



SIMON WIESENTHAL CENTRE

EUROPE

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# Interfaith Calendar 2017

Edited by Alex Uberti  
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### **EVERY DAY A CELEBRATION DAY**

The late Simon Wiesenthal compiled a calendar of Man's inhumanity to Man, entitled "Every Day a Memorial Day". For the 12th year the Simon Wiesenthal Centre-Europe presents a counterpart calendar based on hope (see attached below).

'Every Day a Celebration Day', focuses upon Man's relationship with his Creator, by listing the religious holidays of the rainbow of faith communities residing in Europe and beyond.

Besides the main denominations within Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, the calendar adds the holidays of the Baha'i, Buddhists, Taoists, Druze, Hindus, Jains, Rastafari, Shinto, Sikhs... Though smaller in number, these and other communities are ever more present in a multicultural Europe.

The Centre provides this list in solidarity with all believers and as a public service for employers, trade unions, municipalities, educational institutions, religious organizations, NGOs, law enforcement, the military and all state and public interfaces. We hope, thus, to enhance respect toward and within faiths, to heighten sensitivity to our differences and respective heritage as well as to share our commonalities.

This edition is dedicated to the memory of all victims of terrorism - from Paris to Jerusalem, from Nice to Berlin and beyond. We stand in solidarity with the families of those killed, wounded and traumatized, alongside the medical staff, the journalists, educators and all who are dedicated to freedom of expression, religious tolerance, the defense of fundamental rights and against incitement to hate and violence.

The Centre welcomes comments and proposals on how this interfaith calendar may be improved and more widely disseminated.

May we all enjoy health, tranquility, fraternity throughout 2017.

**May every day be a joyous celebration!**

Dr. Shimon Samuels  
Director for International Relations  
Simon Wiesenthal Centre

## Religious holidays from January to December 2017

Please find below a list of the main religious holidays for the predominant monotheistic faiths, and a selection of holidays for eastern religions and other faiths now ever more present in Europe and worldwide.

1 January 2017	<b>Christian</b>	<b>New Year 2017</b> (new for Christian Orthodox, instead of 14 January)
1 January 2017	<b>Shinto</b>	<b>Oshogatsu - Gantan-sai</b> (Shinto New Year)
5 January 2017	<b>Sikhism</b>	<b>Birthday of Guru Gobind Singh</b> (Nanakshahi calendar)
6 January 2017	<b>Christian CP</b>	<b>Epiphany (Dia de los Reyes</b> in Catholic Hispanic culture)
6 January 2017	<b>Christian O</b>	<b>Theophany</b> (Baptism of Christ)
6 January 2017	<b>Christian AO</b>	<b>Christmas - Nativity of Jesus Christ (Armenian Orthodox)</b>
7 January 2017	<b>Christian O, Tewahedo</b>	<b>Christmas - Nativity of Jesus Christ</b> (including Coptic church and Rastafari)
7 January 2017	<b>Shinto</b>	Koshogatsu (creation of Kami, cosmic energy and Nature)
8 January 2017	<b>Christian CP</b>	Baptism of Christ
9 January 2017	<b>Sufism</b>	Commemoration of Abdul Qadir Jilani (1166 C.E.), Sufi saint
12-15 January 2017	<b>Buddhism</b>	<b>Mahayana New Year</b>
13 January 2017	<b>Sikhism</b>	<b>Maghi - Lohri</b>
14 January 2017	<b>Hindu</b>	<b>Makar Sankranti</b> (celebrating the Sun's journey into the northern hemisphere)
14 January 2017	<b>Christian O</b>	<b>Traditional Orthodox New Year</b>
15 January 2017	<b>Christian O</b>	Circumcision of the Lord (including Coptic Christian)
15 January 2017	<b>Shinto</b>	Seijin Shiki (Adulthood Day)
15 January 2017	<b>Baha'i</b>	World Religion Day (from sundown of previous day) - also 19 February
19-25 January 2017	<b>Christian</b>	Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
19 January 2017	<b>Christian O</b>	Beginning of Triodion
19 January 2017	<b>Tewahedo EO</b>	<b>Timkat - Epiphany</b> (including Coptic church and Rastafari)
21 January 2017	<b>Coptic Christian</b>	Wedding of Canaa
25 January 2017	<b>Druze</b>	<b>Festival of Elijah - Prophet Al-Kader's Day</b>
25 January 2017	<b>Christian</b>	St. Paul's Day (celebrating his conversion on the road to Damascus)
27 January 2017	<b>Interfaith</b>	UN International Holocaust Commemoration Day marking the liberation of Auschwitz
28 January 2017	<b>Buddhism</b>	<b>World Peace Day</b>
28 January 2017	<b>Taoism, Confucianism</b>	<b>Chinese New Year</b> (Year of the Rooster - Year 4715, lunar calendar)
31 January 2017	<b>Sikhism</b>	Birthday of Guru Har Rai (Nanakshahi calendar)
1 February 2017	<b>Hindu</b>	<b>Vasant Panchami</b> (Saraswati Festival)
2 February 2017	<b>Christian, Anglican</b>	Candlemas, Presentation of Christ in the Temple
2 February 2017	<b>Christian Celtic</b>	Saint Brigid of Kildare
3 February 2017	<b>Shinto</b>	Rissun (Setsubun Sai) - end of Winter, beginning of Spring festival
5 February 2017	<b>Interfaith</b>	Four Chaplains Sunday (Christian and Jewish)
7-13 February 2017	<b>Taoism</b>	<b>Lantern Festival</b>
10 February 2017	<b>Coptic Christian</b>	<b>Jonah's Feast</b> (preceded by 3 days Fast of Nineveh)
11 February 2017	<b>Jewish</b>	Tu Bishvat (New year for Trees)

