

Multi-Faith Calendar

About this calendar:

This multi-faith calendar is intended as a guide and does not constitute official University of Alberta policy. For information on religious accommodations, please refer to the [Attendance Policy](#) in the University Calendar and the [Accommodation Policy](#).

While every effort has been made to ensure accuracy, this calendar is not comprehensive and updates will be made as needed. The absence of a specific date should not be interpreted to mean it is not significant or valued. For feedback or corrections, contact fomdedi@ualberta.ca.

This calendar is a resource for instructors and programs when asked for accommodations for students who experience a conflict between a religious obligation and scheduled tests, mid-term exams, final exams, or requirements to attend classes and participate in laboratories. Instructors are encouraged to avoid scheduling significant academic deadlines on listed dates whenever possible



Fall 2025

Date	Holiday	Religious, Spiritual or Worldview Tradition	Description
Saturday, August 16	Sri Krishna Jayanti/Janmashtami	Hinduism	Hindus celebrate the birth of Lord Krishna, a central figure in Hindu theology, known for his wisdom and divine joy. Festivities include fasting, singing, and reenactments of Krishna's life.
Wednesday, September 3 at sunset - Thursday, September 4 at sunset	Mawlid al-Nabi	Islam	Muslims celebrate the birthday of the Prophet Muhammad with communal prayers, stories of his life, charity, and sharing meals with family and the needy.
Monday, September 22 at sunset - Wednesday, September 24 at sunset	Rosh Hashanah	Judaism	The Jewish New Year, a time of prayer, self-reflection, and renewal. Traditions include blowing the shofar and eating symbolic foods like apples dipped in honey.
Monday, September 22- Wednesday, October 1	Navaratri	Hinduism	A nine-night Hindu festival dedicated to the goddess Durga, celebrated with dance, music, and religious ceremonies. Each night is dedicated to different aspects of the divine feminine.
Wednesday, October 1 at sunset - Thursday, October 2 at sunset	Yom Kippur	Judaism	The holiest day of the Jewish year, dedicated to atonement and repentance. Marked by 25 hours of fasting and intensive prayer.
Thursday, October 2	Dasara	Hinduism	Also known as Vijayadashami, this Hindu festival celebrates the victory of good over evil, marked by processions, theatrical enactments of the Ramayana, and effigy burnings.
Monday, October 6 at sunset - Monday, October 13 at sunset	Sukkot	Judaism	A week-long Jewish festival giving thanks for the fall harvest, as well as commemorating the 40 years of Israelite wandering in the desert, marked by eating and celebrating in a Sukkah (temporary outdoor hut).



Monday, October 13 at sunset - Wednesday, October 15 at sunset	Shemini Atzeret/Simchat Torah	Judaism	Jewish holidays marking the end of the annual cycle of Torah readings and the beginning of a new cycle, celebrated with singing, dancing, and processions with Torah scrolls.
Tuesday, October 21	Diwali	Hinduism	Known as the Festival of Lights, Diwali is celebrated by Hindus and Sikhs with fireworks, sweets, and illuminations, symbolizing the victory of light over darkness and good over evil.
Wednesday, October 22 to Thursday, October 23	Birth of the Bab Birth of Baha'u'llah	Baha'i	Bahá'ís observe these days to honor the birthdays of the founders of the Bahá'í faith, celebrated with prayers, gatherings, and acts of service
Sunday, October 26	Installation of the Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji	Sikhism	Marks the day in 1708 when Guru Gobind Singh Ji declared the Guru Granth Sahib as the eternal Guru of the Sikhs. Commemorated with devotional readings, singing, and reflection on the teachings of the Sikh faith.
Friday, October 31	Bandi Chhor Divas	Sikhism	A Sikh festival celebrating the release of Guru Hargobind Ji and 52 imprisoned princes, symbolizing liberation, justice, and courage. Celebrated with prayers, community meals, and illumination of Gurdwaras.
Saturday, November 1	All Saints Day	Christianity (Protestant, Roman Catholic)	A Christian holiday honoring all saints, known and unknown, celebrating their lives and spiritual contributions to Christianity
Sunday, November 2	All Souls Day	Christianity (Roman Catholic)	Roman Catholics pray for the faithful departed, offering masses and prayers to help cleanse the souls of the deceased, aiding their ascent to heaven.
Wednesday, November 5	Birthdate of Guru Nanak Dev Ji	Sikhism	Sikhs celebrate the birthday of Guru Nanak, the founder of Sikhism, with prayers, hymns, and distribution of langar (community meals).
Monday, November 24	Martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji	Sikhism	Sikhs commemorate the sacrifice of Guru Tegh Bahadur, who was executed for defending religious freedom, observed with prayer services and hymn singing.
Monday, November 24	Sahib Ji	Sikhism	A Sikh observance that can refer to various aspects of Sikh tradition, often involving the veneration and remembrance of the ten Gurus
Sunday, December 14 to	Hanukkah	Judaism	An eight-day Jewish festival of lights celebrating the rededication of the Temple



