

RELIGIOUS AND CULTURAL OBSERVANCES

Religious Holy Day Calendar 2026–2027

2026

DATE	HOLIDAY	TRADITION	OBSERVANCE AND RECOMMENDED ACCOMMODATIONS
Aug. 12–13	Tisha B'Av	Judaism	Jewish students and employees may be fasting all day. <i>Recommended:</i> avoid scheduling important academic deadlines, events, or activities on this date.
Aug. 25–26	Mawlid al-Nabi dates can vary by a day	Islam	Muslim students and employees may be fasting.
Sept. 4	Sri Krishna Jayanti date may vary	Hinduism	<i>Recommended:</i> avoid scheduling major academic deadlines on this day, since it is likely that Hindu students will be operating on very little sleep. Some may fast during the first day.
Sept. 8–15	Paryushana-Parva	Jainism	Jain students and employees may be fasting.
Sept. 11–13	Rosh Hashanah first two days	Judaism	A 48-hour holiday that begins at sundown, typically observed with long prayers in synagogue (shul) and festive meals. Students may travel home or to relatives and friends and may miss classes starting earlier in the day. Some refrain from using electronic devices, studying, writing, editing, or handing in papers. Some members of the Jewish community observe Rosh Hashanah for 24 hours only. <i>Recommended:</i> avoid scheduling important academic deadlines, events, or activities on these dates. If planning an event, provide food accommodation as requested (kosher restrictions apply). Since work is not permitted during the holiday, allow ample time to make up assignments.

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Sept. 20–21	Yom Kippur	Judaism	A nearly 26-hour fast that begins at sundown, typically observed with long prayers in synagogue (shul). A large festive meal is eaten one to two hours before sunset, followed by festive break-fasts when the holiday concludes. Students may travel home or to relatives and friends and may miss classes starting earlier in the day. Some refrain from using electronic devices, studying, writing, editing, or handing in papers. <i>Recommended:</i> avoid scheduling important academic deadlines, events, or activities on these dates. Since work is not permitted during the holiday, allow ample time to make up assignments.
Sept. 26 – Oct. 2	Sukkot also called Sukkos	Judaism	A week-long festival beginning at sundown; the first 48 hours are observed with long prayers in synagogue (shul) and festive meals in a temporary hut called a sukkah. Students may travel home or to relatives and friends and may miss classes starting earlier in the day. Some refrain from using electronic devices, studying, writing, editing, or handing in papers. Some members of the Jewish community observe Sukkot for 24 hours only. <i>Recommended:</i> avoid scheduling important academic deadlines, events, or activities on these dates. Since work is not permitted during the holiday, allow ample time to make up assignments. <i>Note: Sukkot through Shmini Atzeret is a nine-day holiday bookended by holy days. During the intermittent days, known as Chol Hamoed, students may attend class, study, and complete school assignments.</i>
Oct. 3	Shmini Atzeret also called Shmini Atzeres	Judaism	A 48-hour holiday that begins at sundown, typically observed with long prayers in synagogue (shul) and festive meals. Students may travel home or to relatives and friends and may miss classes starting earlier in the day. Some refrain from using electronic devices, studying, writing, editing, or handing in papers.
Oct. 4	Simchat Torah 24 hours; also called Simchas Torah	Judaism	<i>Recommended:</i> avoid scheduling important academic deadlines, events, or activities on this date. Since work is not permitted during the holiday, allow ample time to make up assignments.
Oct. 11–19	Navaratri	Hinduism	Some Hindu students and employees will pray and fast.
Nov. 6–10	Diwali Deepavali	Jainism, Sikhism, Hinduism	Hindu employees will likely request the day off on this date.

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Nov. 10	Birth of the Báb	Bahá'í	<i>Recommended:</i> avoid scheduling important academic deadlines, events, or activities on this date. Bahá'í employees suspend work on this day and will likely request it off.
Nov. 11	Birth of Bahá'u'lláh	Bahá'í	<i>Recommended:</i> avoid scheduling important academic deadlines, events, or activities on this date. Bahá'í employees suspend work on this day and will likely request it off.
Dec. 4–12	Hanukkah Chanukah	Judaism	An eight-day holiday celebrated by lighting the menorah; other customs include eating fried potato pancakes called latkes and fried donuts. One abstains from work while candles burn, typically one hour at nightfall during the eight days. Otherwise, work is permitted.
Dec. 24–25	Christmas	Christianity (RC, P, O)	<i>Recommended:</i> avoid scheduling important academic deadlines, events, or activities on this date. Christian employees will likely request this day off.
Dec. 26 – Jan. 1	Kwanzaa	African American	<i>Recommended:</i> avoid scheduling important academic deadlines, events, or activities on these dates. African American employees will likely request these days off.

