

# Major Religious Holidays & Suggested Accommodations

Holidays & Recommended Accommodations	Date(s) Observed
<p><b>AUGUST</b></p>	
<p><b>Lammas / Lughnasadh (<i>Pagan, Wiccan, Druid</i>)</b></p> <p>A celebration of the beginning of the harvest. One of the eight major annual sabbats or festivals.</p> <p><i>General Practices:</i> Making and consuming dishes with the first fruits of the harvest.</p>	<p><b>August 1, 2016</b></p> <p>August 1, 2017</p> <p>August 1, 2018</p>
<p><b>Raksha Bandhan (<i>Hindu</i>)</b></p> <p>Literally meaning, “the tie or knot of protection,” Raksha Bandhan is an ancient Hindu festival that ritually celebrates the love and duty between brothers and sisters. The Rakhi festival falls in the holy month of Shrava.</p> <p><i>General Practices:</i> Sisters tie a rakhi (sacred thread) on her brother’s wrist symbolizing her love and prayers for he brother’s well-being and the brother’s lifelong vow to protect her.</p> <p>Note: Sikhs and Jains may also celebrate this festival.</p>	<p><b>August 17, 2016</b></p> <p>August 7, 2017</p> <p>August 25, 2018</p>
<p><b>Krishna Janmashtami (<i>Hindu</i>)</b></p> <p>This two-day festival celebrates the birth of Krishna, one of the most widely-worshiped Hindu god. In Hindu philosophical traditions, Krishna is often portrayed as prankster, lover, hero, philosopher, teacher and the 8<sup>th</sup> incarnation of Lord Vishnu.</p> <p><i>General Practices:</i> During this festival, Hindus are likely to forgo sleep in order to sing bhajans, traditional Hindu songs. Many Hindus also fast during the first day of the festival. Dances, songs, and plays depicting the life of Krishna are common.</p> <p><i>Recommended Accommodations:</i> Avoid scheduling major academic deadlines on this day, since it is likely that students will be operating on very little sleep.</p>	<p><b>August 25, 2016</b></p> <p>August 15, 2017</p> <p>September 3, 2018</p>

<p><b>SEPTEMBER</b></p>	
<p><b>Eid al-Adha (<i>Islamic</i>)</b></p> <p><i>Holiday with significant work restriction</i></p> <p>Eid al-Adha literally means “Festival of the Sacrifice” and is a major festival that celebrates the willingness to make sacrifices in the name of one’s faith. According to the Quran, the prophet Ibrahim was ordered to sacrifice his son in God’s name. When Ibrahim was prepared to kill his son, God stepped in and gave him a sheep to sacrifice instead. This holiday celebrates Ibrahim’s total faith in God, and Muslims view this holiday as an important annual reminder.</p> <p><i>General Practices:</i> Prayers, gift giving, prayers, and sometimes slaughtering of sheep, with a portion of the meat gifted to the poor.</p> <p><i>Date details:</i> Lunar calendars can vary based on region and practice. Begins at sundown.</p> <p><i>Recommended Accommodations:</i> Avoid scheduling important academic deadlines, events, and activities on the first day. If planning an evening event, provide food accommodations if requested (Islamic dietary restrictions apply).</p>	<p><b>September 10-11, 2016</b></p> <p>Aug 31 – Sept 1, 2017</p> <p>August 21-22, 2018</p>
<p><b>Mabon / Alban Elfed / Fall Equinox (<i>Pagan, Wiccan, Druid</i>)</b></p> <p>Also referred to as Harvest Home, the Feast of the Ingathering, and Meán Fómhair, Mabon is the second celebration of the harvest, a ritual of thanksgiving for the fruits of the earth, and a recognition of the need to share them to secure the blessings of the Goddess and the God during the coming winter months. One of the eight major annual sabbats or festivals.</p> <p><i>General Practices:</i> At Mabon, day and night are in equal balance. It is a time to offer gratitude for the blessings of the harvest and also to begin to prepare for turning inward. Making dishes with apples, squash and pumpkins as part of ritual celebration is customary.</p>	<p><b>September 22, 2016</b></p> <p>September 22, 2017</p> <p>September 23, 2018</p>
<p><b>October</b></p>	
<p><b>Navratri (<i>Hindu</i>)</b></p>	<p><b>October 1-9, 2016</b></p> <p>September 21-29, 2017</p>

