|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Days of observance 2017 | | | |
| **JANUARY** | | | |
| Christian | 1 | Naming of Jesus | |
| Japanese | 1 | Ganjitsu (New Year) | |
| Sikh | 5 | Birthday of Guru Gobind Singh (Nanakshahi calendar) | |
| Christian | 6 | Epiphany (Coming of Magi to baby Jesus) | |
| Christian (Eastern Orthodox, Armenian, Rastafarian) | 6-7 | Orthodox Christmas Eve and Day | |
| Hindu | 14 | Lohri/Makar Sankrant (Day of almsgiving) | |
| Buddhist | 16 | Shinran Memorial Day | |
| Christian | 18-25 | Week of prayer for Christian unity | |
| Buddhist | 25 | Honen Memorial Day | |
| National | 27 | Holocaust Memorial Day | |
| Chinese | 28 | Yuan Tan (New Year: Year of the rooster) | |
| FEBRUARY | | | |
| Hindu | 1 | Vasanta Panchami/Saraswati Puja (Festival of Goddess of Learning) | |
| Pagan | 1 | Imbolc (Festival celebrating growing power of light) | |
| Christian | 2 | Candlemas (Presentation of Jesus in the Temple) | |
| Japanese | 3-4 | Setsubun (Bean Scattering ceremony) | |
| Buddhist | 8 or 15 | Parinirvana (Nirvana Day) | |
| Ravidassia | 10 | Birthday of Sri Guru Ravidass Ji | |
| Jewish | 11 | Tu B’Shevat (New Year for trees) | |
| Chinese | 11 | Teng Chieh (Lantern Festival) | |
| Humanist | 12 | Darwin Day | |
| Hindu | 25 | Mahashivratri (Great Shiva Night) | |
| Hindu | 28 | Birthday of Sri Ramakrishna | |
| Christian | 28 | Shrove Tuesday (Pancake Day) | |
| **MARCH** | | | |
| Christian | 1 | Ash Wednesday | |
| Christian | 1/3-13/4 | Lent | |
| Christian (and Welsh National) | 1 | St David’s Day | |
| Baha’i | 1-20 | Baha’i Fast | |
| Christian | 3 | The Women’s World Day of Prayer | |
| Humanist/Secular | 8 | International Women’s Day | |
| Jewish | 12 | Purim (Celebrates saving of Jews of Persia) | |
| Hindu | 13 | Holi (Festival of colours) | |
| Sikh | 13 | Hola Mohalla (Celebration of health & freedom) | |
| Christian (Irish National and Traveller Community) | 17 | St Patrick’s Day | |
| Pagan | 20 | Spring Equinox/Ostara | |
| Japanese | 21 | Shun-bun-No-Hi/Higan (Spring equinox) | |
| Zoroastrian (Fasli) | 21 | Jamshedi Noruz (New Year) | |
| Baha’i | 21 | Naw-Ruz (New Year) | |
| Christian | 25 | Annunciation (Lady Day) | |
| Christian | 26 | Mothering Sunday | |
| Hindu | 28 | Varsha-Pratipada (Lunar New Year) | |
| Zoroastrian/Parsee (Fasli) | 28 | Khordad Sal (Birth of Zarathustra) | |
| APRIL | | | |
| Chinese | 4 | Qing Ming (Festival of pure brightness) | |
| Hindu | 5 | Rama Navami (Birth of Rama) | |
| Buddhist, Japanese | 8 | Hanamatsuri (Flower festival celebrating Buddha’s Birthday) | |
| Christian | 9 | Palm Sunday | |
| Christian | 9-15 | Holy Week | |
| Jain | 9 | Mahavira Jayanti (Birth of Mahavira) | |
| Jewish | 11-18 | Pesach/Passover (Commemorates exodus from slavery) | |
| Christian | 13 | Maundy Thursday (Commemorates Last Supper) | |
| Christian | 14 | Good Friday (Crucifixion of Jesus) | |
| Sikh | 14 | Vaisakhi (New Year; celebrates founding of Khalsa) | |
| Sikh | 14 | Guru Nanak’s birthday (Nanakshahi calendar) | |
| Christian | 16 | Easter Sunday (Resurrection of Christ) | |
| Christian | 16 | Pascha (Orthodox Easter) | |
| Baha’i | 21/4 – 2/5 | Ridván (Baha’u’llah’s proclamation of mission) | |
| Christian (English National) | 23 | St George’s Day | |
| Muslim | 23 | Lailat ul Mi’raj (Prophet’s Night Journey) | |
| Jewish | 24 | Yom Ha-Shoah (Holocaust Day) | |
| **MAY** | | | |
| Pagan | 1 | Beltane (Celebrates marriage of Goddess and God) | |
| Buddhist | 10 | Wesak (Bodhi Day; enlightenment of the Buddha) | |
| Muslim | 11 | Lailat ul Bara’h (Night of forgiveness) | |
| Jewish | 14 | Lag B’Omer (Ending of sorrows) | |
| Christian | 15-21 | Christian Aid Week | |
| Baha’i | 24 | Anniversary of the Declaration of the Bab | |
| Christian | 25 or 28 | Ascension Day (Last appearance of Risen Christ) | |
| Zoroastrian (Shensai) | 26 | Zartusht-No-Diso (Remembrance day for Zarathustra) | |
| Muslim | 27/5 – 25/6 | Ramadan (Month of Fasting) | |
| Baha’i | 29 | Anniversary of the Ascension of Baha’u’llah | |
