

## Religious Holy Days and Festivals Calendar 2012

Although some religious festivals occur each year on a set date, many religious festivals occur at different times each year. This is because most religious holidays or festivals are based on a fixed date, the phases of the moon, the timing of the equinoxes and solstices or a combination of the two.

All dates shown on our multifaith calendar use the Gregorian (Western) calendar. The calendar is accurate as far as we are aware, but some dates may vary regionally because they are determined by the lunar (moon) calendar.

### Please note:

Jewish & Muslim festivals usually begin at sundown on the previous day.

The dates for the full moon are for northern hemisphere countries.

<b>1 January</b>	<b>New Year's Day</b> (Secular) Celebrates the start of the new year
<b>4 January</b>	<b>New Moon</b>
<b>5 January</b>	<b>Birthday of Guru Gobind Singh</b> (Sikh) 1666-1708 According to the Sikh Nanakshahi calendar, this day marks the birth of the tenth and final Sikh prophet-teacher. Guru Gobind Singh introduced many of the customs that Sikhs practise today including the 5 K's. Guru Gobind Singh, the tenth Sikh guru, was born Gobind Rai in Patna, Bihar on 22 December 1666 CE. His birthday generally falls in December or January—or occasionally twice within one year—when calculated according to the Hindu Bikrami calendar
<b>6 January</b>	<b>Epiphany</b> (Christian) The twelfth day of Christmas, celebrates the visit of the wise men, or magi, to the baby Jesus.
<b>7 January</b>	<b>Orthodox Christmas</b> (Christian) Many Eastern Orthodox and Armenian churches still use the Julian rather than the Gregorian calendar. This means that they celebrate Christmas and other fixed festivals thirteen days after the Western churches, so the 7th January in the Orthodox calendar equates 25th December in the Western calendar.
<b>8 January</b>	First Sunday after <b>Epiphany</b> (Christian) <b>Baptism of Jesus</b> (Christian)
<b>9 January</b>	<b>Full Moon</b>
<b>9 - 12 January</b>	<b>Mahayana Buddhist New Year</b> (3 days) (Buddhist) New Year for Mahayana Buddhists celebrated on the first full moon day in January
<b>13 January</b>	<b>St Hilary's Day</b> According to tradition, "St. Hilary's is the coldest day of the year." St. Hilary was a fourth century Bishop of Poitiers. <b>Baptism of Jesus</b>
<b>14 January</b>	<b>Makar Sankranti / Lohri</b> (Hindu) Sankranti means to go from one place to another place (to change direction). It also means one meets another. The time when the sun changes direction from one constellation (of the zodiac) to another is known as Sankranti. It is celebrated in mid-winter and marks the transition of the sun from the Sagittarius to Capricorn during the winter solstice in the Northern Hemisphere. People take dips in rivers and worship the Sun God especially in the holy Ganges river. The dip is said to purify the self and bestow "punya". Special puja is offered as a thanksgiving for good harvest. <b>Pongal</b> (Hindu) Harvest Festival Pongal is one of the most popular harvest festival of South India, mainly Tamil Nadu. Pongal falls in the mid-January every year and marks the reaping of crops and a special thanksgiving to God, the sun, the earth and the cattle. Pongal festival lasts