<p>Navarati, meaning “nine nights” in Sanskrit, is one of the greatest Hindu festivals and celebrates the triumph of good over evil. During this time, Hindus worship Durga, Lakshmi, and Saraswati.</p> <p><i>General Practices:</i> Durga is the mother goddess, and so Hindus try to visit their mothers and other relatives during this time. Some Hindus will pray and fast, and there are often feasts and dances.</p>	<p>October 9-17, 2018</p>
<p><b>Rosh Hashanah (Jewish)</b></p> <p><i>Holiday with significant work restriction</i></p> <p>Rosh Hashanah is a two-day festival at the beginning of the 7<sup>th</sup> month (Tishrei). Literally meaning, “head of the year,” Rosh Hashanah is the Jewish New Year, which marks the beginning of a 10-day period of prayer, self-examination, repentance and rest that leads up to the most important day of the Jewish calendar, Yom Kippur.</p> <p><i>General Practices:</i> No work is permitted on Rosh Hashanah and much of the day spent in synagogue for prayers and festive meals.</p> <p><i>Date details:</i> Begins at sundown.</p> <p><i>Recommended Accommodations:</i> Avoid scheduling important academic deadlines, events, or activities on this date. If planning an event, provide food accommodation as requested (kosher restrictions apply)</p>	<p><b>October 2-4, 2016</b></p> <p>September 20-22, 2017</p> <p>September 9-11, 2018</p>
<p><b>Yom Kippur (Jewish)</b></p> <p><i>Holiday with significant work restriction</i></p> <p>Literally meaning, “the Day of Atonement,” Yom Kippur is often considered the holiest day of the year for Jews. Many Jews will refrain from work and dedicate themselves to fasting and prayer, often spending most of the day in synagogue services.</p> <p><i>Date details:</i> Begins at sundown.</p> <p><i>General Practices:</i> After festive meals have been eaten, a Yahrzeit memorial candle is lite before sunset and Jews begin Yom Kippur with a 25 hour fast. Many of Jews will spend the next 24 hours attending 5 prayer services in the synagogue.</p> <p><i>Recommended Accommodations:</i> Avoid scheduling important academic deadlines, events, or activities on this date and after a day of fasting.</p>	<p><b>October 11-12, 2016</b></p> <p>September 29-30, 2017</p> <p>September 18-19, 2018</p>

<p><b>Sukkot (Jewish)</b></p> <p><i>Holiday with significant work restriction</i></p> <p>Celebrated five days after Yom Kippur, Sukkot is a week-long celebration which begins with the building of Sukkah (booth or hut) for sleep and meals. Sukkot is named for the huts Moses and the Israelites lived in as they wandered the desert before reaching the promised land.</p> <p><i>Date details:</i> Begins at sundown. Work holiday varies by denomination.</p> <p><i>General Practices:</i> Families build and decorate a temporary hut next to their homes for eating and sleeping.</p> <p><i>Recommended Accommodations:</i> Avoid scheduling important academic deadlines, events, or activities on the first two days. If planning an event, provide food accommodation as requested (kosher restrictions apply).</p>	<p><b>October 16-23, 2016</b></p> <p>October 4-11, 2017</p> <p>September 23-30, 2018</p>
<p><b>Shemini Atzeret (Jewish)</b></p> <p><i>Holiday with significant work restriction</i></p> <p>Also known as Atzereth, this is a fall festival, which follows the 7 days of Sukkot. Translated as “the 8<sup>th</sup> day of Assembly,” Shemini Atzeret celebrates God’s desire to extend his blessing to all of humanity. This holiday is characterized by unbridled joy.</p> <p><i>Date details:</i> Begins at sundown.</p> <p><i>General Practices:</i> Jews light a Yahrzeit memorial candle at sundown to begin Shemini Atzereth and offer a prayer for God to remember the souls of the dead. Prayer for rain are also prayed that officially commemorates the start of the Mediterranean rainy season.</p> <p><i>Recommended Accommodations:</i> Avoid scheduling important academic deadlines, events, or activities on this date. If planning an event, provide food accommodation as requested (kosher restrictions apply).</p>	<p><b>October 23-24, 2016</b></p> <p>October 11-12, 2017</p> <p>Sept 30 – Oct 1, 2018</p>
<p><b>Simchat Torah (Jewish)</b></p> <p><i>Holiday with significant work restriction</i></p>	<p><b>October 24-25, 2016</b></p> <p>October 12-13, 2017</p>

<p>Literally meaning “rejoicing in Torah,” Simchat Torah marks the second day of the joyous holiday of Shemini Atzeret. This day celebrates the completion of the annual cycle of the reading of the Torah in the synagogue and the beginning of the new cycle.</p> <p><i>Date details:</i> Begins at sundown.</p> <p><i>General Practices:</i> Practitioners dance in synagogues as all the Torah scrolls are carried around in seven circuits.</p> <p><i>Recommended Accommodations:</i> Avoid scheduling important academic deadlines, events, and activities on this date. Kosher restrictions apply.</p>	<p>October 1-2, 2018</p>
<p><b>Samhain (<i>Pagan, Wiccan, Druid</i>)</b></p> <p>One of the four "greater Sabbats" and considered by some to be the Wiccan New Year. A time to celebrate the lives of those who have passed on, welcome those born during the past year into the community, and reflecting on past relationships, events and other significant changes in life.</p> <p><i>General Practices:</i> Paying respect to ancestors, family members, elders of the faith, friends, pets and other loved ones who have died.</p>	<p><b>Oct 31 – Nov 1, 2016</b></p> <p>Oct 31 – Nov 1, 2017</p> <p>Oct 31 – Nov 1, 2018</p>
<p><b>Diwali (<i>Hindu, Buddhist, Sikh, Jain</i>)</b></p> <p><b><i>Holiday with significant work restriction</i></b></p> <p>Diwali—the Hindu “festival of lights”—is an extremely popular holiday for multiple religions throughout Southern Asia. Diwali extends over five days, and celebrates the victory of good over evil. The Times of India described Diwali as “a reaffirmation of hope, a renewed commitment to friendship and goodwill, and a religiously sanctioned celebration of the simple.” Fireworks, oil lamps, and sweets are common, making this a favorite holiday for children. The lamps are lit to help the goddess Lakshmi find her way into people’s homes.</p> <p><i>General Practices:</i> Lighting oil lamps and candles, setting off fireworks, and prayer.</p> <p><i>Recommended Accommodations:</i> Avoid scheduling important academic deadlines, events, and activities on this date. Hindu employees will likely request a vacation day on this date.</p>	<p><b>Oct. 30, 2016</b></p> <p>Oct. 19, 2017</p> <p>Nov. 7, 2018</p>

