



2023 Calendar of Events and Holidays

JANUARY

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- 1/1** **New Year's Day**—The first day of the year according to the modern Gregorian calendar, celebrated within most Western countries*
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- 1/1** **Haitian Independence Day**—Haiti made history by being the first black republic in the world and the first country in the Western Hemisphere to abolish slavery. The first two days of the calendar year is dedicated to commemorate the Independence Day and celebrate Ancestors' Day. In addition to this, it is common in the Haitian culture to eat Soup Joumou, also known as Freedom soup on this day.
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- 1/6** **Día de Los Reyes**—Epiphany, commonly known as Three Kings' Day is on January 6. It celebrates the three wise men's visit to baby Jesus and also remembers his baptism, according to the Bible's events.
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- 1/15** **Makar Sankranti**—A major harvest festival celebrated in various parts of India.
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- 1/16** **Martin Luther King Jr. Day**—Commemorates the birth of Martin Luther King Jr., the recipient of the 1964 Nobel Peace Prize and an activist for nonviolent social change until his assassination in 1968.*
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- 1/22** **Lunar New Year**—Lunar New Year, one of the most significant of all traditional Chinese holidays, a time of family reunion and celebration. The Lunar New Year is also celebrated in Korea, Vietnam, Singapore, Malaysia, and Mongolia, among other countries.
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- 1/26** **Vasant Panchami**—The Hindu festival that highlights the coming of spring. On this day Hindus worship Saraswati Devi, the goddess of wisdom, knowledge, music, art, and culture.
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- 1/27** **International Holocaust Remembrance Day**—The International Day of Commemoration to remember the victims of the Holocaust. This date is also the anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz death camp in 1945 and U.N. Holocaust Memorial Day. Sundown to sundown.
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*All Jewish and Islamic holidays listed begin at sundown

**Islamic holiday dates vary as many are dependent on a moon sighting.

+Mass General Brigham observed holidays

This calendar was adapted from the Mass General Brigham Calendar of Events and Holidays and diversitybestpractices.com.

FEBRUARY

- 2/1 African American History Month**—Since 1976, February has been designated to celebrate the contributions of people of the African diaspora.
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- 2/17 Lailat al miraj/Isra Mi'raj** (ends 2/18/23)—A Muslim holiday that commemorates Prophet Muhammad's ﷺ (PBUH) nighttime journey from Mecca to the "Farthest Mosque" in Jerusalem, where he ascended to heaven, was purified, and given the instruction for Muslims to pray five times a day, according to the Qur'an.**
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- 2/18 Maha Shivaratri**—A Hindu festival celebrated each year to honor Lord Shiva. It is also known as the Great Night of Shiva and is one of the largest and most significant sacred festival nights of India.
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- 2/20 Presidents' Day**—A federally recognized celebration in the United States of George Washington's birthday, as well as every other U.S. president.*
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- 2/22 Ash Wednesday**—The first day of Lent on the Christian calendar. Its name is derived from the symbolic use of ashes to signify penitence.
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MARCH

- 3/1 National Women's History Month**—Women's History Month recognizes all women's contributions to history and society.
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- 3/6 Purim** (ends 3/7/23)—A Jewish celebration that marks the time when the Jewish community living in Persia was saved from genocide. On Purim, Jewish people offer charity and share food with friends.*
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- 3/6 Holi** (ends 3/7/23)—The annual Hindu and Sikh spring religious festival observed in India, Nepal, and Sri Lanka, along with other countries with large Hindu and Sikh populations.
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- 3/7 Laylat Al-Bara'at/Shab E-Barat/Nisfu Sha'ban** (ends 3/8/23)—Night of Forgiveness. It is an Islamic holiday during which practitioners of the faith seek forgiveness for sins. Muslims spend the night in special prayers. It is regarded as one of the most sacred nights on the Islamic calendar.**
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- 3/8 International Women's Day**—A major global celebration honoring women's economic, political, and social achievements.
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- 3/13 Deaf History Month** (ends 4/15/23)—National Deaf History Month is recognized and celebrated every year from March 13th to April 15th to recognize the accomplishments of people who are deaf and hard of hearing.
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- 3/17 St. Patrick's Day**—A holiday started in Ireland to recognize St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland who brought Christianity to the country in the early days of the faith.
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- 3/22 Hindu New Year**—New year on the Hindu calendar.
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- 3/22 Ramadan** (ends 4/21/23)—Ramadan is a holy month of fasting, introspection, and prayer for Muslims.**
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3/30 Rama Navami/Ram Navami—A Hindu day of worship and celebration of the seventh avatar of Vishnu (Lord Rama). Devotees typically wear red and place extravagant flowers on the shrine of the god.

3/31 International Transgender Day of Visibility—Celebrated to bring awareness to transgender people and their identities as well as recognize those who helped fight for rights for transgender people.

APRIL

4/2 World Autism Awareness Day—A day created to raise awareness of autism around the globe.