	for four days. Celebrations include drawing of Kolam, swinging & cooking of delicious Pongal.
<b>19 January</b>	<b>World Religion Day</b> Annually the third Sunday in January. The aim of World Religion Day is to foster the establishment of interfaith understanding and harmony by emphasizing the common denominators underlying all religions.
<b>21 February</b>	<b>New Moon</b>
<b>23 January</b>	<b>Chinese New Year</b> - Yuan Tan Year 4710 - Year of the Dragon. The most important event in the traditional Chinese calendar marking the beginning of the first lunar month. The festival is colourfully celebrated with fireworks, dances (such as the famous Lion dance) and the giving of gifts, flowers and sweets. Gold is a dominant colour to symbolise the wish for prosperity, and red is also much used as a lucky colour. Business accounts should be settled and all debts should be paid before the new year begins. Celebrations can last three days or more.
<b>25 January</b>	<b>Burn's Night</b> (Scotland) (Secular) <b>St Paul's Day</b> <b>St. Dwynwen's Day</b> St Dwynwen's day is celebrated in Wales on 25 January and commemorates the patron saint of friendship and love.
<b>27 January</b>	<b>National Holocaust Memorial Day</b>
<b>28 January</b>	<b>Vasant Panchami</b> / Saraswati Puja (Hindu) This festival marks the first day of spring and is held to worship Sarawati, the goddess of learning. It is also known as Magh Sukla Panchami as it falls in the month of Magh (January-February)
<b>31 January</b>	<b>Birthday of Guru Har Rai</b> (Nanakshahi calendar) (Sikh) This day marks the birth of the seventh Sikh prophet-teacher.
<b>1-2 February</b>	<b>Imbolc</b> (Pagan) Festival celebrating growing power of light. Lighting fires was important for this festival as it was also the holy day of Brigid, the Goddess of fire, healing and fertility. For the Christian calendar, this holiday was reformed and renamed 'Candlemas' when candles are lit to remember the purification of the Virgin Mary.
<b>2 February</b>	<b>Candlemas</b> (Christian) Candlemas marks the day when Jesus was presented in the Temple. Candles for use in churches are usually blessed on this day.
<b>3 February</b>	<b>Setsubun Bean throwing festival</b> (Japanese) This last day of winter is a time to drive out evil spirits with a bean throwing ceremony. Handfuls of beans are thrown into dark corners, with shouts of "Fortune In, Devils Out".
<b>4 February</b>	<b>Mawlid-al-Nabi</b> (Milad un Nabi) - (Muslim) Commemorates the birth of the Prophet Muhammad in about 570 C.E.
<b>6 February</b>	<b>Teng Chieh (Yuen Sui)</b> (Chinese) This is the Lantern Festival which marks the first full moon of the year and the lengthening of days. It also marks the end of the celebration of Chinese New Year. Lanterns of all colours but white - the colour of mourning - are hung up.
<b>7 February</b>	<b>Full Moon</b>
<b>8 February</b>	<b>Parinirvana / Nirvana Day</b> (Buddhists) Mahayana Buddhist festival marking the final passing away from this world of Gautama Buddha at Kushinagara, India, at the age of 80.
<b>8 February</b>	<b>Tu B'Shevat</b> - The New Year of the Trees (Jewish) Tu B'Shevat, the 15th day of the Jewish month of Shevat, is a holiday also known as the New Year for Trees. (Tu means 15) People plant trees in memory of a loved one or friend and eat fruit, particularly those that are singled out by the Torah in its praise of the bounty of the Holy Land: grapes, figs, pomegranates, olives and dates. "Man is a tree of the field" (Deuteronomy 20:19) <i>Note that in the Jewish calendar, a holiday begins on the sunset of the previous day.</i>
<b>11 February</b>	<b>Our Lady Lourdes</b> (Christian)