<h2>November</h2>	
<p><b>Birth of Báb (<i>Baha'i</i>)</b></p> <p><i>Holiday with significant work restriction</i></p> <p>Bahá'ís observance of the anniversary of the birth of the Bab (“gate” in Arabic), prophet-herald of the Baha’i Faith on this date. He was born October 20, 1819, in Shíráz, Persia. His given name was Siyyid ‘Alí-Muhammad. Being born in an Islamic country, where the birthdate was noted according to that Islamic calendar, the Bab’s birthday ends up being 1 day before Baha’u’llah’s.</p> <p><i>Recommended Accommodations:</i> Avoid scheduling important academic deadlines, events, or activities on this date. Baha’i students and employees may request to have this day off.</p>	<p><b>November 1, 2016</b></p> <p>October 21, 2017</p>
<p><b>Birth of Bahá'u'lláh (<i>Baha'i</i>)</b></p> <p><i>Holiday with significant work restriction</i></p> <p>Bahá'í observance of the anniversary of the birth of Bahá'u'lláh (born Mírzá Husayn-‘Alí) on this date, because of the Islamic calendar connections. Baha’u’llah was born on November 12, 1817, in Núr, Persia. Bahá'u'lláh, which means the “Glory of God,” was the Founder of the Bahá'í Faith. For Bahá'ís, the Birth of Bahá'u'lláh is a Holy Day celebrating the rebirth of the world through the love of God.</p> <p><i>Recommended Accommodations:</i> Avoid scheduling important academic deadlines, events, or activities on this date. Baha’i students and employees may request to have this day off.</p>	<p><b>November 2, 2016</b></p> <p>October 22, 2017</p>
<p><b>Guru Nanak Gurpurab (<i>Sikh</i>)</b></p> <p>This holiday celebrates the birthday of the first Sikh Guru, Guru Nanak. This is one of the most sacred festivals in Sikhism.</p> <p><i>Recommended Accommodations:</i> Avoid scheduling important academic deadlines, events, or activities on this date. Sikh students and employees may request to have this day off.</p>	<p><b>November 22, 2016</b></p> <p>November 22, 2017</p> <p>November 22, 2018</p>
<h2>December</h2>	

<p><b>Hanukkah / Chanukah (Jewish)</b></p> <p>Hanukkah is the Jewish festival of lights, and lasts for eight days. Hanukkah commemorates the Jewish struggle for religious freedom. The history of the holiday involves a historic military victory in which a Jewish sect called the Maccabees defeated the Syrian Greeks. The celebration commemorates a miracle in which a sacred temple flame burned for eight days on only one day's worth of oil.</p> <p><i>General Practices:</i> On each of the eight nights of Hanukkah, Jewish families light an additional candle of the menorah candelabrum until all eight candles are lit. Jews celebrate with food and song, as well as exchanging gifts for eight days.</p> <p><i>Date details:</i> Hanukkah begins at sundown on the first day.</p> <p><i>Recommended Accommodations:</i> Academics and work permitted, not a work holiday. Provide food accommodation as requested (kosher restrictions apply—potato pancakes, doughnuts or other fried food is customary).</p>	<p><b>Dec 24 – Jan 1, 2016</b></p> <p>December 12–20, 2017</p> <p>December 2–10, 2018</p>
<p><b>Yule/Alban Arthan/Winter Solstice (Pagan, Wiccan, Druid)</b></p> <p>The longest night of the year followed by the sun's "rebirth" and lengthening of days. In most traditions, Yule is celebrated as the rebirth of the Great God, who is viewed as the newborn solstice sun. Some pagans consider Yule to be the beginning of the new year. One of the eight major annual sabbats or festivals.</p> <p><i>General Practices:</i> Burning the yule log (which was traditionally part of last year's yule tree) is an act of faith and renewal that, indeed, the light, and the warmth will return.</p>	<p><b>Dec 20–Jan 1, 2016</b></p> <p>Dec 20–Jan 1, 2017</p> <p>Dec 20–Jan 1, 2018</p>
<p><b>Human Light (Humanist)</b></p> <p>Officially earmarked by the American Humanist Society in 2007 as a celebration of the longest night of the year changing into light the next day. It is leveraging the more ancient Winter Solstice (Dec. 21<sup>st</sup>), which has been around for millennia throughout agricultural societies. For the secular worldview it is the substitute for all of the religious holidays held in the Winter months particularly around Christmas.</p> <p><i>General Practices:</i> There are no dietary or dress rituals associated usually just meetings and eating, drinking events all over the world for the secular crowd. Some arise very early to watch the beginning of the next day and the start of longer daylight.</p>	<p><b>Dec 21–23, 2016</b></p> <p>Dec 21–23, 2017</p> <p>Dec 21–23, 2018</p>

