

Religious Festivals Calendar 2008

- ◆ A popular and engaging tool for promoting religious diversity in the workplace.
- ◆ 133 festivals and 12 religions represented.
- ◆ Each paragraph describes the meaning of the festival and how it is celebrated today.
- ◆ Traditional greetings given where appropriate, so employees can greet each other in the relevant language.
- ◆ Weblinks connect to introductory information on each faith.
- ◆ Available for intranet sites or downloadable directly into Outlook calendars.
- ◆ Pricing structure for commercial, public and voluntary sector organisations
- ◆ Update available for each new year at reduced rate.

21 March

Holi (Hindu)

Holi is celebrated on the day after the full moon in the Hindu month of Phalgun, and can last up to five days. It celebrates spring and commemorates various events in Hindu mythology. Holi is a time to throw off the gloom of winter and rejoice in the colours and liveliness of spring. It can be an opportunity to disregard social norms and indulge in general merrymaking. During Holi, Hindus may attend public bonfires, spray friends and family with coloured dyes and generally go a bit wild in the streets.

Holi Hai! (Hindi for 'Enjoy Holi').

For more information on Hinduism [click here](#)



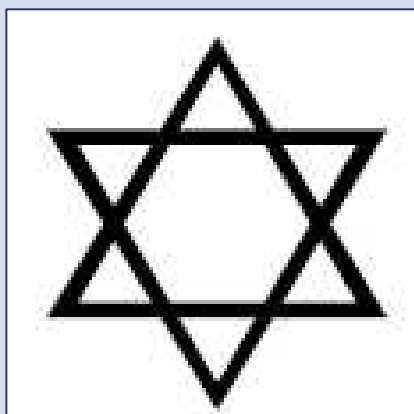
21 March

Purim (Jewish)

Purim is a festival celebrating religious freedom. It commemorates events that took place 2,500 years ago when the Jewish queen of Persia, Esther, foiled Haman's plans to wipe out the whole Jewish community. This is one of the most colourful Jewish festivals. Many people adopt fancy dress and when the Book of Esther is read in the synagogue, the name of Haman is drowned out by the congregation using rattles and hooters. It is traditional to eat cakes filled with poppy seeds called Hamantashen ('Haman's hats').

Gut Yom Tov! (Yiddish for 'Good holiday').

For more information on Judaism [click here](#)

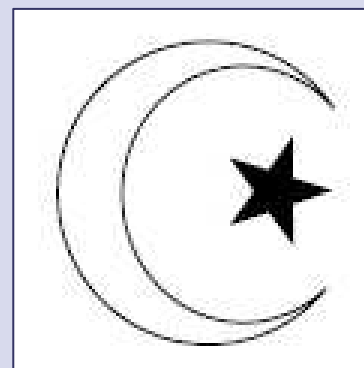


16 August

Lailat-il-Bara'h (Muslim)

The 'Night of Repentance' falls on the 14th of Sha'ban, the eighth month of the Muslim calendar, two weeks before Ramadan begins. On this night, all who repent of their sins are forgiven. Some believe this is the night God sets each person's path for the coming year. The night is spent in prayer, asking God's forgiveness, guidance and blessings. Some fast in preparation for this night and give to charity, others visit the graves of their relatives. **Lailat-il Bara'h Mubarak! (Arabic for 'Wishing you a happy and a blessed Lailat-al-Bara'h').**

For more information on Islam [click here](#)



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