



CALENDAR OF RELIGIOUS FESTIVALS 2005



January						
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February						
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August						
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September						
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October						
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November						
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December						
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25	26	27	28	29	30	31

- INTERNATIONAL DAYS
New Year: 1 Jan
Int. Women's Week Begins: 5 Mar
World Environment Day: 5 June
Int. Day of Peace: 21 Sep
World Food Day: 16 Oct
Int. Day of Disabled People: 3 Dec
- ZOROASTRIAN
Norooz: 21 Mar
Khordad Sal (*Birth of Prophet Zarathushtra*): 26 Mar
Death of Prophet Zarathushtra: 26 Dec
- BUDDHIST
Parinirvana Day: 15 Feb
Magha Puja Day: 23 Feb
Vesakha Puja: 22 May
Wesak: 23 May
Dharma Day: 21 July
Bodhi Day: 8 Dec

- SIKH
Guru Gobindh Singh Birthday: 5 Jan
Vaisakhi: 14 Apr
Guru Arjan Dev Martyrdom: 16 June
Diwali: 1 Nov
Birthday of Guru Nanak: 15 Nov
Martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur: 24 Nov
- CHINESE
New Year: 9 Feb
- CHRISTIAN
Ash Wednesday: 9 Feb
Palm Sunday: 20 Mar
Good Friday: 25 Mar
Easter Sunday: 27 Mar
Easter Monday: 28 Mar
Pentecost: 15 May
Christmas Day: 25 Dec

- HINDU
Vasant Panchami: 13 Feb
Maha Shivaratri: 8 Mar
Holi: 25 Mar
Ramanavami: 17 Apr
Raksha Bandhan: 19 Aug
Krishna Jayanti: 26 Aug
Ganesh Chaturthi: 7 Sept
Navrathri Begins: 4 Oct
Dasera: 12 Oct
Navrathri Ends: 12 Oct
Diwali: 1 Nov
- MUSLIM
Eid Ul Adha: 21 Jan
Al-Hijra (*New Year*): 10 Feb
Ashura (*Fasting*): 19 Feb
Mawlid an Nabi: 21 Apr
Lailat al Miraj: 1 Sept
Lailat Ul Bara'at: 19 Sept
Ramadan Begins: 4 Oct (*NB: period of fasting throughout festival*)
Quds Day: 28 Oct
Laylat el Qadr: 30 Oct
Eid Ul Fitr (*Ramadan Ends*): 3 Nov

- BAHAI
Naw-Ruz (*New Year*): 21 Mar
1st Day of Ridvan: 21 Apr
9th Day of Ridvan: 29 Apr
12th Day of Ridvan: 2 May
Declaration of the Bab: 23 May
Ascension of Baha'u'llah: 29 May
Martyrdom of the Bab: 9 July
Birthday of the Bab: 20 Oct
Birthday of Baha'u'llah: 12 Nov
Day of Covenant: 26 Nov
- JEWISH
Tu B'Shevat: 25 Jan
Purim: 25 Mar
Pesach (*Passover*): 24 Apr
Yom Hasho'ah: 6 May
Shavuot: 13-14 June
Tisha B'Av: 14 Aug
Rosh Hashanah: 4-5 Oct
Yom Kippur: 13 Oct
Sukkot: 18-19 Oct
Shemini Atzeret: 25 Oct
Simchat Torah: 26 Oct
Hannukah Begins: 26 Dec
(*NB: Jewish holy days usually begin at sundown the day before the listed dates*)

Dates in **BLUE** should be acknowledged as religious holidays.
NB: Holy days – Friday, Saturday, Sunday; Muslim, Jewish, Christian respectively.

This calendar was jointly developed by Communities Scotland, the Scottish Executive's housing and regeneration agency, and the Scottish Inter Faith Council in consultation with faith communities. The Scottish Inter Faith Council promotes better understanding among faith communities and encourages discussion between those faith communities and policy makers.

2005

Zoroastrian

Norooz (New Beginning) is a most important day of renewal, believed to have been founded by the Prophet Zarathushtra who received his first Revelation on this day. It is a festival in honour of fire, symbol of truth, celebrated by exchanging gifts and by visiting the Fire Temple. Zoroastrians follow the teachings of the Prophet Zarathushtra, who preached worship of the Creator and that humankind are partners in caring for His creation. Prayer is seen as a spiritual weapon in the struggle with evil.

Christianity

Important dates include Christmas, the celebration of Jesus' birth and the central Christian feast of Easter, which commemorates the death (on Good Friday) and resurrection (on Easter Sunday) of Jesus. The forty days before Easter are known as Lent and it is common for many Christians to make some form of self-sacrifice during this time, such as fasting or going without something. It is also a time for increased prayer and helping others. Pentecost, which celebrates the coming of God's spirit, and is thought of as the birth of the Church, is also an important festival.

Sikhism

A Sikh festival or holy day is called a Gurburb: Remembrance Day. This usually refers to the birth or the death of the Gurus. Vaisakhi celebrates the day in 1699 when Guru Gobind Singh Ji founded the order of the Khalsa, the community of baptised Sikhs. Diwali commemorates Guru Hargobind Ji's return from imprisonment to the Harmandir Sahib (Golden Temple).

Chinese

The most notable date in the Chinese calendar, the New Year, is regarded as everyone's birthday. The old year is driven out with cymbals and fireworks. For good luck, houses are decorated with red paper. Celebrations end with the Lantern Festival when multicoloured lanterns are hung up with the exception of white ones, which represent mourning.

Buddhism

Buddhists have many celebrations throughout the year. These generally commemorate particular events of the Buddha's life and include his birth (Wesak), his enlightenment, the day of his first teaching (Dharma Day) and his death (Parinirvana). The dates of these events are generally expressed through the lunar calendar, which means they can change from year to year, and there is some variation between the different traditions. Some Buddhists may also fast on New Moon and Full Moon days.

Hinduism

There are many religious festivals which are celebrated in different ways by different communities. The most commonly celebrated festivals are Diwali (or Deepavali) the Festival of Lights, and Navrathri, during which goddesses such as Durga, the Great Mother, are worshipped. This takes place over nine days and nights.

Judaism

Festivals include the Jewish New Year, which normally occurs in September or October and is marked by two days of reflection and prayer. Ten days after this comes Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement. This is the most solemn day of the Jewish calendar and is spent in prayer and a 25 hour fast. In the spring there is Pesach, or Passover which commemorates the delivery from slavery in Israel. Shabbat (the Jewish Sabbath) begins before nightfall on Friday and lasts until the sighting of the first three stars on Saturday night. It should be observed as a day of rest and most Orthodox Jews will not write, travel, work or cook during it.

Baha'i

Festivals and holy days are based on the birthdays of important figures of the Baha'i faith or significant events in its history. The birthday of Baha'u'llah, for example, would be an important date. The Feast of Ridvan is a celebration to mark Baha'u'llah's Declaration of his Revelation and life's mission to his followers.

Islam

Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic Lunar Calendar and the month of the Islamic fast. The appearance of the new moon at the end of Ramadan marks the beginning of the festival of Eid ul Fitr. During this festival Muslims visit the Mosque, give charity, exchange presents and cards and celebrate with family and friends. Eid ul Adha is a feast of sacrifice to commemorate the sacrifice of Abraham's son. It coincides with the completion of the pilgrimage to Makkah (Hajj). This pilgrimage must be completed at least once in a lifetime for those who can afford it.