<p><b>Christmas (<i>Christian</i>)</b></p> <p><i>Holiday with significant work restriction</i></p> <p>Christmas is an annual celebration commemorating the birth of Jesus of Nazareth, the Messiah whose message and self-sacrifice began the Christian religion.</p> <p><i>General Practices:</i> Many celebrate this holiday by giving gifts, attending church services, decorating Christmas trees, and visiting family.</p> <p><i>Date details:</i> Begins at sundown on Dec. 24 annually and continues with all day celebration on Dec. 25.</p> <p><i>Recommended Accommodations:</i> This is a national holiday in the Canada, so special accommodations are likely not required.</p>	<p><b>December 25, 2016</b></p> <p>December 25, 2017</p> <p>December 25, 2018</p>
<p><b>January</b></p>	
<p><b>Gantan-sai (<i>Shinto</i>)</b></p> <p><i>Holiday with significant work restriction</i></p> <p>Gantan-sai is the annual New Year festival of the Shinto religion.</p> <p><i>General Practices:</i> Practitioners pray for inner renewal, prosperity, and health, as well as visiting shrines and visiting friends and family.</p> <p><i>Recommended Accommodations:</i> Avoid scheduling important academic deadlines, events and activities on this date (work holiday)</p>	<p><b>January 1, 2017</b></p> <p>January 1, 2018</p> <p>January 1, 2019</p>
<p><b>Epiphany / Twelfth Night / Three Kings Day (<i>Christian</i>)</b></p> <p>This date is also known as Befana Day; commemorates the revelation of God through Jesus Christ and marks the time the three wise men arrived in Bethlehem and presented gifts to the baby Jesus.</p> <p><i>General Practices:</i> Prayer, festive meals, offerings, gifts.</p>	<p><b>January 6, 2017</b></p> <p>January 6, 2018</p> <p>January 6, 2019</p>
<p><b>Christmas (<i>Eastern Orthodox Christian</i>)</b></p>	<p><b>January 7, 2017</b></p>

<p><b><i>Holiday with significant work restriction</i></b></p> <p>Christmas is an annual celebration commemorating the birth of Jesus of Nazareth, the Messiah whose message and self-sacrifice began the Christian religion.</p> <p><i>General Practices:</i> Many celebrate this holiday by attending church services, holding celebratory meals, and visiting family.</p> <p><i>Date details:</i> Eastern Orthodox Christmas is determined by the Julian calendar which regulates ceremonial cycle of the Eastern Orthodox Christian churches.</p> <p><i>Recommended Accommodations:</i> Because this holiday typically falls during winter break, academic accommodations may not be required. However many Eastern Orthodox employees will probably request this day off.</p>	<p>January 7, 2018</p> <p>January 7, 2019</p>
<p><b>Chinese New Year (<i>Confucian, Taoist, Buddhist</i>)</b></p> <p><b><i>Holiday with significant work restriction</i></b></p> <p>This is the most important of traditional Chinese holidays.</p> <p><i>General Practices:</i> Families gather together to spend the evening preparing boiled dumplings and festive meals and giving of money to children in red envelopes.</p> <p><i>Date details:</i> Corresponds to the New Moon in Aquarius, which can fall from late January to mid-February</p> <p><i>Recommended Accommodations:</i> Avoid scheduling important academic deadlines, events, and activities on this date. Many Chinese employees will probably request this day off.</p>	<p>January 28, 2017</p> <p>February 16, 2018</p> <p>February 5, 2019</p>
<p><b>February</b></p>	
<p><b>Imbolc / Candlemas (<i>Pagan, Wiccan, Druid</i>)</b></p> <p>Also referred to as the Feast of Pan, Feast of Torches, Feast of Waxing Lights, and Oimele. Celebrates the coming of spring and recovery of the Earth Goddess after giving birth to the Sun God at Yule. For many traditions, a time for initiations, re-dedication and pledges for the coming year. One of the four "greater Sabbats."</p>	<p>February 1-2, 2017</p> <p>February 1-2, 2018</p> <p>February 1-2, 2019</p>