<b>14 February</b>	<b>St Valentines Day</b> (Christian)
<b>18 February</b>	<b>Magha Puja</b> (Buddhist) Magha Puja is the second most important Buddhist festival. This day commemorates the occasion when the Buddha predicted his death and recited a summary of his teachings and a code of discipline (which monks are expected to recite every fortnight) to 1,250 enlightened followers on the full moon of Magha.
<b>20 February</b>	<b>Maha Shivaratri</b> (Great Shiva Night) (Hindu) The main festival to worship Shiva, one of the most important forms of God. Many Hindus will fast and prayers are focused on Shiva and his shrines and statues. Each new moon is dedicated to Shiva, but Maha Shivratri is especially important because it is the night when he danced the 'Tandav', his cosmic dance. Find out more
<b>21 February</b>	<b>Shrove Tuesday</b> (Christian) 2012 Commonly known as Pancake Day, this is the day before the start of Lent. Christians traditionally 'use up' rich foods in preparation for fasting during Lent.  <b>New Moon</b>
<b>22 February</b>	<b>Ash Wednesday</b> (Christian) 2012 Ash Wednesday marks the first day of Lent, the forty days (not counting Sundays) that lead up to Easter. Ashes are placed on the heads of the faithful as a sign of penitence.  <b>Lent</b> (Christian) 2012 The first day of Lent when Christians remember the forty days that Jesus spent in the wilderness and the temptations he faced during this time. Lent is a time of fasting and discipline in preparation for Easter.
<b>27 February</b>	<b>Clean Monday</b> Beginning of Lent (Orthodox)
<b>1 March</b>	<b>St David's Day</b> (Christian) This holy day of the Patron Saint of Wales celebrates Welsh culture and history.
<b>5 March</b>	<b>St Piran's Day</b> (Christian) St. Piran is the patron saint of Cornwall, the southern most corner of Great Britain.
<b>8 March</b>	<b>Full Moon</b>  <b>Purim</b> (Jewish) Purim celebrates the deliverance of the Jewish people from the wicked Haman in the days of Queen Esther of Persia. They remember Queen Esther who saved the life of the Jewish people, as told in The Book of Esther. This is read twice in the synagogue. The name of Haman is drowned out with rattles and hooters by congregation whenever it is read. Many people come in fancy dress. Hamantashen (cakes filled with poppy seeds, literally "Haman's pockets") are made and eaten at this time. <i>Note that in the Jewish calendar, a holiday begins on the sunset of the previous day</i>  <b>Holi</b> (Hindu) One of the most colourful Hindu festivals, Holi begins with a bonfire to celebrate the death of Holika, the demon of winter. On the second day, people throw coloured water over one another to remind themselves of the mischievous young Krishna.
<b>9 March</b>	<b>Hola Mahalla</b> (Sikh) Festival of martial arts. It takes place on the day after the end of Holi.
<b>14 March</b>	<b>Nanakshahi</b> - Sikh New Year (Sikh) The Sikh calendar is called the Nanakshahi Calendar and takes its name from Guru Nanak, who founded Sikhism. The year 2012 is the year 543 in the Sikh Nanakshahi Calendar. It is the first day of Chet, the first month of the Sikh calendar. The Sikh New Year always falls on 14 March.
<b>17 March</b>	<b>St. Patrick's Day</b> (Christian) This holy day of the Patron Saint of Ireland celebrates Irish culture and history
<b>18 March</b>	<b>Mothering Sunday 2012</b> (Simnel Sunday) (Christian) A time to say thank you to Mums and carers everywhere.
<b>20 March</b>	<b>Spring Equinox</b>

