

Calendar of Religious Holidays MnDOT Office of Equity & Diversity



Codes: **Christian** **Hindu/Sikh** **Judaism** **Islam**

Religious Holidays	2016	2017
Holi	Wednesday, March 23rd	Monday, March 13th
Pesach/Passover	Sunset Friday, April 22nd to sunset Saturday, April 30th	Sunset Monday, April 10th to Sunset Tuesday, April 18th
Easter	Sunday, March 27th	Sunday, April 16th
Vaisak Sikh	Wednesday, April 13th	Thursday, April 13th
Shavu'ot/Feast of Weeks	Sunset Saturday, June 11th to Monday, June 13th	Sunset Tuesday, May 30th to Thursday, June 1st
Eid-al-Fitr	Sunset Monday, July 4th to Wednesday, July 6th	Sunset Saturday, June 24th to Monday, June 26th
Raksha Bandhan	Thursday, August 18th	Monday, August 7th
Krishna Janmashtami	Thursday, August 25th	Tuesday, August 15th
Rosh Hashanah/New Year	Sunday, October 2nd at sunset through Tuesday, October 4th	Wednesday, September 20th at sunset through Friday, September 22nd
Yom Kippur	Sunset of Tuesday, October 11th through Wednesday October 12th	Sunset of Friday, September 29th through Saturday, September 30th
Sukkot/Festival of Booths	Sunset of Sunday, October 16th through Sunday, October 23rd	Sunset of Wednesday, October 4th through Wednesday, October 11th
Eid-al-Adha	Sunset of Saturday, September 10th through Monday, September 12th	Sunset of Thursday, August 31st through Saturday, September 2nd
Shmini Atzeret/Eighth Day of Assembly	Sunset of Sunday, October 23rd through Monday, October 23th	Sunset of Wednesday, October 11th through Thursday, October 12th
Simchat Torah/Rejoicing of the Torah	Sunset of Monday, October 24th through Tuesday, October 25th	Sunset of Thursday, October 12th through Friday, October 13th
Dussehra (Vijaya Dashami)	Tuesday, October 11th	Saturday, September 30th
Diwali (Rows of Lights)	Sunday, October 30th through Thursday, November 3rd	Thursday October 19th through Monday October 23rd
Christmas	Sunday, December 25th	Monday, December 25th

Link to calendar at, <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/diversity-inclusion/documents/religious-holidays.pdf>

Description of Religious Holidays

Christmas Christian: This day celebrates Jesus Christ's birth over 2000 years ago. The most widely observed Christian Festival of the year. In most communities it is a family day.

Diwali Sikh, Hindu: "Row of Lights" is the Hindu New Year. Diwali lasts for five days.

Dussehra (Vijaya Dashami) Hindu: Most important Hindu festivals, it marks the victory of Goddess Durga over the demon Mahishasur. It is celebrated 9 nights & 10 days Diwali is celebrated 20 days after Dussehra

Easter Christian: Celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Many Christians welcome Easter Sunday with a sunrise service.

Eid-ul-Adha Muslim: Celebration honoring the end of Hajj (annual pilgrimage to Mecca which is completed at least once in each person's lifetime) and is celebrated for up to three days.

Eid-ul -Fitr Muslim: Marks the end of fasting during the holy month of Ramadan and is celebrated for up to three days.

Holi Hindu: A spring festival also known as the festival of colors or the festival of love. The holiday signifies the victory of good over evil. The celebrations begin the night before.

Krishna Janmashtami Hindu: celebration of the birth of the Hindu deity Krishna, the eighth avatar of Bishnu. The festival is celebrated on the 8th day of the Krishna Paksha (dark fortnight) of the month of Shravan (August- September) in the Hindu calendar.

Pesach/Passover Judaism: Celebrates the exodus of Israelites from Egypt. The holiday also marks the beginning of the harvest season. Pesach lasts for eight days.

Raksha Bandhan Hindu: Celebrates the love and duty between brothers and sisters. It is religiously observed for the brother's protection of his sister and the sister prays for her brother's wellbeing by tying a rakhi (sacred thread) on her brother's wrist.

Rosh Hashanah/New Year's Judaism: Marks the first and second day of the Jewish New Year. It is also the anniversary of the creation of the world. Some Jews do not work during the holiday.

Shavu'ot/Feast of Weeks Judaism: Celebrates the revelation at Mount Sinai, it is a harvest festival. Some Jews do not work on this holiday.

Shmini Atzeret/Eighth Day of Assembly Judaism: The eighth day of sukkot and a holiday of assembly. Some Jews do not work on this holiday.

Simchat Torah/Rejoicing of the Torah Judaism: Celebrates the conclusion of the annual cycle of public Torah readings and the beginning of a new cycle. Some Jews do not work on this holiday.

Sukkot/Festival of Booths Judaism: Commemorates the 40 years the Israelites wandered through the Sinai Desert, it is also a harvest festival. The holiday lasts for seven days. Some Jews do not work during the first or second day of the holiday.

Vaisaki Sikh, Hindu: Major harvest festival for people of the Punjab region, this day is also observed as a New Years. It is observed as a religious and cultural celebration.

Yom Kippur Judaism: The Day of Atonement is the holiest and most solemn of all days in the Jewish calendar. Some Jews do not work and fast from Sunset to Sunset.

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****Find out more information about religious holiday dates contact Rosemarie Merrigan, MnDOT's Office of Equity and Diversity at rosemarie.merrigan@state.mn.us ****

Note: These religious events only span the four major religions. The calendar does not include religions that have smaller numbers of followers.

For more information on religious holidays, dates and calendars, explore the following websites:

- BBC Religions at, <http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/>
- Judaism 101 Jewish Holidays at, <http://www.jewfaq.org/holiday0.htm>
- Time and Date Calendar at, <http://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/us/>