<p><i>General Practices:</i> Activities might include making candles, reading poetry and telling stories.</p>	
<p><b>Setsubum-sai (<i>Shinto</i>)</b></p> <p>Setsubum-sai marks the beginning of spring, and is known as the “bean-throwing festival. The faithful scatter roasted beans to bring good luck to the new season.</p>	<p><b>February 3, 2017</b></p> <p>February 3, 2018</p> <p>February 3, 2019</p>
<p><b>Darwin Day (<i>Humanist</i>)</b></p> <p>Recently with the growth of secular and scientific thought, many universities celebrate this day with talks, lectures and debates highlighting the Theory of Evolution as espoused by Darwin in his writing in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century and the universal impact this critical theory has had as an explanation for the development of all living things.</p> <p><i>General Practices:</i> There are no rituals that are generic but usually the science classes take the lead and sponsor events in their classes and departments. Occasionally there is a university wide event such as a debate between creation theories. It can very stimulating and fervent. Again, other than students being involved with the day’s events that might conflict with class, nothing would violate religious/secular requirements.</p>	<p><b>February 12, 2017</b></p> <p>February 12, 2018</p> <p>February 12, 2019</p>
<p><b>March</b></p>	
<p><b>Magha Puja Day (<i>Buddhist</i>)</b></p> <p>Magha Puja Day commemorates an important event in the life of the Buddha, in which the four disciples traveled to join the Buddha.</p>	<p><b>March 12, 2017</b></p> <p>March 31, 2018</p>
<p><b>Ash Wednesday (<i>Christian</i>)</b></p> <p>This is the first day of Lent, the period of forty days before Easter in which many Christians sacrifice ordinary pleasures to reflect on Christ’s sacrifice.</p> <p><i>General Practices:</i> On this day, there are special church services, and the faithful wear a cross of ashes marked on foreheads. Most Christians abstain from meat on this day.</p>	<p><b>March 1, 2017</b></p> <p>February 14, 2018</p> <p>March 6, 2019</p>

<p><i>Recommended Accommodations:</i> Provide food accommodation as requested—prohibitions include animal products.</p>	
<p><b>Purim (Jewish)</b></p> <p>Purim commemorates the time when the Jews were living in Persia and were saved by the courage of a young Jewish woman called Esther.</p> <p><i>General Practices:</i> Many Jews hold carnival-like celebrations on Purim, dressing in costumes, and read the Book of Esther. Triangular, fruit-filled pastries are eaten in opposition to the villain Haman, who wore a three-cornered hat.</p> <p><i>Recommended Accommodations:</i> Purim is not subject to the restrictions on work that affect some other holidays; however, some sources indicate that Jews should not go about their ordinary business at Purim out of respect for the festival. If planning an evening event, provide food accommodations if requested (kosher restrictions apply).</p>	<p><b>March 11-12, 2017</b></p> <p>Feb 28 – Mar 1, 2018</p> <p>March 11-12, 2019</p>
<p><b>Holi (Hindu)</b></p> <p>Also known as the “Festival of Colors,” this holiday can be traced to Hindu scriptures commemorating good over evil. This date is also a celebration of the colorful spring and a farewell to the dull winter.</p> <p><i>General Practices:</i> Hindus often sprinkle colored water and powder on others and celebrate with bonfires and lights, signifying victory of good over evil.</p> <p><i>Date details:</i> Celebrated at the end of the winter season on the last full moon day of the lunar moon in late February or early March.</p>	<p><b>March 13, 2017</b></p> <p>March 2, 2018</p> <p>March 21, 2019</p>
<p><b>Hola Mohalla (Sikh)</b></p> <p>This is a Sikh festival that takes place on the first of the lunar month of Chet and was traditionally established by Guru Gobind Singh. Meaning, “mock fighting,” Hola Mohalla is an occasion when Sikhs demonstrate their martial arts skill and celebrate brotherhood.</p> <p><i>General Practices:</i> During the three-day festival, Sikhs put on a variety of mock battles, contests and competitions.</p>	<p><b>March 14, 2017</b></p> <p>March 3, 2018</p> <p>March 22, 2019</p>

<p><b>Ostara / Alban Eilir / Spring Equinox</b> <b>(Pagan, Wiccan, Druid)</b></p> <p>Also known as Eostre. Regarded as a time of fertility and conception. In some Wiccan traditions, it is marked as the time when the Goddess conceives the God's child, which will be born at the winter solstice. One of eight major annual sabbats or festivals.</p> <p><i>General Practices:</i> Lighting fires to commemorate the return of light in the spring and to honor the God and Goddess. Coloring eggs as a way of honoring fertility is also practiced.</p>	<p><b>March 20, 2017</b></p> <p>March 20, 2018</p> <p>March 20, 2019</p>
<p><b>Naw Ruz (Baha'i)</b></p> <p>This is the Baha'i New Year, a traditional celebration in Iran adopted as a holy day associated with Baha'i. It is a celebration of spring and new life.</p> <p>A Baha'i year is made up of 19 months of 19 days each with 4-5 "Intercalary Days" between the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> month. The New Year is astronomically fixed to the Spring Equinox in Tehran, Iran.</p> <p><i>General Practices:</i> Festive music dancing, prayers, meetings, meals</p>	<p><b>March 20-21, 2017</b></p> <p>March 20-21, 2018</p> <p>March 20-21, 2019</p>
<p><b>April</b></p>	
<p><b>Palm Sunday (Christian)</b></p> <p>A commemoration of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem as crowds lined his path with palm fronds. This day marks the beginning of Holy Week.</p> <p><i>General Practices:</i> Prayer, distribution of palm leaves commemorating Jesus' entry into Jerusalem prior to his crucifixion.</p>	<p><b>April 9, 2017</b></p> <p>March 25, 2018</p> <p>April 14, 2019</p>
<p><b>Maundy Thursday (Christian)</b></p> <p>Thursday before Easter, commemorates the Last Supper of Jesus with the Apostles.</p> <p><i>General Practices:</i> Prayer, Communion (Eucharist), meals, and foot-washing ceremonies among some Christian denominations</p> <p><i>Date details:</i> Always falls on the Thursday before Easter Sunday.</p>	<p><b>April 13, 2017</b></p> <p>March 29, 2018</p> <p>April 18, 2019</p>