12 February 2017	<b>Christian O</b>	Triodion festival
14 February 2017	<b>Christian CP</b>	Saint Valentine's Day
15 February 2017	<b>Buddhism, Jainism, Sikh</b>	<b>Nirvana Day</b> (anniversary of Buddha's death - alternative date)
15 February 2017	<b>Coptic Christian</b>	Entrance into the Temple
17 February 2017	<b>Shinto</b>	Toshigoi (Kami festival for bountiful rice harvest)
24 February 2017	<b>Hindu</b>	<b>Maha Shivaratri</b> (Shiva Festival)
26 February 2017	<b>Christian</b>	<b>Transfiguration Sunday</b>
26 February 2017	<b>Baha'i</b>	Intercalary days (until 1 March)
27 February 2017	<b>Christian O</b>	<b>Clean Monday - Great Lent begins</b>
28 February 2017	<b>Christian</b>	Shrove Tuesday - Mardi Gras
1 March 2017	<b>Christian</b>	Ash Wednesday - Beginning of Easter Lent
1 March 2017	<b>Christian</b>	St. David's Day (patron saint of Wales)
2 March 2017	<b>Muslim Shi'a</b>	<b>Martyrdom of Fatima</b>
2-20 March 2017	<b>Baha'i</b>	Nineteen day Fast
3 March 2017	<b>Shinto</b>	Hina Matsuri - Festival of Dolls (family celebration for daughters)
14 March 2017	<b>Taoism</b>	<b>Birthday of Lao-Tzu</b>
5 March 2017	<b>Christian O</b>	Orthodox Sunday followed by week-long fast
9 March 2017	<b>Jewish</b>	Taanit Esther (Fast commemorating Biblical story of Mordechai and Esther)
12 March 2017	<b>Jewish</b>	<b>Purim (Shushan Purim</b> Feast celebrated the following day)
12 March 2017	<b>Buddhism</b>	<b>Magha Puja</b>
13 March 2017	<b>Hindu</b>	<b>Holi - Spring festival of colours</b>
13 March 2017	<b>Sikhism</b>	<b>Hola Mohalla</b> 3-day martial festival (lunar calendar)
14 March 2017	<b>Sikhism</b>	<b>Nanakshahi New Year</b>
17 March 2017	<b>Christian C</b>	Saint Patrick's Day (patron saint of Ireland)
19 March 2017	<b>Christian C</b>	Saint Joseph's Day
20 March 2017	<b>Taoism</b>	Vernal Equinox (beginning of ascendancy of Yang)
21 March 2017	<b>Zoroastrianism</b>	<b>Jamshedi Norouz - New Year</b> (Fasli calendar)
21 March 2017	<b>Baha'i, Sufism</b>	<b>Naw Ruz (New Year)</b>
21 March 2017	<b>Shinto</b>	Shubun Sai - Equinox day (traditionally to visit graves)
21-24 March 2017	<b>Muslim Shi'a</b>	<b>Norooz - New Year</b>
25 March 2017	<b>Christian C</b>	Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
27 March 2017	<b>Christian O</b>	<b>Clean Monday - Great Lent begins</b> (6 weeks)
28 March 2017	<b>Zoroastrianism</b>	<b>Khordad Sal - Birth of the Prophet Zarathustra</b> (Fasli calendar)
28 March 2017	<b>Hindu</b>	<b>Hindi New Year festival</b> (first of 10 day Ramayana festival) / <b>Telegu New Year/Ugadi</b>
1 April 2017	<b>Christian O</b>	Lazarus Saturday
2 April 2017	<b>Christian O</b>	<b>Palm Sunday (Hosanna Sunday for Coptic Church)</b>
2-5 April 2015	<b>Confucianism, Taoism</b>	<b>Ching Ming Jie/Grave Sweeping Day</b> (Ancestors Day)
3-10 April 2017	<b>Jainism</b>	Navapad Oli (period of prayer and fasting - 1 meal per day)
5 April 2017	<b>Hindu</b>	<b>Ramanavami and Swaminarayan Jayanti</b> (Birthday of Lords Rama and Swaminarayan)
8-10 April 2017	<b>Jainism</b>	<b>Mahavir Jayanti</b> (Birth of Prophet Mahavira)

