

Feasts and Festivals around the World

Culturally Significant Events

Religiously Significant Dates

Eastern Christian Religions

Commonly referred to as the “Orthodox” Church – followers in Greece, Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Bulgaria, Romania, Georgia, Serbia, Armenia, Ethiopia and Egypt.

Name Day Celebration – followers celebrate Saints’ Days, after whom a person is named. This may be a more significant day of celebration than birthdays, particularly for 1st generation migrants.

Easter usually falls at a different time in the year to the date celebrated by Western Christianity. The Orthodox Churches in Eastern Europe continued to follow the Julian calendar for Easter celebrations, after the Catholic Church adopted the Gregorian calendar in 1582.

2013: 5 May

2014: same date as Western Christianity 20 April

2015: 12 April

2016: 1 May

2017: same date as Western Christianity 16 April

2018: 18 April

Christmas may be celebrated on 7 January by those followers of Eastern Christianity known as the “Old Calendarists”, who continue to follow the Julian calendar, and by followers of the Coptic Orthodox Church of Alexandria (Egypt).

Islam

Communities who identify as Moslem

Ramadan: an important annual month-long fast occurring on different dates each year. Although Ramadan is always on the same day of the Islamic (lunar) calendar, the date on the Gregorian (solar) calendar varies from year to year.

2013: 9 July – 7 August

2014: 28 June – 27 July

2015: 18 June – 16 July



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2016: 6 June – 5 July
2017: 27 May – 25 July
2018: 16 May – 14 June

New Year: some Moslems may fast during daylight hours.

2013: 4 November
2014: 25 October
2015: 15 October
2016: 3 October
2017: 22 September
2018: 12 September

Judaism

The Jewish calendar date begins at sundown of the night before. All holiday observances begin at sundown on the secular dates listed, with the following day being the first full day of the holiday. Jewish calendar dates conclude at nightfall. The Hebrew or Jewish calendar is luni-solar – the months are based on lunar months, but years are based on solar years.

Pesach (Passover): Passover is related to the Christian observances of Good Friday and Easter

2013: 26 March
2014: 15 April
2015: 4 April
2016: 23 April
2017: 11 April
2018: 31 March

Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement): many Jewish people in Australia spend the day fasting and praying. The theme centers on atonement and repentance.

2013: 14 September
2014: 4 October
2015: 23 September
2016: 12 October
2017: 30 September
2018: 19 September



Hanukkah (Chanukah or Festival of Lights): celebration of the survival of Judaism

2013: 28 November

2014: 17 December

2015: 7 December

2016: 25 December

2017: 13 December

2018: 3 December

FEASTS AND FESTIVALS AROUND THE WORLD



Name Day – Celebration of the Saint’s Day after whom a person is named (mainly Eastern Christianity)

INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY OF AUSTRALIA

Easter, Christmas and New Year are celebrated commonly in the Anglo-Celtic tradition.

National Aboriginal and Islander Observance Day - 2nd Friday of September

AFGHANISTAN

Islamic religious dates

New Year	21 March
Revolution Day	28 April
Labour Day	1 May
Independence Day	19 August

AUSTRALIA

Easter same as Western Christianity

New Year	1 January
Australia Day	26 January
Labour Day	2nd Monday in March
ANZAC Day	25 April
Queen's Birthday	2nd Monday of June
Melbourne Cup Day (Vic Only)	1st Tuesday Nov.
Christmas	25 December
Boxing Day	26 December

BURMA (Myanmar)

Independence Day	14 January
Union Day	12 February
Peasants Day	2 March
Armed Forces Day	27 March
New Year	varied during April
Worker's day	1 May
Martyr's day	19 July
Christmas	25 December

CAMBODIA

New Year	13 April
Ancestor's Day (Pchum Ben) - commences from the first waning moon of the tenth month of the Cambodian lunar calendar.	