<p><b>Good Friday (<i>Christian</i>)</b></p> <p>Friday before Easter, commemorates the crucifixion of Jesus Christ; among some sects of Christianity and in many countries marks a day of fasting.</p> <p><i>General Practices:</i> Prayer, fasting, and noon or afternoon services in some Christian denominations.</p> <p><i>Date details:</i> Always falls on the Friday before Easter Sunday.</p> <p><i>Recommended Accommodations:</i> Provide food accommodation as requested—meat (fish is not considered meat) is prohibited during meals for some.</p>	<p><b>April 14, 2017</b></p> <p>March 30, 2018</p> <p>April 18, 2019</p>
<p><b>Vaisakhi (<i>Sikh</i>)</b></p> <p>Vaisakhi is the Sikh new year festival and commemorates 1699, the year Sikhism was born. Vaisakhi is also a long-established harvest festival.</p> <p><i>General Practices:</i> There are often parades, dancing, and singing throughout the day. These celebrations involve music, singing, and chanting of scriptures and hymns.</p>	<p><b>April 14, 2017</b></p> <p>April 14, 2018</p> <p>April 14, 2019</p>
<p><b>Easter (<i>Christian</i>)</b></p> <p><i>Holiday with significant work restriction</i></p> <p>Annual commemoration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ</p> <p><i>General Practices:</i> Celebratory meals, family gatherings, distribution of colored eggs, baskets and chocolate bunnies. It is a celebration of renewal.</p> <p><i>Date details:</i> Easter Sunday is determined by the Gregorian calendar (Gregorian calendar regulates ceremonial cycle of the Roman Catholic and Protestant churches).</p>	<p><b>April 16, 2017</b></p> <p>April 1, 2018</p> <p>April 20, 2019</p>
<p><b>Pesach / Passover (<i>Jewish</i>)</b></p> <p><i>Holiday with significant work restriction</i></p>	<p><b>April 10–18, 2017</b></p> <p>March 30 – April 7, 2018</p>

<p>Pesach is a week-long observance commemorating the freedom and exodus of the Israelites (Jewish slaves) from Egypt during the reign of the Pharaoh Ramses II (one of three pilgrimage festivals).</p> <p><i>General Practices:</i> Family gatherings, ritualized meals called Seders, reading of the Haggadah, lighting of Yahrzeit memorial candle at sundown on the last night of Passover.</p> <p><i>Date details:</i> Begins at sundown.</p> <p><i>Recommended Accommodations:</i> Avoid scheduling important academic deadlines, events and activities on the first two and last two days of the holiday, provide food accommodation as requested (kosher restrictions apply—the use of leavening is prohibited so, for example, matzah is eaten in place of bread.)</p>	<p>April 19-27, 2019</p>
<p><b>Holy Friday / Good Friday (<i>Eastern Orthodox Christian</i>)</b></p> <p>Friday before Easter, commemorates the crucifixion of Jesus Christ; among some sects of Christianity and in many countries marks a day of fasting.</p> <p><i>General Practices:</i> Prayer, fasting, confession, and church services as well as the wrapping or dyeing of eggs (often red) in preparation for Easter Sunday.</p> <p><i>Date details:</i> Orthodox Good Friday is determined by the Julian calendar which regulates ceremonial cycle of the Eastern Orthodox Christian churches.</p> <p><i>Recommended Accommodations:</i> Avoid scheduling important academic deadlines, events and activities on the date.</p>	<p><b>April 14, 2017</b></p> <p>April 6, 2018</p> <p>April 26, 2019</p>
<p><b>Pascha / Easter (<i>Eastern Orthodox Christian</i>)</b></p> <p><b><i>Holiday with significant work restriction</i></b></p> <p>Annual commemoration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ</p> <p><i>General Practices:</i> Celebratory meals, family gatherings, distribution of colored eggs and baskets of breads, meats, eggs, cheeses and other foods. It is a celebration of renewal.</p> <p><i>Date details:</i> Easter Sunday is determined by the Julian calendar which regulates ceremonial cycle of the Eastern Orthodox Christian churches.</p>	<p><b>April 16, 2017</b></p> <p>April 8, 2018</p> <p>April 28, 2019</p>