Monday, December 22			in Jerusalem and the miracle of the oil that lasted eight days.
Wednesday, December 25	Christmas	Christianity (Protestant, Roman Catholic)	The Christian celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ, marked by festive gatherings, prayers, symbolic decorations, and gift-giving. Many observe the Christmas season for 12 days, ending in the Feast of Epiphany
Saturday, December 27	Birthday of Guru Gobind Singh Ji	Sikhism	Sikhs honor the birthday of their tenth Guru, Guru Gobind Singh, a spiritual master, warrior, poet, and philosopher, with readings from the Guru Granth Sahib and processions

Winter 2026

Date	Holiday	Religious, Spiritual or Worldview Tradition	Description
Saturday, January 3	Mahayana New Year	Buddhism	Celebrated by Mahayana Buddhists, this marks the start of the lunar new year with prayers, meditation, and good deeds. It aims to clear past misdeeds and bring fresh resolutions.
Wednesday, January 7	Christmas	Christianity (Orthodox)	The Christian celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ, marked by festive gatherings, prayers, symbolic decorations, and gift-giving. Many observe the Christmas season for 12 days, ending in the Feast of Epiphany.
Tuesday, January 13	Maghi	Sikhism	A significant Sikh festival commemorating the 40 Sikhs who sacrificed their lives for Guru Gobind Singh Ji in the Battle of Muktsar. It is observed with prayers, processions, and communal meals.
Thursday, January 15	Makar Sankranti	Hinduism	A Hindu harvest festival marking the sun's transit into Capricorn, symbolizing new beginnings. It is celebrated with kite flying, rituals, and special sweets.
Friday, January 16	Laylat al Miraj	Islam	A Muslim holiday observing the Prophet Muhammad's spiritual journey to heaven. It involves night prayers, recitations from the Quran, and personal reflection.



Tuesday, January 20	Birthday of Guru Gobind Singh Ji	Sikhism	The birth anniversary of Guru Gobind Singh Ji, the 10th Sikh Guru, celebrated with prayers, hymns, and community services. It honors his teachings and contributions to Sikhism.
Friday, January 23	Vasanta Panchami	Hinduism	A Hindu festival heralding the arrival of spring and dedicated to Saraswati, the goddess of wisdom and learning. Devotees wear yellow, offer prayers, and engage in educational pursuits.
Tuesday February 3	Laylat al-Bara'ah	Islam	A Muslim night of repentance and prayer for forgiveness. Devotees spend the night in prayer, seeking divine mercy and reflecting on past actions.
Tuesday, February 7	Lunar New Year	Buddhism	A major celebration for various Asian cultures, marking the start of the lunar calendar with reunions, feasts, and symbolic rituals to welcome luck and prosperity.
Wednesday, February 18	Ash Wednesday	Christianity (Protestant, Roman Catholic)	marks the beginning of Lent and a significant period of penitence and preparation for Easter. While not a holy day of obligation in some denominations, Ash Wednesday is a widely observed and meaningful day of fasting and prayer.
Tuesday, March 3	Magha Puja Day	Buddhism	A significant day for Theravada Buddhists, commemorating Buddha's sermon to 1,250 disciples. Observed with prayers, chanting, and acts of merit at temples.
Monday, March 2 at sunset - Tuesday, March 3 at sunset	Purim	Judaism	A joyous Jewish festival celebrating the deliverance of the Jews from imminent doom in the ancient Persian Empire, marked by costume wearing, feasting, and gift-giving.
Tuesday, March 3	Holi	Hinduism/Sikhism	A festive Hindu and Sikh celebration of colors, Holi heralds spring's arrival and the triumph of good over evil. Participants throw colored powders and celebrate with music and dance.
Monday, March 16	Laylat al Qadr	Islam	Known as the 'Night of Power,' this is one of the holiest nights in Islam, marking when the Quran was first revealed to Muhammad.