CHINA

Chinese New Year	Jan./ Feb.
'Pure Brightness' (sweeping of the graves)	4,5,6 April
Dragon Boat Festival	5th day of the 5 th lunar month
Hungry Ghost Festival	14 or 15 day of the 7th lunar month
International Labour Day	1 May
Full Moon Festival	15th day of the 8th lunar month
National Day	1 October

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Easter same as Western Christianity

Name Days are also celebrated

New Year	1 January
St Nicholas's Day	6 December
Christmas	25 December



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ESTONIA

Easter same as Western Christianity

New Year	1 January
JAANIPÄEV (summer solstice)	24 June
Christmas	25 December

ETHIOPIA

Many followers of Eastern Christianity – best to ask the client or family

Christmas	7 January
World Malaria Day	23 April
Africa industrialisation Day	20 November

FRANCE

Easter same as Western Christianity

New Year	1 January
Labour Day	1 May
Victory Day	8 May
Ascension Day	varies - May
Whit Monday	varies - May
National Day	14 July
Assumption Day	15 August
All Saints Day	1 November
Armistice Day	11 November
Christmas	25 December

GERMANY

Easter same as Western Christianity

New Year	1 January
Epiphany	6 January
Carnival (Rose) Day	22 February
Labour Day	1 May
Ascension Day+Father's Day	varies - May
Whit Monday	varies - May
Corpus Christi Day	varies - June
Assumption Day	15 August
Oktober Fest (beer,sausages,chicken)	September / October
Day of German Unity	3 October
All Saints Day	1 November
Day of Repentance	mid - November
Christmas	25 December



GREECE

Eastern Christianity for Easter

Name Days are also celebrated

New Year	1 January
Epiphany	6 January
Independence Day	25 March
Labour Day	1 May
Holy Spirit Day	7 June
Assumption of Holy Virgin	15 August
National Day	28 October
Christmas	25 December

HUNGARY

Easter same as Western Christianity

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Celebrate Name Days

New Year	1 January
National Day	15 March
St Stephen's Day	20 August
October Revolution	23 October
Mikulas	6 December
Christmas	25 December

INDIA

Due to the diversity of cultures and religious beliefs, please check for special days with the family / client. Some people follow Western Christian traditions.

Republic Day	26 January
Independence Day	15 August

IRAN

Islamic religious dates

There are many religious observances linked to yearly holidays and the dates & months change each year. Ask the client / family for advice.

Revolution Day	10 February
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IRELAND

Easter same as Western Christianity

New Year	1 January
St Patrick's Day	17 March



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June Bank Holiday	first Monday
August Bank Holiday	first Monday
October Bank Holiday	last Monday
Christmas	25 December
St Stephen's Day	last Tuesday of December

ITALY

Easter same as Western Christianity

New Year	1 January
Epiphany	6 January
Carnival Time (Mardi Gras)	February
Liberation Day	25 April
Labour Day	1 May
Assumption Day	15 August
All Saints Day	1 November
Immaculate Conception	8 December
Christmas	25 December

ISRAEL

The Sabbath (occurs every week and commences Friday night - no work is done on Saturday) and all festivals commence at sunset the previous day and conclude the following sunset.

Purim	early March
Pesach (Passover)	end of March/mid April
Israel Independence Day	mid May
New Year - Rosh Hashava	1st to last week in September
Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur)	September / October
Hanukkah - Festival of Lights	December - lasts for 8 days

JAPAN

New Year	1 January
Adults Day	15 January
National Foundation Day	11 February
Vernal Equinox Day	3rd week of March
Greenery Day	29 April
Constitution Memorial Day	3 May
National Holiday	4 May
Children's Day	5 May
Respect-of-the-Aged Day	15 September
Autumnal Equinox Day	23 September
Sports Day	11 October
Culture Day	3 November
Labour Thanksgiving Day	23 November
Emperor's Birthday	23 December



LATVIA

Easter same as Western Christianity

Name days are celebrated

New Year	1 January
National Mourning Day	14 June
St John's Day	24 June
Independence Day (WWII)	18 November
Christmas	25 December