| Chinese | 30 | Tuen Ng (Dragon Boat Festival) | |
| Jewish | 31/5 – 1/6 | Shavuot (Commemorates revelation of Torah) | |
| JUNE | | | |
| Christian | 4 | Pentecost (Celebrates gift of Holy Spirit) | |
| Humanist/Secular | 5 | World Environment Day | |
| Christian | 15 | Thanksgiving for Holy Communion (Anglican) | |
| Sikh | 16 | Martyrdom of Guru Arjan | |
| Christian | 18 | Corpus Christi (Catholic) | |
| Pagan | 21 | Midsummer (Summer solstice) | |
| Humanist | 21 | World Humanist Day | |
| Muslim | 21 | Lailat-ul-Qadr (Night of power) | |
| Muslim | 25 | Eid-ul-Fitr (End of Ramadan) | |
| Hindu | 25 | Ratha Yatra (Chariot journey) | |
| JULY | | | |
| Baha’i | 9 | Martyrdom of the Bab | |
| Buddhist | 15 | Asalha Puja (Dharma Day) | |
| Rastafarian | 23 | Birthday of Haille Selassie | |
| AUGUST | | | |
| Pagan | 1 | Lughnasadh/Lammas (Harvest festival) | |
| Jewish | 1 | Tisha B’Av (Day of mourning) | |
| Chinese | 4 | Mid-autumn Festival | |
| Christian | 6 | The Transfiguration (Confirmation of Jesus’ divine nature) | |
| Hindu/Sikh | 7 | Raksha Bandhan (Festival of brotherly protection) | |
| Zoroastrian (Muktad) | 9 – 18 | Farvardigan (Departed Souls Day) | |
| Japanese | 13 – 16 | O-Bon (Day of the Dead) | |
| Hindu | 15 | Janamashtami/Krishna Jayanti (Birthday of Krishna) | |
| Christian | 15 | Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary | |
| Jain | 18 | Paryushana-Parva (Renewal of faith) | |
| Hindu | 25 | Ganesh-Chaturthi (Birthday of Ganesh) | |
| **SEPTEMBER** | | | |
| Muslim | 1 | | Eid-ul-Adha (Festival of sacrifice) |
| Chinese | 5 | | Chung Yuan/Yue Laan (Festival of hungry ghosts) |
| Rastafarian | 11 | | Ethiopian New Year |
| Hindu | 21-30 | | Navaratri (Nine nights)/Durga Puja/Dusserah (Rama’s victory over Ravana) |
| Muslim | 21 | | Al-Hijra (New Year) |
| Jewish | 21 | | Rosh Hashanah (New Year) |
| Japanese | 22 | | Shubun No Hi/Higan (Autumn equinox) |
| Pagan | 22 | | Mabon (Autumn equinox) |
| Chinese | 28 | | Birthday of Confucius |
| Jewish | 12 | | Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement) |
| OCTOBER | | | |
| Muslim | 1 | | Ashura (Sunni, fast day; Shia, martyrdom of Hussain) |
| Jewish | 5-11 | | Sukkot (Harvest Festival) |
| Jewish | 13 | | Simchat Torah (Rejoicing in the Law) |
| Hindu/Sikh/Jain | 19 | | Divali (Festival of Lights/Mahavira’s nirvana) |
| Baha’i | 20 | | Anniversary of the Birth of the Bab |
| Chinese | 28 | | Chung Yeung (Autumn remembrance festival) |
| Pagan | 31 | | Samhain (Celtic New Year and festival of the dead) |
| NOVEMBER | | | |
| Christian | 1 | | All Saints’ Day |
| Christian | 2 | | All Souls’ Day |
| Rastafarian | 2 | | Anniversary of the Crowning of Haile Selassie |
| Sikh | 4 | | Birthday of Guru Nanak (lunar calendar) |
| Baha’i | 12 | | Anniversary of the Birth of Baha’u’llah |
| UK National | 12 | | Remembrance Sunday |
| Japanese | 15 | | Shichi-Go-San (Children’s Shrine-visiting Day) |
| Sikh | 24 | | Martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur |
| Christian (Scottish National) | 30 | | St Andrew’s Day |
| **DECEMBER** | | | |
| Muslim | 1 | | Milad-un-Nabi (Birthday of Muhammad) (Shi’a 6/12) |
| Christian | 3 | | Advent Sunday (Start of the Christian year) |
| Buddhist | 8 | | Bodhi Day |
| Jewish | 13-20 | | Hanukkah (Festival of lights) |
| Pagan | 21 | | Yule (winter solstice) |
| Christian | 24 | | Christmas Eve |
| Christian | 25 | | Christmas Day (Birthday of Jesus) |
| Zoroastrian (Fasli) | 26 | | Zartusht-No-Diso (Death of Zarathustra) |
| Japanese | 31 | | Omisoka (Seeing off Old Year) |
| National/Scottish | 31 | | New Year’s Eve/Hogmanay |

Detailed articles about all of the mentioned festivals can be found on the on-line *Days of Observance calendar*: [www.egfl.org.uk/religion](http://www.egfl.org.uk/religion) Please note: the dates for this calendar were obtained from a variety of internet sources. They are as accurate as possible.

\*Jewish and Muslim festivals begin at sundown on the previous day listed.