|  |
| --- |
| 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.