9 April 2017	<b>Christian</b>	<b>Palm Sunday</b>
10 April 2017	<b>Muslim Shi'a</b>	Birthday of Imam Ali
10 April 2017	<b>Jewish</b>	<b>Seder, Passover evening dinner</b>
11-18 April 2017	<b>Jewish</b>	<b>Pesach, Passover</b>
11 April 2017	<b>Jehovah Witness</b>	<b>Lord's Evening Meal</b>
11 April 2017	<b>Hindu</b>	<b>Hanuman Jayanti</b> (Hanuman Festival)
12-14 April 2017	<b>Buddhism</b>	<b>Theravada New Year</b>
13 April 2017	<b>Christian CP</b>	<b>Maundy Thursday - Last Supper</b>
14 April 2017	<b>Christian CPO</b>	<b>Good Friday/Holy Friday - Crucifixion of Jesus Christ</b>
14 April 2017	<b>Sikhism</b>	<b>Vaisakhi - Sikh New Year</b> and <b>Birthday of Guru Nanak Sahib</b> , founder of Sikhism
14 April 2017	<b>Hindu Tamil</b>	<b>Tamil New Year</b>
15 April 2017	<b>Hindu Bengali</b>	<b>Bengali New Year / Bihu</b>
16 April 2017	<b>Christian CPO</b>	<b>Easter Sunday/Pascha - Resurrection of Jesus Christ</b>
17 April 2017	<b>Christian CP</b>	<b>Easter Monday</b>
18 April 2017	<b>Sikhism</b>	<b>Birthday of Guru Tegh Bahadur</b> and of <b>Guru Angad Dev</b>
21 April - 2 May 2017	<b>Baha'i</b>	<b>Ridvan</b> (First day of 12-day festival, holiday also on 9 <sup>th</sup> and 12 <sup>th</sup> day)
21 April 2017	<b>Rastafari</b>	Grounation Day - Anniversary of Emperor Haile Selassie's visit to Jamaica
23 April 2017	<b>Christian</b>	Saint George (patron saint of England)
23-24 April 2017	<b>Muslim</b>	Lailat al Miraj (Night of the Ascension)
24 April 2017	<b>Jewish</b>	<b>Yom Ha'Shoah</b> (Holocaust memorial day)
25-28 April 2017	<b>Druze</b>	<b>Ziyarat - Festival of the Prophet Shaleb (Jethro)</b> - (lasting 4 days)
28 April 2017	<b>Hindu, Jainism</b>	<b>Akshaya Tritiya</b>
1 May 2017	<b>Jewish</b>	<b>Yom HaZikaron</b> (Israel's Memorial day)
2 May 2017	<b>Jewish</b>	<b>Yom Ha'Atzmaut</b> (Israel's Independence day)
2 May 2017	<b>Sikhism</b>	Birthday of Guru Arjan Dev
3 May 2017	<b>Shinto</b>	Taue Matsuri (rice planting festival)
4 May 2017	<b>Interfaith</b>	National Day of Prayer (USA)
5 May 2017	<b>Shinto</b>	<b>Tango-no-Sekku or Koi-no-Bori</b> (Boys' Festival)
10 May 2017	<b>Buddhism</b>	<b>Wesak or Visakha Puja - Buddha's birthday</b>
11-12 May 2017	<b>Muslim</b>	Lailat al Bara'ah (Night of Forgiveness)
14 May 2017	<b>Jewish</b>	Lag B'Omer (in memory of Shimon bar Yochai)
23 May 2017	<b>Baha'i</b>	<b>Declaration of the Bab</b>
23 May 2017	<b>Sikhism</b>	Birthday of Guru Amar Das
25 May 2017	<b>Christian CPO</b>	<b>Ascension of Jesus Christ</b> (including Coptic church and Rastafari)
25 May 2017	<b>Hindu</b>	Vat Savitri Puja (married women pray for their husbands' health)
27 May 2017	<b>Muslim</b>	<b>Ramadan</b> (beginning of 30-day daytime fast)
28-30 May 2017	<b>Taoism</b>	<b>Dragon Boat Festival</b> (lunar calendar)
29 May 2017	<b>Baha'i</b>	<b>Ascension of Baha'u'llah</b>
31 May-1 June 2017	<b>Jewish</b>	<b>Shavuot (Pentecost)</b>
1 June 2017	<b>Coptic Christian</b>	Entry of the Lord into Egypt