<b>22 March</b>	<b>New Moon</b>
	<b>Vikram Samvat - Hindi New Year</b> (Hindu)
<b>23 March</b>	<b>Chaitra Navratri</b> (Hindu) Observed during the Shukla Paksha (Waxing phase of moon) in the month of Chaitra (March – April). This festival of nine nights in Hindu religion is dedicated to Goddess Durga, Lakshmi and Saraswati. The festival is also called Vasant Navratri, Basant Navratri and Rama Navratras.
<b>25 March</b>	<b>Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary</b> (Christian) The feast of the Annunciation marks the visit of the angel Gabriel to the Virgin Mary, during which he told her that she would be the mother of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is celebrated on 25 March each year.
<b>1 April</b>	<b>Palm Sunday</b> (Christian) 2012 Palm Sunday is the first day of Holy Week i.e. the week which recalls the last week of Jesus' earthly human life. Christians remember his triumphal entry into Jerusalem, where later he would be arrested and crucified. In many churches the entry is commemorated by processions, with the congregation carrying symbolic branches of trees or palm leaves folded into the form of a cross.  <b>Rama Navami</b> (Ramanavami) (Hindu) This festival celebrates the birthday of Lord Rama, seventh incarnation of the god Vishnu. On his birthday, temples are decorated and the 'Ramayana', the story of Rama, is recited.
<b>1 April - 7 April</b>	<b>Holy Week</b> (Christian) This is the most solemn week of the Christian year. Christians remember Jesus' life beginning on Palm Sunday, when Jesus enters Jerusalem and ends on Good Friday when He was crucified.
<b>5 April</b>	<b>Maundy Thursday</b> (Holy Thursday) (Christian) 2012 Christians reflect on The Last Supper, when Jesus celebrated the Passover meal with his disciples.  <b>Fast of the Firstborn</b> (Jewish) Observed only by firstborn males, on the day before Passover. This fast celebrates the survival of Jewish firstborn sons from the 10th Plague of Egypt. <i>Note that in the Jewish calendar, a holiday begins on the sunset of the previous day.</i>
<b>6 April</b>	<b>Good Friday</b> (Christian) This commemorates the crucifixion of Jesus. Although essentially a sombre day, it is called 'Good' since, for Christians, it is the ultimate example of God's sacrifice when Jesus gave up his life for the world.  <b>Full Moon</b>  <b>Therevanda</b> New Year (Buddhist) Starting on the first full moon day in April  <b>Hanuman Jayanti</b> (Hindu) Hindus celebrate the birth of Hanuman, the monkey-warrior. He is the symbol of strength and energy.
<b>6 April - 14 April</b>	<b>Passover</b> or Pesach (Jewish) 2012 Festival of Liberation Passover begins at sundown and is the eight-day feast commemorating the exodus of the people of Israel from slavery in Egypt. The first two and last two days of the festival are observed as holidays from work.
<b>7 April</b>	<b>Holy Saturday</b> (Christian) A day of vigil culminating in the feast of the resurrection.
<b>8 April</b>	<b>Hana Matsuri</b> - the Flower Festival (Buddhist) Buddha Shakyamuni's birthday. Celebrated with a flower festival. Buddha was born on the eighth day of the fourth month of the traditional Chinese calendar, and although this date will vary on the international calendar, the Japanese have translated the date to 8 April.