<p><b>Yom HaShoah (<i>Jewish</i>)</b></p> <p>Holocaust Remembrance Day; a day to remember the lives and names of Jewish victims and activists of the Holocaust.</p> <p><i>General Practices:</i> Ceremonies or events to remember Holocaust victims who died during World War II; activities may include lighting memorial candles and reciting the Kaddish, which is a prayer for the departed.</p> <p><i>Date details:</i> Begins at sundown.</p> <p><i>Recommended Accommodations:</i> This is not a work holiday—academics and work are permitted. Provide food accommodation as requested (kosher restrictions apply).</p>	<p><b>April 23-24, 2017</b></p> <p>April 11-12, 2018</p> <p>May 1-2, 2019</p>
<p><b>First Day of Ridván (<i>Baha'i</i>)</b></p> <p>Annual Bahá'í festival commemorating the 12 days (April 21-May 2, 1863) when Bahá'u'lláh, the Founder of the Bahá'í Faith, resided in a garden called Ridván (Paradise) in Baghdad, Iraq. At this time He publicly proclaimed His mission as God's messenger for this age. The first (April 21), ninth (April 29), and twelfth (May 2) days are celebrated as holy days.</p>	<p><b>April 21, 2017</b></p>
<p><b>Ninth Day of Ridván (<i>Baha'i</i>)</b></p> <p>The 9<sup>th</sup> day Ridvan commemorates a profoundly symbolic event in Baha'i history. Baha'u'llah, who had been previously exiled to Baghdad by the Shah of a hostile Persian government in 1852, had once again been officially banished from Baghdad to Constantinople (now known as Istanbul, Turkey), the capitol of the Ottoman Empire. Both governments had opposed and feared the rapid spread of Baha'u'llah's teachings and those of his predecessor The Bab, and the Persian authorities had reacted by unleashing a violent genocidal persecution campaign of imprisonment, torture and execution against the followers of this new faith.</p> <p>On April 29, 1863, the ninth day of Ridvan, the flooding Tigris receded enough so that Baha'u'llah's family could cross the river and join him on the island. This symbol – the reunification and strength of the bond of family, and by extension the unity of the entire human family – permeates the meaning of the ninth day of Ridvan.</p>	<p><b>April 29, 2017</b></p>

<p><b>May</b></p>	
<p><b>Beltane (<i>Pagan, Wiccan, Druid</i>)</b></p> <p>The fire festival that celebrates the coming of summer and the fertility of the coming year. One of the eight major annual sabbats or festivals.</p> <p><i>General Practices:</i> Jumping the balefire, dancing the May Pole.</p>	<p><b>May 1, 2017</b></p> <p>May 1, 2018</p> <p>May 1, 2019</p>
<p><b>Twelfth Day of Ridván (<i>Baha'i</i>)</b></p> <p>This day commemorates the day that Baha'u'llah left the garden and began the exile journey to Constantinople. All of His followers wished to go with Him. He asked many to remain in Baghdad.</p> <p><i>General Practices:</i> These days are marked by communal prayers and celebrations and are days on which no work is done.</p>	<p><b>May 2, 2017</b></p>
<p><b>Buddha Day / Visakha Puja (<i>Buddhist</i>)</b></p> <p>This holiday is traditionally known as Buddha's birthday. It is the major Buddhist festival, commemorating the birth, enlightenment, and death of the Buddha.</p> <p><i>General Practices:</i> Buddhists often decorate their homes and visit their local temples. Observers are encouraged to refrain from slaughtering and to avoid eating meat on this date.</p> <p><i>Recommended Accommodations:</i> Provide food accommodation as requested, and offer vegetarian options when planning menus for events on this date.</p>	<p><b>May 3, 2017</b></p> <p>May 22, 2018</p> <p>May 12, 2019</p>
<p><b>Declaration of the Báb (<i>Baha'i</i>)</b></p> <p>The Bab was the Forerunner of Baha'u'llah and inaugurated a short and separate Dispensation preparing the way for the coming of Baha'u'llah. Baha'is hold the Bab to be a Manifestation of God and refer to Baha'u'llah and The Bab as The Twin Manifestations. The time for the celebration is set because The Baha'is know the exact time that this Declaration was made to His first Disciple. This occurred in Shiraz, Iran. May 23, 1844, when the Báb, the prophet-herald of the Bahá'í Faith, announced that He was the herald of a new messenger of God.</p>	<p><b>May 23, 2017</b></p>