1 June 2017	<b>Taoism</b>	<b>Children's Day</b>
4 June 2017	<b>Christian CPO</b>	<b>Pentecost Sunday</b> (including Coptic church and Rastafari)
11 June 2017	<b>Christian CP</b>	<b>Trinity Sunday</b>
15 June 2017	<b>Christian C</b>	Corpus Christi
16 June 2017	<b>Sikhism</b>	<b>Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev</b> (author of holy book Guru ĩ Sahib)
16 June 2017	<b>Muslim Shi'a</b>	<b>Martyrdom of Imam Ali</b>
19 June 2017	<b>Christian Swed.</b>	New Church Day (Swedenborgian Church)
21 June 2017	<b>Taoism</b>	Summer Solstice (the peak of Yang)
21 June 2017	<b>Canadian Native People</b>	First Nation Day
21-22 June 2017	<b>Muslim</b>	Lailat al Qadr (night of the revelation of the Qur'an to the Prophet Mohammed)
23 June 2017	<b>Christian</b>	Sacred Heart of Jesus
25-28 June 2017	<b>Muslim</b>	<b>Eid al-Fitr</b> (feast at the end of Ramadan)
25 June 2017	<b>Hindu</b>	<b>Puri Rath Yatra</b> (Chariots Festival)
29 June 2017	<b>Christian</b>	<b>Saints Peter and Paul</b> (holiday in Rome)
30 June 2017	<b>Shinto</b>	<b>Oharai</b> (Summer Great Purification Festival)
5 July 2017	<b>Sikhism</b>	Birthday of Guru Hargobind
7 July 2017	<b>Christian O</b>	Birth of Saint John the Baptist
9 July 2017	<b>Baha'i</b>	<b>Martyrdom of the Bab</b>
9 July 2017	<b>Buddhism</b>	<b>Asalha Puja or Dharma Day</b> (anniversary of Buddha's teaching after enlightenment)
9 July 2017	<b>Hindu</b>	<b>Guru Purnima</b>
11 July 2017	<b>Jewish</b>	Tzom Tammuz (fast commemorating breaching of walls of the Second Temple)
12 July 2017	<b>Christian O</b>	<b>The Apostles St. Peter and St. Paul Feast</b> (preceded by 2 weeks of Fast)
13-15 July 2017	<b>Buddhism, Shinto, Taoism</b>	Ulumbana or Obon or Yu Lan (Festival of Souls)
16 July 2017	<b>Rastafari</b>	Ethiopian Constitution Day
20 July 2017	<b>Muslim Shi'a</b>	<b>Martyrdom of Imam Sadeq</b>
23 July 2017	<b>Rastafari</b>	<b>Birthday of Emperor Haile Selassie I</b>
23 July 2017	<b>Sikhism</b>	Birthday of Guru Har Krishen
24 July 2017	<b>Mormonism</b>	<b>Mormon Christian Pioneer Day</b>
27 July 2017	<b>Hindu</b>	Nag Panchami (worship of snakes)
1 August 2017	<b>Jewish</b>	Tisha B'Av (fast commemorating the destruction of the two temples of Jerusalem)
1 August 2017	<b>Christian, Anglican</b>	Lammas (Harvest festival)
1 August 2017	<b>Christian O</b>	Fast in honour of the Holy Mother of Jesus
6 August 2017	<b>Christian O</b>	Transfiguration (or Buhe for the Tewahedo Ethiopian Orthodox Church)
7 August 2017	<b>Hindu</b>	<b>Raksha-Bandhan</b> - festival celebrating brotherhood and love
14 August 2017	<b>Hindu</b>	<b>Krishna Janmashtami</b> (Birthday of Krishna)
15 August 2017	<b>Christian</b>	<b>Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary - Dormition of the Theotokos</b>
17 August 2017	<b>Jewish</b>	Tu B'Av (Holiday of love)
17 August 2017	<b>Rastafari</b>	Birthday of Jamaican Politician Marcus Garvey
18 August 2017	<b>Jainism</b>	<b>Paryushan Maha Parva</b> (7 day fast for Non-violence and Atonement)