	<b>Easter Sunday</b> (Christian) This is the most important festival of the Christian year, as it is when Christians celebrate the resurrection of Jesus.
<b>13 April</b>	<b>Baisakhi</b> (Vaisakhi) (Sikh) The harvest festival of North India, the beginning of the solar year. For Sikhs, it represents the founding of the Khalsa, a Sikh brotherhood. Baisakhi always falls on 14th April and this is also the Hindu New Year for North India.
<b>19 April</b>	<b>Yom HaShoah</b> (Jewish) Holocaust Remembrance Day. Memorial candles are lit and special services are held.
<b>21 April</b>	<b>New Moon</b>
<b>23 April</b>	<b>St Georges Day</b> (Christian) This holy day of the Patron Saint of England celebrates English culture and history
<b>1 May</b>	<b>May Day</b> (Secular) This English festival marks the beginnings of Spring. People traditionally celebrate by dancing around a May Pole and choosing a May Queen.
	<b>Full Moon</b>
<b>6 May</b>	<b>Vesakha (Visakha) Puja / Wesak / Buddha Day</b> (Buddhists) It occurs near or on the day of the full moon in May. For Western Buddhists this is a three fold celebration. It represents the day on which the Buddha was born, achieved enlightenment and attained 'nirvana'. The festival is a celebration of much colour. Homes are decorated with flowers and incense. Buddhists visit their local temples for services and teachings, and give offerings to monks.
<b>10 May</b>	<b>Lag B'Omer</b> (Jewish) 2012 The Omer period of 49 days, lasting from Pesach to Shavout, is a time of sadness, relieved on this, the 33rd day, in memory of the end of a plague in Roman times. It is often celebrated by out of door activities. A large number of weddings take place, since they are not permitted during the other days of the Omer. <i>Note that in the Jewish calendar, a holiday begins on the sunset of the previous day.</i>
<b>13 May</b>	<b>Rogation Sunday</b> (Christian) 2012 This is the fifth Sunday after Easter, and the name comes from the gospel for the day which includes the words "Whatever you ask the Father in my name, he will give to you". Rogation comes from the latin word for 'ask'. It became the custom for a procession to walk round the boundaries of the parish on Rogation Sunday, and for the Priest to bless the crops and animals.
<b>15 - 21 May</b>	<b>Christian Aid Week</b> (Christian) 2012
<b>17 May</b>	<b>Ascension Day</b> Holy Thursday (Christian) 2012 Commemorates the last earthly appearance of the Risen Christ, who, according to Christian belief, ascended into heaven in the presence of many witnesses.
<b>21 May</b>	<b>New Moon</b>
<b>27 May</b>	<b>Pentecost</b> or Whitsun / Whit Sunday (Christian) A day to remember when, 50 Days after the resurrection of Jesus, His disciples began to spread the Christian message.
<b>27-28 May</b>	<b>Shavuot</b> (Jewish) The Giving of the Torah Feast of Pentecost Shavuot marks the giving of the Torah on Mt. Sinai. The Ten Commandments are read in synagogues just as they were in the desert on Mt. Sinai over 3,300 years ago. It is also called the Festival of Weeks because it occurs seven weeks after Pesach. <i>Note that in the Jewish calendar, a holiday begins on the sunset of the previous day.</i>
<b>3 June</b>	<b>Trinity Sunday</b> (Christian) 2012 The first Sunday after Pentecost. Christians meditate on the nature of God as "Three in one".
<b>4 June</b>	<b>Full Moon</b>
<b>5 June</b>	<b>Diamond Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II</b>
<b>7 June</b>	<b>Corpus Christi</b> (Christian) The festival of Corpus Christi occurs 60 days after Easter and celebrates the Eucharist.

<b>16 June</b>	<b>Lailat al Mi'raj - The Prophet's Night Journey and Ascension</b> (Muslim) The festival celebrates Prophet Muhammad's journey from Mecca to Jerusalem in a single night on a winged creature called Buraq.
<b>17 June</b>	<b>Fathers Day</b> 2012 A time to say thank you to Dads and male carers everywhere.
<b>19 June</b>	<b>New Moon</b>
<b>21 June</b>	<b>Summer Solstice / Midsummers Day</b> <b>Ratha Yatra - Festival of the Chariots</b> (Hindu) June / July A festival to worship Krishna. Huge chariots with images of Krishna, his brother and his sister are pulled through the streets.
<b>24 June</b>	<b>St John the Baptist</b> (Christian) <b>Midsummers Day</b>
<b>29 June</b>	<b>Feast Day of Saints Peter and Paul</b> (Christian)
<b>3 July</b>	<b>Full Moon</b> <b>Asalha Puja or Dhammacakkha (Dharma) Day</b> (Buddhists) Celebrated by Theravadin and Western Buddhists as the anniversary of the Buddha's first sermon, known as ' <b>Turning of the Wheel of Law</b> '. The Buddha preached the need to follow a 'Middle Way' between self-indulgence and severe self-denial.
<b>4 July</b>	<b>Lailat al Barai'ah</b> (Muslim) 2012 The Night of Forgiveness (Lailat-ul-Bara'h) takes place two weeks before Ramadan. Islamic Night of Forgiveness. The 'Night of Records', when Allah is believed to register the deeds of humankind and to determine their fates for the coming year. It is a time for penitence, fasting and all night prayer.
<b>5 July</b>	<b>Birthday of Guru Hargobind</b> (Sikh) Guru Hargobind (1595-1644) was the sixth of the Sikh Gurus.
<b>15 July</b>	<b>St Swithin's Day</b> (Christian) St. Swithin's Day is 15th July, a day on which people watch the weather for tradition says that whatever the weather is like on St. Swithin's Day, it will continue so for the next forty days.
<b>19 July</b>	<b>New Moon</b>
<b>20 July</b>	<b>Ramadan</b> begins (Muslim) 2012 The month of fasting from dawn to sunset. During Ramadan, Muslims celebrate the time when the verses of the Qur'an were revealed to the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him). <i>Note that in the Muslim calendar, a holiday begins on the sunset of the previous day, so observing Muslims will celebrate Ramadan on the sunset of the 10 August.</i>
<b>23 July</b>	<b>Birthday of Guru Har Krishen</b> (Sikh) Guru Har Krishan (1656-1664) was the eighth of the Sikh Gurus.
<b>25 July</b>	<b>St. James the Great Day</b> (Christian)
<b>29 July</b>	Tisha B'av (Jewish) - Day of Mourning 2012 Fast commemorating the destruction of the two Temples. A solemn festival of fasting and mourning when Jews remember the destruction of the second Temple in Jerusalem by the Romans in AD 70. <i>Note that in the Jewish calendar, a holiday begins on the sunset of the previous day.</i>
<b>1 August</b>	<b>Lammas</b> (Christian) The celebration of the 'first fruits' when bread made from the first harvest is placed on the altar.
<b>2 August</b>	<b>Raksha Bandhan</b> (Hindu) ('raksha' means 'protection', and 'bandhan' means to 'tie'). A Special festival for brothers and sisters. The festival that celebrates brotherhood and love. Girls tie 'rakhi', twisted red and gold threads, around the wrists of their brothers who, in return, usually give their sisters a present. <b>Full Moon</b>