MALAYSIA

New Year	1 January
Chinese New Year	Jan / Feb
1st Day of Ramadan	varies - February
Hari Raya Puasa	varies - March
Labour Day	1 May
Hari Raya Haji	varies - May
Birthday of H.M. The Yang di-Pertuan Agong	early June
Vesak Day	varies - May / June
1st Day of Muharram	varies - June
National Day	31 August
Deepavali	varies - Oct. / Nov.
Mohammed's Birthday	varies - Sep. / Oct.
Christmas	25 December

MALTA

Easter same as Western Christianity

New Year	1 January
Feast of St Paul	1 February
Carnivale	February
Freedom Day	31 March
Feast of our Lady of Sorrows	a week before Good Friday
Holy Thursday	day before Good Friday
Assumption of our Lady	15 August
Feast of our Lady of Victories	8 September
Independence Day (1964)	21 September
All Souls Day	2 November
Republic Day	13 December
Christmas	25 December

NETHERLANDS (previously referred to as Holland)

Easter same as Western Christianity

New Year	1 January
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Queen's Birthday (Queen Beatrix)	30 April
St Nicholas's Day	5 December
Christmas	25 December

PAKISTAN

Mainly Islamic religious dates but some followers of Western Christianity as well.

Pakistan Day	23 March
Labour Day	1 May
Independence Day	14 August

POLAND

Easter same as Western Christianity

New Year	1 January
Polish Constitution (1791)	3 May
Independence Day	11 November
Christmas	25 December

RUSSIA

Eastern Christianity for Easter

New Year	1 or 14 January
Independence Day	22 January
Motherland Day	23 February
Women's Day	8 March
Children's and Freedom Day	23 April
Labour Day	1 May
Russia Day	12 June
Republic Day	23 October
Day of National Unity	4 November
Christmas	25 Dec or 7 January

SERBIA

Eastern Christianity for Easter

Celebrate Name Days

New Year	1 or 14 January
St Sava (spirituality day)	27 January
Statehood Day	15 February
Labour Day	1 May
Victory Day	9 May
St Vitus Day	28 June
Christmas	25 Dec or January 7



SPAIN

Easter same as Western Christianity

New Year	1 January
Epiphany	6 January
Labour Day`	1 May
Assumption of Mary	15 August
Hispanic Day	12 October
All Saints Day	1 November
Constitution Day	6 December
Christmas Day	25 December

SRI LANKA

Due to the diversity of cultures and religious beliefs, please check for special days with the family / client. Some people follow Western Christian traditions.

National Day	4 February
Sinhala & Tamil New Year	14 April
Labour Day	1 May

SUDAN

Islamic religious dates

There are both Sunni and Shi'a Moslems in Sudan, so it is best to ask the client or family what religious dates are of significance to them.

THAILAND

New Year	1 January
Maghu Puja	February
Chakri Memorial Day	6 April
Songkran Festival Day	mid - April
Songkran Festival	following 2 days
Coronation Day	5 May
Visakhu Puja	May
Asalha Puja	July
Khoa Pansa	July
Queen's Birthday	12 August
Chulalongkorn Day	23 October
Constitution Day	10 December

TURKEY

Islamic religious dates

New Year	1 January
National Sovereignty Day	23 April
Labour Day	1 May



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Youth Celebration Day	19 May
Feast of Ramadan for one month	
Victory Day	30 August
Republic Day	29 October

UKRAINE

Eastern Christianity for Easter

Name days are celebrated

New Year	1 or 14 January
Christmas	7 January
Women’s Day	8 March
Solidarity of Workers	1 & 2 May
Victory Day	9 May
Constitution Day	28 June
Independence Day	24 August
Christmas	25 December or 7 January

UNITED KINGDOM

Easter same as Western Christianity

New Year	1 January
New Year (Scotland)	4 January
Orangeman’s Day (Northern Ireland)	12 July
Christmas Day	25 December
Boxing Day	26 December

VIETNAM

There are many Catholic and Buddhists

Catholics celebrate Easter and Christmas on the same dates as Western Christianity

Chinese New Year	varies -late Jan. / early Feb.
Full Moon Festival	15th day of the 8th lunar month