19 August 2017	<b>Coptic Christian</b>	Transfiguration
22 August 2017	<b>Coptic Christian</b>	Feast of St. Mary of Egypt (preceded by 2-week fast)
25 August 2017	<b>Hindu</b>	<b>Ganesh Charurthi</b> (10-day feast celebrating Ganesh, god of wisdom)
25 August 2017	<b>Jainism</b>	<b>Samvantsari Pratikraman</b>
28 August 2017	<b>Christian O</b>	<b>Dormition of the Theotokos</b> (the Blessed Virgin Mary)
29 August 2017	<b>Christian</b>	Beheading of Saint John the Baptist (all Churches)
31 August 2017	<b>Muslim</b>	Waqf al Arafa - end of the high period of the Hajj pilgrimage to Mecca
1 September 2017	<b>Christian O</b>	Orthodox Liturgical Year begins - prayer for preservation of Creation
1-4 September 2017	<b>Muslim</b>	<b>Eid al-Adha (Feast of the sacrifice)</b> - 4 day holiday (including Sunni, Shi'a, Druze, etc.)
4 September 2017	<b>Hindu</b>	<b>Onam</b> (Kerala harvest festival)
5 September 2017	<b>Jainism</b>	<b>Anata Chaturdasi</b> (auspicious day for prayers and meditation) - <b>Kshamavani</b>
8 September 2017	<b>Christian</b>	<b>Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary</b>
10 September 2017	<b>Muslim Shi'a</b>	<b>Eid al-Ghadir</b> (for Shi'a Muslims, it is when the Prophet appoints Ali as his successor)
10 September 2017	<b>Druze</b>	<b>Day of the Prophet Sablan</b>
11 September 2017	<b>Interfaith</b>	Commemoration of 9/11
11 September 2017	<b>Tewahedo EO, Rastafari</b>	<b>Enkutatash - Ethiopian New Year</b>
11 September 2017	<b>Coptic Christian</b>	<b>Nayrouz Feast</b> (Coptic New Year)
11 September 2017	<b>Christian O</b>	<b>Beheading of St. John the Baptist</b>
14 September 2017	<b>Christian</b>	Holy Cross Day
16 September 2017	<b>Jewish</b>	Leil Selichot (prayers in preparation of High Holidays)
19 September 2017	<b>Hindu</b>	<b>Pitru Paksha or Mahalaya Amavasya</b> (honouring the dead)
21 September 2017	<b>Christian O</b>	<b>Nativity of the Theotokos</b> (the Blessed Virgin Mary)
21-22 September 2017	<b>Jewish</b>	<b>Rosh Ha'Shana (New Year 5778)</b>
21-22 September 2017	<b>Muslim</b>	<b>1 Muharram (New Year, 1439 of the Hijra)</b>
21-29 September 2017	<b>Hindu</b>	<b>Navaratri - Nine nights Festival</b> (nine-days fast before Dussehra)
23 September 2017	<b>Taoism</b>	Autumn Equinox (beginning of ascendancy of Yin)
23 September 2017	<b>Shinto</b>	<b>Shuki-Korei-Sai</b> (honoring the Ancestral Spirits)
27 September 2017	<b>Christian O</b>	Exaltation of the Holy Cross
27 September 2017	<b>Tewahedo EO</b>	Meskel or Maskaram (finding of the true Cross)
28 September 2017	<b>Confucianism</b>	<b>Birthday of Confucius (K'ung Fu-Tzu)</b> - (born in 551 B.C.E.)
27 Sept.- 5 Oct. 2017	<b>Jainisme</b>	Navapad Oli (period of prayer and fasting - 1 meal per day)
29 September 2017	<b>Christian CP</b>	Festival of the Archangels (St. Michael, St. Gabriel and St. Raphael)
30 September 2017	<b>Jewish</b>	<b>Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement)</b>
30 September 2017	<b>Hindu</b>	<b>Dussehra</b> (celebrating Lord Rama's victory over evil demon Ravana)
30 September 2017	<b>Sufism</b>	Birthday of Jalal Al-Din Rumi (saint and poet, founder of the Dervish Mevlevi Order)
1 October 2017	<b>Muslim</b>	<b>Ashura</b> - for Shi'a Muslims: Martyrdom of Husayn ibn Ali followed by