<b>6 August</b>	<b>The Transfiguration</b> (Christian) The Transfiguration commemorates Jesus being transformed in the presence of three of his disciples, Peter, James and John, on a mountain top.
<b>10 August</b>	<b>Krishna Janmashtami</b> (Hindu) August / September The celebration of Lord Krishna's birthday. He is famous for making mischief and playing tricks on his friends. He is also a great hero who helps and looks after people.
<b>14 August</b>	<b>Laylat ul-Qadr</b> (Laylat al Kadar)(Muslim) 2012 On the 27th day of Ramadan. Muslims celebrate the festival of Laylat ul-Qadr. Its name means 'The Night of Power'. It marks the night in which the Qur'an was first revealed to the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) by Allah. Note that in the Muslim calendar, a holiday begins on the sunset of the previous day.
<b>15 August</b>	<b>Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary</b> (Christian) The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary celebrates Mary being 'taken up', body and soul to heaven. Catholic communities often mark the festival with processions.
<b>17 August</b>	<b>New Moon</b>
<b>19 - 21 August</b>	<b>Eid-ul-Fitr</b> (Id-ul-Fitr) (Muslim) Eid ul-Fitr or Id-UI-Fitr is a Muslim holiday that marks the end of Ramadan, the Islamic holy month of fasting. Eid is an Arabic word meaning "festivity", while Fitr means "to break the fast" (and can also mean "nature", from the word "fitrah") and so symbolizes the breaking of the fasting period. Eid is celebrated over a three day period in Islamic countries. Note that in the Muslim calendar, a holiday begins on the sunset of the previous day 29 August Beheading of John the Baptist (Christian)
<b>31 August</b>	<b>Full Moon</b>
<b>Sept/Oct</b>	<b>Harvest Festival</b> (Christian)
<b>1 September</b>	<b>Ganesh Chaturthi</b> (Hindu) Hindus celebrate the birthday of Lord Ganesh, the elephant-headed God.
<b>8 September</b>	<b>Nativity of Virgin Mary</b> (Christian)
<b>16 September</b>	<b>New Moon</b>
<b>17 - 18 September</b>	<b>Rosh Hashanah</b> (Jewish) Jewish New Year's Day, 5772 years from the creation of the world (The date is for 2009 - 2010). This is the most important time in the Jewish year. It is also the beginning of ten special days, called the Days of Penitence. This is the time when Jews say sorry to God for all the bad things they have done in the past year. This is the only Jewish holiday which lasts for 2 entire days (considered as one very long day), and the reason for this is to emphasize its importance. <i>Note that in the Jewish calendar, a holiday begins on the sunset of the previous day, so observing Jews will celebrate Rosh HaShanah on the sunset of 28 September.</i>
<b>19 September</b>	<b>Ganesh Chaturthi</b> (Hindu) The birthday of Ganesha, the elephant-headed deity. Ganesha is worshipped by Hindus at the beginning of something new, for example taking moving house, getting married or taking arms.
<b>22 September</b>	<b>Equinox - Autumn Begins</b>
<b>26 September</b>	<b>Yom Kippur</b> (Day of Atonement) (Jewish) 2012 This is the final day of the Ten Days of Penitence, which began in the New Year (Rosh Hashanah). It is also called the Day of Atonement when Jews ask for forgiveness and look to the future. It is the holiest day of the year in the Jewish calendar. <i>Note that in the Jewish calendar, a holiday begins on the sunset of the previous day.</i>
<b>29 September</b>	<b>Michael and All Angels</b> (Christian)
<b>30 September</b>	<b>Full Moon</b>
<b>1 - 7 October</b>	<b>Sukkot / Sukkoth</b> begins (Jewish) 2012 A <b>harvest festival</b> commemorating the 40 years that the Jews spent in the