Tuesday, March 17 at sunset - Saturday, March 21 at sunset	Ramadan	Islam	Ramadan, observed by Muslims worldwide, is a month dedicated to fasting, prayer, and reflection, commemorating the initial revelations of the Quran to Prophet Muhammad.
Thursday, March 19 at sunset - Friday, March 20 at sunset	Eid al-Fitr)	Islam	Celebrated by Muslims to mark the end of Ramadan, Eid Al-Fitr is a festive day of prayers, feasting, and charity, emphasizing community and family.
Saturday, March 21	Now-Ruz	Bahá'í	The Bahá'í New Year, Naw-Ruz coincides with the spring equinox and is celebrated with prayer, music, dancing, and symbolic meals among friends and family.
Wednesday, April 1 at sunset - Thursday, April 9 at sunset	Passover/Pesach	Judaism	Passover commemorates the Hebrews' liberation from Egyptian bondage, celebrated with a ceremonial meal called the Seder, where the story of Exodus is narrated.
Friday, April 3	Good Friday	Christianity (Protestant, Roman Catholic)	A solemn Christian holiday observing the crucifixion of Jesus Christ and his death at Calvary, central to Christian theology and reflection
Sunday, April 5	Easter	Christianity (Protestant, Roman Catholic, Orthodox)	Christians celebrate Easter to commemorate the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, an event that is the cornerstone of their faith.
Friday, April 10	Good Friday	Christianity (Orthodox)	Observed by Orthodox Christians, this day reflects on the suffering and crucifixion of Jesus Christ, featuring services that involve reading of the Gospels and veneration of the cross.
Sunday, April 12	Easter	Christianity (Orthodox)	Orthodox Christians celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ, with services that include a midnight church service, processions, and the sharing of a festive meal.
Monday, April 13 at sunset - Tuesday, April 14 at sunset	Yom HaShoah	Judaism	Holocaust Remembrance Day, a time for Jews worldwide to honor the six million Jews who perished in the Holocaust with ceremonies and moments of silence.
Tuesday, April 14	Vaisakhi	Hinduism	Vaisakhi is a major spring festival for Sikhs celebrating the formation of the Khalsa. It is also celebrated by Hindus as a solar new year.



Monday, April 20	Ridvan (1st day)	Baha'i	Ridvan is a twelve-day Bahá'í festival commemorating the declaration of Bahá'u'lláh's mission as the prophet-founder of the Bahá'í Faith.
Tuesday, April 28	Ridvan (9th day)	Baha'i	This day marks Bahá'u'lláh's declaration of his mission as a Messenger of God in the Ridvan Garden, celebrated quietly with prayers and readings

Spring/Summer 2026

Date	Holiday	Religious, Spiritual or Worldview Tradition	Description
Friday, May 1	Wesak/Vesak - Buddha Day	Buddhism	Vesak, the most sacred Buddhist holiday, celebrates the birth, enlightenment, and death of Buddha. Devotees engage in meditation, give alms, and visit temples to reaffirm their commitment to Buddhist precepts.
Saturday, May 2	Ridvan (12th day)	Baha'i	This day marks the conclusion of Ridvan, a significant Bahá'í festival celebrating the end of Bahá'u'lláh's 12-day period in the Ridvan Garden, where he proclaimed his prophethood. The festival is observed with community gatherings, prayer, and reflection on his teachings.
Thursday, May 21 at sunset - Saturday, May 23 at sunset	Shavuot	Judaism	Shavuot celebrates the revelation of the Torah to Moses and the Israelites at Mount Sinai. Traditionally observed by studying scripture and eating dairy products.
Saturday, May 23 to Sunday, May 24	Declaration of the Bab	Baha'i	Bahá'ís commemorate this day when the Báb announced in 1844 that he was the divine precursor to Bahá'u'lláh, the founder of the Bahá'í Faith.
Sunday, May 24	Pentecost	Christianity (Protestant, Roman Catholic)	Pentecost is observed by Christians as the day the Holy Spirit descended upon the Apostles, enabling them to speak in various languages, marking the birth of the Christian Church.
Tuesday, May 26 at sunset - Saturday, May 30 at sunset	Eid al-Adha	Islam	Eid al-Adha, observed by Muslims as the 'Festival of Sacrifice', commemorates the prophet Abraham's faithfulness to God as shown by his willingness to sacrifice his son. Celebrated with prayers, feasts, and charity.



Thursday, May 28 to Friday, May 29	Ascension of Baha'u'llah	Baha'i	Observance of the anniversary of Bahá'u'lláh's death in 1892, remembered by Bahá'ís through prayers and readings reflecting on his exile and teachings.
Sunday, May 31	Pentecost	Christianity (Orthodox)	Orthodox Christian celebration of the Holy Spirit's descent on the Apostles, fifty days after Easter, featuring liturgies that emphasize the gifts of the Spirit and the church's mission.
Tuesday, June 16	Al Hijra / Muharram	Islam	Al Hijra marks the Islamic New Year and commemorates Muhammad's migration from Mecca to Medina, initiating the formation of the first Muslim community.
Friday, July 10	Martyrdom of the Bab	Baha'i	Bahá'ís honor the day the Báb was executed in 1850, seen as a martyr for his teachings, which paved the way for Bahá'u'lláh's message.
Wednesday, July 29	Asalha Puja Day	Buddhism	This Buddhist festival commemorates Buddha's first sermon delivered after his enlightenment, where he set forth the Four Noble Truths and the Eightfold Path in what is known as the Dhammacakkappavattana Sutta.
Wednesday, July 22 at sunset - Thursday, July 23 at sunset	Tish a B'Av	Judaism	A solemn Jewish fast day commemorating the destruction of the first and second temples in Jerusalem, an event believed to be a pivotal moment in Jewish history.
Friday, September 4	Sri Krishna Jayanti / Janmashtami	Hinduism	Janmashtami celebrates the birth of Lord Krishna, a revered deity in Hinduism known for his wisdom and charm. Celebrations include dramatic reenactments of his life, fasting, singing, and dancing.