		40-day mourning
1-8 October 2017	<b>Taoism</b>	<b>Moon (mid-Autumn) Festival</b> (lunar calendar)
4 October 2017	<b>Christian C</b>	St. Francis of Assisi and St. Catherine of Siena (patron saints of Italy)
5-11 October 2017	<b>Jewish</b>	<b>Sukkot</b> - Feast of Tabernacles (no activity on first 2 days and last day)
8 October 2017	<b>Hindu</b>	<b>Karva Chauth</b> (married women fast for their husbands' longevity)
9 October 2017	<b>Interfaith</b>	<b>Thanksgiving in Canada</b>
9 October 2017	<b>Sikhism</b>	Birthday of Guru Ram Das
12 October 2017	<b>Jewish</b>	<b>Shemini Atzeret</b>
13 October 2017	<b>Jewish</b>	<b>Simchat Torah</b> (holiday marking completion of the yearly cycle of Torah readings)
17 October 2017	<b>Hindu, Jainism, Sikhism</b>	<b>Dhanteras</b> (day introducing Diwali-Festival of Lights)
18-20 October 2017	<b>Jainisme</b>	<b>Mahavira Nirvana - New Year</b>
19 October 2017	<b>Hindu, Jainism, Sikhism</b>	<b>Diwali - Deepavali</b> (Festival of Lights)
20 October 2017	<b>Baha'i</b>	<b>Birth of the Báb</b> (founder of the Baha'i faith)
20 October 2017	<b>Sikhism</b>	<b>Installation of Guru Granth Holy Scriptures</b>
20 October 2017	<b>Sikhism</b>	Death of Guru Gobind Singh (last of 10 Sikh Gurus)
21 October 2017	<b>Hindu, Jainism</b>	Bhai Dooj/Bhai Beej (bonding between brothers and sisters)
26 October 2017	<b>Hindu</b>	<b>Chhath Puja</b> (Vedic festival celebrating the Hindu Sun God Surya)
30 October 2017	<b>Sikhism</b>	Bandi Chhorh Divas (Prisoners Release Day)
31 October 2017	<b>Christian P</b>	<b>Reformation Day</b>
31 October 2017	<b>Christian</b>	Halloween (All Hallows Eve)
1 November 2017	<b>Christian CP</b>	<b>All Saints' Day</b>
2 November 2017	<b>Christian C</b>	<b>All Souls' Day</b> (traditional Dia de los Muertos in Mexico)
2 November 2017	<b>Rastafari</b>	<b>Crowning of Emperor Haile Selassie I</b>
4 November 2017	<b>Hindu, Sikhism, Jainism</b>	<b>Kartik Purnima</b> (for Jainism, end of 4-month Chaturmas)
4 November 2017	<b>Sikhism</b>	<b>Birthday of Guru Nanak Dev Sahib</b> , founder of the Sikh religion
10 November 2017	<b>Muslim Shi'a</b>	<b>Arba'een</b> - end of 40-day mourning since Ashura, marked by pilgrimage to Karbala
12 November 2017	<b>Baha'i</b>	<b>Birth of Baha'u'llah</b> (follower of the Báb and fulfiller of the Baha'i prophecy)
15 November 2017	<b>Christian O</b>	Winter Lent begins (until Christmas Eve)
15 November 2017	<b>Shinto</b>	Shichigosan (Children's day)
17 November 2017	<b>Muslim Shi'a</b>	<b>Demise of Prophet Muhammad and Martyrdom of Imam Hassan</b>
18 November 2017	<b>Muslim Shi'a</b>	<b>Martyrdom of Imam Reza</b>
18 November 2017	<b>Jewish</b>	Sigd (Ethiopian Jewish Holiday)
23 November 2017	<b>Shinto</b>	<b>Niinamesei</b> (Labour Thanksgiving Day, traditional harvest festival)
24 November 2017	<b>Interfaith</b>	<b>Thanksgiving in the USA</b>
24 November 2017	<b>Sikhism</b>	<b>Martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib</b> (Nanakshahi calendar)
26 November 2017	<b>Baha'i</b>	Day of the Covenant (Yawm Al-Mithaq)
28 November 2017	<b>Baha'i</b>	Ascension of Abdu'l Baha, son of Baha'u'llah
30 November 2017	<b>Christian O</b>	Saint Andrew (patron saint for Greece and Russia)
30 November	<b>Hindu</b>	Geeta Jayanti