	wilderness on the way from slavery in Egypt to freedom in the Promised Land. A temporary hut with a roof covered only with branches - called a <b>sukkah</b> - is used during the festival. Four species of plant are used symbolically during the festival - the lulav (palm branch), the etrog (a yellow citrus fruit), the hadas (myrtle) and the aravah (willow). <i>Note that in the Jewish calendar, a holiday begins on the sunset of the previous day.</i>
<b>4 October</b>	<b>St Francis Day</b> (Christian)
<b>7 October</b>	<b>Hoshana Rabbah</b> (Jewish) 7th day of Sukkot Seventh day of Sukkot is considered the final day of the divine "judgment" in which the fate of the new year is determined. <i>Note that in the Jewish calendar, a holiday begins on the sunset of the previous day.</i>
<b>9 October</b>	<b>Simchat Torah</b> (Jewish) 9th day of Sukkot This festival marks the completion of the annual cycle of reading from the Torah. <i>Note that in the Jewish calendar, a holiday begins on the sunset of the previous day.</i>
<b>11 October</b>	<b>Thanksgiving Canada</b>
<b>13 October</b>	<b>St Edward's Day</b> (Christian)
<b>15 October</b>	<b>New Moon</b>
<b>16 - 23 October</b>	<b>Navaratri and Durgapuja</b> begins (Hindu) 2012 Navarati means 'Nine Lights' and this festival is devoted to the Durga, the Goddess of Motherhood. Navaratri symbolises the triumph of good over evil and marks the start of autumn.
<b>24 October</b>	<b>Dasera</b> (Dussera) Festival of Warriors (Hindu) People act out the story of Rama's victory over demon Ravana.
<b>26 - 29 October</b>	<b>Eid-al-Adha</b> (Id al-Adha) / The Festival of Sacrifice (Muslim) The festival marks the end of the Hajj (holy pilgrimage to Mecca).
<b>29 October</b>	<b>Full Moon</b>
<b>31 October</b>	<b>Hallowe'en</b> (National) (Secular)
<b>1 November</b>	<b>All Saints' Day</b> (Christian) This day provides a chance to offer thanks for the work and witness of all saints, recognising that not all are known or specially celebrated.
<b>2 November</b>	<b>All Souls Day</b> (Christian) On this day in particular the departed are remembered and prayers on their behalf are offered.
<b>5 November</b>	<b>Bonfire Night</b> (National) (Secular) Every year people celebrate Bonfire Night with firework displays and blazing bonfires. It remembers an event which happened 400 years ago.
<b>10 November</b>	<b>Birthday of Guru Nanak</b> (1469) (Sikh) This day celebrates the first Sikh guru, and is marked by reading the Sikh holy book, the Granth Sahib. <i>Note : The birth date of Guru Nanak was 15 April 1469, but it is traditionally celebrated in November.</i>
<b>11 November</b>	<b>Armistice Day</b> (Multifaith) <b>Remembrance Sunday</b> (National) The Sunday nearest to Armistice Day, devoted to remembering the dead of the two World wars and subsequent wars.
<b>13 November</b>	<b>Diwali</b> (Sikh/ Hindu) Hindu New Year 2012 The most important date in the Hindu Calendar, the story of Rama and Sita is retold and people spend time with their families.
<b>15 November</b>	<b>Al-Hijira</b> or holy pilgrimage (Muslim) Islamic New Year. The Muslim calendar counts dates from the Hijra, which is why Muslim dates have the suffix A.H. (After Hijra). The festival marks the migration of the Prophet Mohammad and his followers from Mecca to Medina.
<b>22 November</b>	<b>Thanksgiving USA</b>
<b>24 November</b>	<b>Ashura</b> (Muslim) This is a day of fasting for Sunni Muslims. The day that Nuh (Noah) left the Ark and the day that Musa (Moses) was saved from the Egyptians by Allah. Shi'ite Muslims mark the martyrdom of Hussein, a grandson of the prophet, on this day and see it as a great festival.

