karbala, Iraq. People wear funeral clothes and some beat their chests during demonstrations in the streets. Sunni fast in honor of Moses' fast after God's deliverance of the Israelites from Egypt.



AUGUST 11, 2022 \\ RAKSHA BANDHAN – Celebrates the bond between brothers and sisters. A sister ties a string bracelet on their brother's wrist and prays for his good health and long life. He then vows to protect her and gives her a gift.



AUGUST 19, 2022 \\ KRISHNA JANMASHTAMI – Celebrate the birth of Lord Krishna with fast until midnight when he was born. Statues of baby Krishna are washed and worshiped. Then they sing songs of praise to him and break their fast with food and sweets.



AUGUST 31 - SEPTEMBER 9, 2022 \\ GANESH CHATURTHI – Ten day festival celebrating the birth of Lord Ganesh, the god of new beginnings. Statues are made of Ganesh and offerings are made. On the last day the idols are put in rivers and seas symbolizing Ganesh taking worries away and leaving blessings.



SEPTEMBER 26 - OCTOBER 4, 2022 \\ NAVARATRI – This is the Festival of Nine Nights. This festival celebrates the victory of good over evil. Durga the mother goddess is worshiped with large statues. The festival varies depending on what region you live in. Some practice fasting and prayer, and in other communities there are nightly dances and feasts.



OCTOBER 3, 2022 \\ SARASWATI PUJA – This holiday celebrates the beginning of the spring season (southern hemisphere). Saraswati , the goddess of knowledge, art, music, wisdom, and learning is worshiped. Yellow is the color of the day as this is Saraswati's favorite color. People cover themselves in a yellow paste before taking a morning bath. They then dress in yellow clothes and eat yellow food and sweets throughout the day. Children place school books, notebooks, musical instruments, pens, pencils, before an idol of Sarawati in order to receive a blessing for the coming year.



OCTOBER 4, 2022 \\ DUSSEHRA – This holiday is celebrated the day after Navaratri ends. The statues of Durga are carried throughout the streets in long procession with great celebrations including dancing . Then the statues are thrown into the water. This again represents good triumphing over evil. This is called the Day of Victory.



OCTOBER 8, 2022 \\ MAWLID AL NABI – Celebrates the birthday of Mohammed. It's not an official Islamic holiday observed in almost all Muslim countries. The major exceptions are Saudi Arabia and Qatar where an ultraconservative form of Islam is followed which discourages practices not found in the Koran or Muslim traditions. Street carnivals, torchlit processions, music, feasting, and listening to sermons are common on Mawlid al Nabi.



OCTOBER 22-26, 2022 \\ DIWALI – This is festival of lights celebrated over five days. The commemorates Lord Rama returning to his people after a 14-year exile. Also, Lakshmi the goddess of happiness and good fortune is worshipped. During the celebrations small oil lamps are lit along with bonfires and fireworks displays.



NOVEMBER 6, 2022 \\ INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH – Churches around the world pray for their suffering brothers and sisters in Christ.



DECEMBER 8, 2022 \\ BOUDHI DAY – This is the day to remember Guatama Buddha's enlightenment or awakening as he meditated under a bohdi tree which is a variety of fig tree. Some spend the day meditating. Many families bring a bohdi tree into their home and decorate it with lights and beads. Others go visit Buddhist shrines.



DECEMBER 25, 2022 \\ CHRISTMAS – Celebrate Jesus Christ's birth as God became man.



KEY



BUDDHIST
HOLIDAYS



CHRISTIAN
HOLIDAYS



HINDU
HOLIDAYS



MUSLIM
HOLIDAYS