2017		
1 December 2017	<b>Muslim Sunni</b>	Mawlid an Nabi (Birth of the Prophet Mohammed)
3 December 2017	<b>Christian CP</b>	First Sunday of Advent (beginning of Ecclesiastical year)
6 December 2017	<b>Christian</b>	<b>St. Nicholas</b> (festival celebrated mostly in northern Europe and in Orthodox church)
6 December 2017	<b>Muslim Shi'a</b>	Mawlid an Nabi (Birth of the Prophet Mohammed)
8 December 2017	<b>Christian C</b>	<b>Immaculate Conception</b>
8 December 2017	<b>Buddhism</b>	<b>Bodhi Day (Rohatsu)</b>
8 December 2017	<b>Sufism</b>	Commemoration of Abu Hamid Al-Ghazali (1111 C.E.), founding scholar and Sufi saint
12 December 2017	<b>Christian C</b>	Feast Day of Our Lady of Guadalupe
13-20 December 2017	<b>Jewish</b>	Hanukkah (festival of lights - lighting of the Menorah)
16 December 2017	<b>Hindu</b>	Dhanu Sankranti
17 December 2017	<b>Sufism</b>	Commemoration of Jalal ad-Din Rumi (1273 C.E.), founder of Mevlevi order
22 December 2017	<b>Taoism</b>	<b>DongZi</b> (Winter solstice)
24 December 2017	<b>Christian CP</b>	<b>Christmas Eve</b>
25 December 2017	<b>Christian CP</b>	<b>Christmas (Nativity of Jesus Christ)</b>
26 December 2017	<b>Christian CP</b>	<b>Saint Stephen - Boxing Day</b>
26 December 2017	<b>Zoroastrianism</b>	<b>Zarathosht Diso</b> (Death of the Prophet Zarathustra)
28 December 2017	<b>Christian C</b>	Holy Innocents
31 December 2017	<b>Shinto</b>	<b>Oharai</b> (Winter Great Purification Festival)
31 December 2017	<b>Christian C</b>	Feast of the Holy Family
31 December 2017	<b>Interfaith</b>	Watch Night (end of year 2017)