<p><b>Ramadan (Islamic)</b></p> <p>Ramadan is an occasion to focus on faith through fasting and prayer, and is one of the most important Muslim holidays. Ramadan is notable because the Qur'an was first revealed during this month, and Muslims see the Qur'an as the ultimate form of guidance for mankind. The night that the Qur'an was revealed to Muhammad is called Lailat ul Oadr, and standing in prayer this one night is thought to eclipse months of worship.</p> <p><i>General Practices:</i> Fasting is required during the entire month of Ramadan. Muslims refrain from food and beverages during the daylight hours, and smoking and sexual relations are forbidden. Worshipers break the fasting each night with prayer, reading of the Qu'ran, and a meal called the iftar. In addition, many Muslims also attend night prayers at Mosques. Muslims also believe that their good actions bring a greater reward during this month than any other time of the year, so almost all Muslims try to give up bad habits during Ramadan.</p> <p><i>Date Details:</i> Dates are determined by the lunar calendar. Lunar calendars can vary based on region and practice. The observed date marks the beginning of a 30 day observation.</p> <p><i>Recommended Accommodations:</i> If possible, avoid scheduling major academic deadlines during this time. Be sensitive to the fact that students and employees celebrating Ramadan will be fasting during the day (continuously for 30 days) and will likely have less stamina as a result. If planning an evening event, provide food accommodations if requested (Islamic dietary restrictions apply).</p>	<p><b>May 26 – June 25, 2017</b></p> <p>May 15 – June 14, 2018</p> <p>May 6 – June 4, 2019</p>
<p><b>Ascension of the Baha'ullah (Baha'i)</b></p> <p>Commemorates the death of the founder of the Baha'i faith; Baha'llah died on May 29, 1892.</p> <p><i>General Practices:</i> Devotional programs and reading from the scriptures</p>	<p><b>May 29, 2017</b></p> <p>May 29, 2018</p> <p>May 29, 2019</p>
<p><b>Shavuot (Jewish)</b></p> <p><i>Holiday with significant work restriction</i></p>	<p><b>May 30–June 1, 2017</b></p> <p>May 19–21, 2018</p> <p>June 8-10, 2019</p>

<p>Commemorates receipt of the Torah on Mount Sinai (two of three pilgrimage festivals)</p> <p><i>General Practices:</i> Evening of devotional programs and studying the Torah, lighting of Yahrzeit memorial candle at sundown on the second night of Shavuot.</p> <p><i>Date details:</i> Begins at sundown.</p> <p><i>Recommended Accommodations:</i> Avoid scheduling important academic deadlines, events and activities on the first two and last two days of the holiday. Provide food accommodation as requested. (Kosher restrictions apply—although it is customary to eat dairy).</p>	
<p><b>June</b></p>	
<p><b>Litha / Alban Hefin / Summer Solstice</b> <b>(Pagan, Wiccan, Druid)</b></p> <p>A celebration of the longest day of the year and the beginning of summer. Celebration of the the Goddess manifesting as Mother Earth and the God as the Sun King. For some Pagans the Summer Solstice marks the marriage of the God and Goddess and see their union as the force that creates the harvest's fruits. One of the eight major annual sabbats or festivals.</p> <p><i>General Practices:</i> Lighting to bonfires and watching the sun rise</p>	<p><b>June 21, 2017</b></p> <p>June 21, 2018</p> <p>June 21, 2019</p>
<p><b>World Humanist Day (Humanism)</b></p> <p>This celebration is our oldest and most common ritualized day for the secular community particularly those in various Humanist Associations and groups. It was started by the International Humanist and Ethical Union in Europe (IHEU), which is the oldest association of Humanist in the world and has hundreds of member associations around the world. It leverages the longest day of the year, June 21<sup>st</sup>, and the events are very unique to each member group. It is very popular in England where the British Humanist Association has over 25,000 members.</p> <p><i>General Practices:</i> Locally, secular humanist organizations will have community event but there is no pressure or guilt applied to attend these events. Secular student clubs may hold on-campus events.</p>	<p><b>June 21, 2017</b></p> <p>June 21, 2018</p> <p>June 21, 2019</p>

<p><b>Eid al-Fitr (Islamic)</b></p> <p><i>Holiday with significant work restriction</i></p> <p>Eid al-Fitr means "break the fast", and is the last day of Ramadan, marking the end of a month of fasting.</p> <p><i>General Practices:</i> Muslims often pray, exchange gifts, give money to children, feast, and celebrate with friends and family.</p> <p><i>Date Details:</i> Dates are determined by the lunar calendar. Lunar calendars can vary based on region and practice. Eid al Fitr is a three day celebration and begins at sundown.</p> <p><i>Recommended Accommodations:</i> Avoid scheduling important academic deadlines, events, or activities on this date. Employees will likely ask to take a vacation day on this day, and that request should be granted if at all possible. If planning an evening event, provide food accommodations if requested (Islamic dietary restrictions apply).</p>	<p><b>June 24-25, 2017</b></p> <p>June 14-15, 2018</p> <p>June 4-5, 2019</p>
<p><b>July</b></p>	
<p><b>Martyrdom of the Báb (Baha’i)</b></p> <p>Commemorates the execution of the Báb, the forerunner to the Baha’Allah. He was shot by a firing squad of 750 soldiers along with one of his followers. This occurred in Tabriz, Iran on July 9, 1850. He was 30 years old at the time.</p>	<p><b>July 9, 2017</b></p> <p>July 9, 2018</p> <p>July 9, 2019</p>
<p><b>Tisha B’av (Jewish)</b></p> <p>Commemorates a series of Jewish tragedies including the destruction of the first and second temples in Jerusalem.</p> <p><i>General practices:</i> Fasting and mourning.</p> <p><i>Date details:</i> Begins at sundown on first day, fast deferred because of the Sabbath.</p> <p><i>Recommended accommodations:</i> Plan limited activities after a fast.</p>	<p><b>July 31 – August 1, 2017</b></p> <p>July 21-22, 2018</p> <p>August 10-11, 2019</p>