4/2 Palm Sunday—A Christian holiday commemorating the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. It is the last Sunday of Lent and the beginning of the Holy Week.

4/5 Passover (ends on 4/13/2023)—An eight-day Jewish holiday and festival in commemoration of the emancipation of the Israelites from slavery in ancient Egypt.*

4/7 Good Friday—A day celebrated by Christians to commemorate the execution of Jesus by crucifixion. It is recognized on the Friday before Easter.

4/9 Easter—A holiday celebrated by Christians to recognize Jesus' return from death after the Crucifixion.

4/14 Vaisakhi (Baisakhi)—The celebration of the founding of the Sikh community as the Khalsa (community of the initiated) and the birth of the Khalsa.

4/17 Patriots' Day—Marks the first conflicts of the American Revolution.

4/18 Laylat al-Qadr (ends 4/30/23)—Muslims consider Laylat al-Qadr ("Night of Power") the holiest night of the year. Observed on the odd nights of the last 10 days of Ramadan (21, 23, 25, 27, and 29), it commemorates the night that the Qur'an was first revealed to Prophet Muhammad ﷺ (PBUH). Believers observe Laylat al-Qadr with study, devotional readings, and prayer.**

4/21 Jumma-Tul-Wida—Known as the last Friday of Ramadan, Muslims commemorate the end of Ramadan. Many attend Jumma prayer at their local masjid/mosque, seeking blessings, world peace, and guidance from Allah. Every year, it is observed across the globe with religious fervor and sanctity.**

4/21 Eid al-Fitr—Also known as big Eid, Eid al-Fitr marks the end of the holiest month in the Islam calendar, Ramadan. Many Muslims attend communal prayers, listen to a khutuba (sermon), and give Zakat (charity) and/or Zakat al-Fitr/Fitrana (food-based charity) during Eid al-Fitr. Afterward, family and/or friends gather for a meal and to exchange gifts, children are commonly given Eid money (Eidi). Commonly, Eid is celebrated for three days.**

4/23 National Day of Silence—During which students take a daylong vow of silence to protest the actual silencing of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) students and their straight allies due to bias and harassment.

MAY

- 5/1 Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month**—May was chosen to commemorate the immigration of the first Japanese to the United States on May 7, 1843, and to mark the anniversary of the completion of the transcontinental railroad on May 10, 1869.
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- 5/1 May Day**—An international commemoration of the achievements of the labor movement.
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- 5/5 Cinco de Mayo**—A Mexican holiday commemorating the Mexican army's 1862 victory over France at the Battle of Puebla during the Franco-Mexican War (1861–1867). This day celebrates Mexican culture and heritage, including parades and mariachi music performances.
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- 5/14 Mother's Day**—Mother's Day in the United States is annually held on the second Sunday of May. It celebrates motherhood and it is a time to appreciate mothers and mother figures.
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- 5/25 Shavuot** (ends on 5/27/23)—A Jewish holiday that marks the wheat harvest in Israel and commemorates the anniversary of the day when God gave the Torah to the nation of Israel assembled at Mount Sinai.*
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- 5/26 Buddha Day/Vesak Day/Wesak Day**—A Buddhist festival that marks Gautama Buddha's birth, enlightenment, and death. It falls on the day of the full moon in May and it is an official holiday in India.
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- 5/29 Memorial Day**—A federal holiday established to honor military veterans who died in wars fought by American forces.*
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JUNE

- 6/1 LGBTQ+ Pride Month**—Established to recognize the impact that gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender individuals have had on the world.
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- 6/18 Father's Day**— Father's Day in the United States is on the third Sunday of June. It celebrates the contribution that fathers and father figures make for their children's lives.
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- 6/19 Juneteenth**—Honors the day in 1865 when slaves in Texas and Louisiana finally heard they were free, two months after the end of the Civil War. June 19, therefore, became the day of emancipation for thousands of African Americans.*
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- 6/28 Waqf-Al-Arafa/Hajj** (ends on 6/29/2023)—Each year, Muslims make the Hajj (pilgrimage) to Mecca, Saudi Arabia, the birthplace of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ (PBUH) and the Islamic faith.**
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- 6/28 Eid al-Adha** (ends on 6/29/2023)—Marking the end of Hajj, this holiday commemorates the willingness of Ibrahim (also known as Abraham) to follow Allah's command to sacrifice his son, Ishmael, who was ultimately spared. Believers recite Takbir, attend Eid prayer and, if financially able, share the meat of a sacrificed sheep, goat, or cow with family, neighbors, and friends.**
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JULY