<b>25 November</b>	<b>New Moon</b> <b>Thanksgiving USA</b>
<b>28 November</b>	<b>Sangha Day</b> (Full Moon Day) (Buddhist) Sangha Day is a celebration of friendship. Buddhists come together to celebrate their worldwide community, the Sangha. <b>Full Moon</b>
<b>30 November</b>	<b>St Andrew's Day</b> (Christian) This holy day of the Patron Saint of Scotland celebrates Scottish culture and history.
<b>2 December</b>	<b>Advent</b> (Christian) The start of the Christian year and the Christian Church New Year. Four Sundays before Christmas.
<b>6 December</b>	<b>St Nicholas Day</b> (Christian)
<b>8 December</b>	<b>Feast of Immaculate Conception</b> (Christian) Celebrates the (mainly Roman Catholic) doctrine that Mary herself was born free from the Original Sin, leaving her sinless for the conception and bearing of Jesus. <b>Bodhi Day</b> (Buddhist) Some Buddhists (eg Pure Land followers) celebrate Gautama's attainment of Enlightenment on this day under the Bodhi tree in Bodhgaya, North India.
<b>9 - 16 December</b>	<b>Hanukkah</b> begins (alternate spelling Chanukah) (Jewish) Hanukkah celebrates the miraculous victory over religious persecution in the Holy Land and also commemorates the re-dedication of the Second Temple in Jerusalem and the miracle of the burning oil.
<b>13 December</b>	<b>New Moon</b> <b>St Lucy's Day</b> (Christian)
<b>21 December</b>	<b>Yule</b> (Pagan) Yule is the time of the winter solstice, when the sun child is reborn, an image of the return of all new life born through the love of the Gods.
<b>24 December</b>	<b>Christmas Eve</b> (Christian)
<b>25 December</b>	<b>Christmas</b> (Christian) Celebrates the birth of Jesus, who Christians believe to be the son of God.
<b>26 December</b>	<b>St Stephen's Day</b> (Christian) St Stephen, the first Christian martyr, is celebrated on this day by Roman Catholics. The day is also called the Feast of Stephen.
<b>28 December</b>	<b>Full Moon</b>