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Jan. 1	Gantan-sai	Shinto	<i>Recommended:</i> avoid scheduling important academic deadlines, events, and activities on this date (a work holiday).
Jan. 7	Feast of the Nativity Orthodox Christmas	Orthodox Christian	Many Eastern Orthodox employees will probably request this day off.
Feb. 6–20	Chinese New Year	Confucian, Daoist, Buddhist	<i>Recommended:</i> avoid scheduling important academic deadlines, events, and activities on these dates. Chinese employees may request this day off.
Feb. 8 – Mar. 8	Ramadan	Islam	<i>Recommended:</i> avoid scheduling major academic deadlines during this time. Students and employees observing Ramadan fast during daylight hours 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).
Feb. 10	Ash Wednesday Lent begins	Christianity (RC, P)	Provide food accommodation as requested.
Mar. 2–20	'Alá' (Loftiness) Bahá'í fast; 19 days, sunrise to sunset	Bahá'í	<i>Recommended:</i> avoid scheduling important academic deadlines, events, and activities on these dates. Bahá'í students and employees may be fasting.
Mar. 9–10	Eid al-Fitr dates can vary by a day	Islam	<i>Recommended:</i> avoid scheduling important academic deadlines, events, or activities on these dates. Employees will likely ask to take a vacation 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).
Mar. 15	Great Lent begins Clean Monday	Orthodox Christian	Students and employees may be fasting.
Mar. 21	Palm Sunday	Christianity (RC, P, Eastern Orthodox)	<i>Recommended:</i> avoid scheduling important academic deadlines, events, and activities. Orthodox Christian employees who work on Sundays may ask for this day off.
Mar. 22	Holi Festival of Colors; date may vary	Hinduism	Celebrated over two days by throwing colored powder and colored water.

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Mar. 23	Purim	Judaism	A 24-hour holiday celebrated with the reading of the Megillah (Book of Esther) on the eve and again during the day. Toward evening a festive meal is eaten. Work is permitted.
Mar. 26	Good Friday	Christianity (RC, P)	Provide food accommodation as requested. Meat (fish is not considered meat) is prohibited at meals for some.
Mar. 28	Easter / Pascha	Christianity (RC, P), Orthodox Christian	<i>Recommended:</i> avoid scheduling important academic deadlines, events, and activities. Christian employees who work on Sundays may ask for this day off.
Apr. 19	Mahavira-Jayanti	Jainism, Sikhism, Hinduism	Religious accommodation may be requested.
Apr. 21	Riḍván first day of the Most Great Festival	Bahá'í	<i>Recommended:</i> avoid scheduling important academic deadlines, events, and activities on the 1st, 9th, and 12th days of Riḍván, as work is suspended for Bahá'ís.
Apr. 22–29	Pesach / Passover	Judaism	An eight-day holiday bookended by two 48-hour holidays. The first begins on the eve at sunset with a seder and festive meal that can stretch for a few hours; the holiday is also observed with prayers in synagogue (shul) and festive meals. The second set of 48 hours begins at sunset on the eve of the seventh day, observed with prayers in synagogue and festive meals. Students may travel home or to relatives and friends and may miss classes starting earlier in the day. Some refrain from using electronic devices, studying, writing, editing, or handing in papers. <i>Recommended:</i> avoid scheduling important academic deadlines, events, or activities on these dates. Since work is not permitted during the holiday, allow ample time to make up assignments.
Apr. 29	Riḍván ninth day	Bahá'í	<i>Recommended:</i> avoid scheduling important academic deadlines, events, and activities on the 1st, 9th, and 12th days of Riḍván, as work is suspended for Bahá'ís.
Apr. 30	Holy Friday	Orthodox Christian	Great Friday is a strict day of fasting for many Greek Orthodox Christians in the United States. <i>Recommended:</i> avoid scheduling important academic deadlines, events, and activities.
May 2	Riḍván twelfth day	Bahá'í	<i>Recommended:</i> avoid scheduling important academic deadlines, events, and activities on the 1st, 9th, and 12th days of Riḍván, as work is suspended for Bahá'ís.

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May 3–4	Yom HaSho'ah	Judaism	Academics and work are permitted. Provide food accommodation as requested (kosher restrictions apply).
May 17	Eid al-Adha date can vary by a day	Islam	<i>Recommended:</i> avoid scheduling important academic deadlines, events, or activities on this date. Employees will likely ask to take a vacation 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).
May 24	Declaration of the Báb	Bahá'í	<i>Recommended:</i> avoid scheduling important academic deadlines, events, and activities. Work is suspended for Bahá'ís.
May 29	Ascension of Bahá'u'lláh	Bahá'í	<i>Recommended:</i> avoid scheduling important academic deadlines, events, and activities. Work is suspended for Bahá'ís.
June 11–13	Shavuot	Judaism	<i>Recommended:</i> avoid scheduling important academic deadlines, events, and activities on the first and last days of the holiday. Provide food accommodation as requested (kosher restrictions apply, although it is customary to eat dairy).
Aug. 11–12	Tisha B'Av	Judaism	Jewish students and employees may be fasting all day. <i>Recommended:</i> avoid scheduling important academic deadlines, events, or activities on this date.