- 7/4 Independence Day**—A federal holiday that celebrates the adoption of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776.*
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- 7/18 Islamic New Year**—On the first day of the month of Muharram (the second most holy month), Muslims observe Islamic New Year, also called the Hijri New Year or Arabic New Year. This day marks the beginning of a new lunar Hijri year. Muslims celebrate by reciting Quranic verses, holding special prayers, and attending khutab at local masajid. It is a quiet day, filled with self-reflection and religious practices.
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- 7/26 National Disability Independence Day**—Celebrates the anniversary of the 1990 signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act.
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- 7/26 Tisha B'Av** (ends on 7/27/23)—A fast in commemoration of the destruction of two holy and sacred temples of Judaism by the Babylonians (in 586 B.C.E) and the Romans (in 70 C.E.).*
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- 7/27 Ashura**—A holiday observed by some Muslims that commemorates the Battle of Karbala, which resulted in the martyrdom of Husayn ibn Ali, the grandson of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ (PBUH).**
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AUGUST

- 8/14 Independence Day of Pakistan**—Commemorates the day when Pakistan achieved independence and was declared a sovereign state following the end of the British Raj in 1947.
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- 8/15 Independence Day of India**—Commemorates the day when India achieved independence and was declared a sovereign state following the end of the British Raj in 1947.
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- 8/26 Women's Equality Day**—Commemorates the passage of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.
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SEPTEMBER

- 9/4 Labor Day**—Labor Day honors the contribution that laborers have made to the United States.*
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- 9/15 National Hispanic Heritage Month** (ends on 10/15/23)—This month corresponds with Mexican Independence Day, which is celebrated on September 16, and recognizes the revolution in 1810 that ended Spanish dictatorship.
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- 9/15 Rosh Hashanah** (ends on 9/17/23)—Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year, is one of the holiest days of the year. The celebration marks the creation of the world and the beginning of 10 days of introspection and repentance that ends with Yom Kippur.*
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- 9/17 Constitution Day**—Commemorates the signing of the U.S. Constitution in Philadelphia.
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- 9/24 Yom Kippur** (ends 9/25/23)—Yom Kippur, the holiest day on the Jewish calendar, is a day of atonement marked by fasting and ceremonial repentance.*
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- 9/26 Mawlid al-Nabī**—Many Muslims celebrate of the birth of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ (PBUH). Festivities include communal meals and discussions on Islam usually take place on this day.**
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- 9/29 Mid-Autumn Festival**—The Moon Festival is when families gather to sample autumn harvests, light lanterns and admire what's believed to be the fullest moon of the year.
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- 9/29 Sukkot** (ends 10/6/23)—A week-long celebration of the fall harvest, this holiday also commemorates the time when the Hebrews dwelt in the Sinai wilderness on their way to the Promised Land.*
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OCTOBER

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- 10/1 National Disability Employment Awareness Month**—National Disability Employment Awareness Month commemorates the many and varied contributions of people with disabilities to America's workplaces and economy.
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- 10/1 LGBT History Month**—LGBT History Month celebrates the achievements of 31 lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender icons.
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- 10/6 Shemini Atzeret** (ends 10/7/23)—The day marking the end and the beginning of the annual Torah reading cycle.*
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- 10/9 Indigenous Peoples' Day**—Indigenous Peoples' Day gives recognition to the indigenous populations affected by colonization.*
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- 10/11 National Coming Out Day**—For those who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender, this day celebrates coming out and the recognition of the 1987 march on Washington for gay and lesbian equality.
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NOVEMBER

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- 11/1 National American Indian Heritage Month**—National Native American Heritage Month, which celebrates the history and contributions of Native Americans.
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- 11/1 All Saints' Day**—All Saints' Day is a Christian holiday commemorating all known and unknown Christian saints.
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- 11/11 Veterans' Day**—Veterans Day is a U.S. federal holiday honoring military veterans.
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- 11/12 Diwali** (ends 11/16/23)—Diwali is the Hindu, Jain, and Sikh five-day festival of lights celebrating new beginnings and the triumph of good over evil and lightness over darkness.
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- 11/20 Transgender Day of Remembrance**—Transgender Day of Remembrance memorializes those who have been killed as a result of transphobia and raises awareness of the continued violence endured by the transgender community.
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- 11/23 Thanksgiving Day**—Thanksgiving began as a day of giving thanks for the blessing of the harvest and of the preceding year.*
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DECEMBER

- 12/1 World AIDS Day**—World AIDS Day commemorates those who have died of AIDS and acknowledges the need for a continued commitment to all those affected by the HIV/AIDS epidemic.
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- 12/3 International Day of Persons with Disabilities**—International Day of Persons with Disabilities raises awareness in regards to persons with disabilities in order to improve their lives and provide them with equal opportunity.
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- 12/7 Chanukah/Hanukkah** (ends on 12/15/2023)—Hanukkah is a Jewish holiday that is celebrated around the world for eight days and nights. Hanukkah celebrates the victory of the Maccabees, or Israelites, over the Greek-Syrian ruler, Antiochus, approximately 2,200 years ago.*
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- 12/10 International Human Rights Day**—International Human Rights Day commemorates the anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
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- 12/25 Christmas Day**—Christmas Day is the day that many Christians celebrate Jesus' birth.*
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- 12/26 Kwanzaa** (1/2/24)—Kwanzaa is an African American holiday started by Maulana Karenga in 1966 to celebrate universal African American heritage.
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