## NOTES:

- Although attendance at work on these festivities is a matter of conscience, those highlighted (in **bold** character) are most likely to be taken off entirely or partially for religious worship. It would nevertheless be advisable to check with members of each denomination.
- In the above table: **Christian C** refers to the Catholic church, **Christian P** to the Protestant churches and **Christian O** to the Orthodox churches, including **Armenian** Orthodox, Ethiopian Eastern Orthodox (marked often as **Tewahedo**) and **Coptic** Orthodox (with the slight differences between these particular churches highlighted); **Christian** refers to festivities common to most of the abovementioned churches; **Rastafari** to the movement close to the Ethiopian Eastern Orthodox church and present mainly in Jamaican communities. Some dates (in particular patron saints and some interfaith festivities) are to be considered specific to national holiday calendars.
- The Muslim (lunar) and Jewish (lunisolar) calendars are shorter than the international standard (Gregorian) calendar. Catholic and Protestant churches follow the Gregorian calendar (12 months), whereas Orthodox churches (Russian, Greek, Ethiopian, Coptic and others) generally follow the Julian calendar, though a reform is currently underway in some churches to follow the Gregorian (standard) calendar, namely celebrating New Year's Day on 1 January rather than 14 January. Most Orthodox holidays indicated here follow the Gregorian calendar, though each festivity may occur two weeks later according to the Julian calendar.
- Most **Jewish** holidays usually begin at sundown the day before they are listed here.
- Most **Muslim** holidays are based on lunar observation and may differ slightly from one region to another. This calendar generally refers to the **Sunni** denomination festivities, though the indication **Muslim Shi'a** highlights dates of major importance to Shiite communities (Arba'een for example, or specific meaning of Ashura). Though it is a branch of the Muslim faith (in particular of Shi'a Ismailism), the **Druze** religion is included in this calendar separately as it mixes heterodox beliefs that reflect in some of its festivities. **Sufism** follows the general Sunni calendar, but adds commemoration dates for Sufi saints.
- The **Sikh** and **Buddhist** festivities may differ respectively depending largely on the calendar adopted by national communities. Some festivities may correspond among **Hindu, Jain, Sikh** and **Buddhist** religions due to ancient common roots. The date for the New Year differs according to regional traditions in Hindu culture.

Sources: [interfaithcalendar.org](http://interfaithcalendar.org), [calendarlabs.com](http://calendarlabs.com), [religioustolerance.org](http://religioustolerance.org), [timeanddate.com](http://timeanddate.com), [wheeloftheyear.com](http://wheeloftheyear.com), [infoplease.com](http://infoplease.com), and a plethora of religious minority websites.