

RELIGIOUS & CULTURAL EVENTS FOR 2015



Spiritual Health Victoria

Month	Event	Religion	Event	Religion	Event	Religion	Event	Religion	Event	Religion	Event	Religion	Event	Religion	Event	Religion	Event	Religion				
JAN	3 rd (Sat) Mawlid an-Nabi Prophet Mohammed's Birthday	ISLAMIC	5 th (Mon) Birth of Guru Gobind Singh Ji Tenth Guru of the Sikh faith who sacrificed his life & family for human liberty, equality and fraternity.	SIKH	5 th (Mon) Mahayana New Year	BUDDHIST	6 th (Tues) Epiphany	CHRISTIAN	7 th (Wed) Nativity of Christ Eastern Orthodox Churches that use the old Julian Calendar celebrate Christmas on this day	CHRISTIAN	8 th (Thurs) Ratha Yatra Festival	HINDU	26 th (Mon) Australia Day / Survival Day (public holiday)	Australian, Aboriginal, Indian								
FEB	13 th (Mon) National Apology Day Recalling Australian government's 2008 apology to the Aboriginal Stolen Generations	Australian, Aboriginal, Indian	15 th (Sun) Nirvana Day Commemorating the death of the Buddha (Parinirvana)	BUDDHIST	17 th (Tues) Maha Shivaratri Sri Caitanya	HINDU	18 th (Wed) Ash (Wed) Lent is the 40 day period of fasting and reflection leading up to Easter	CHRISTIAN	19 th (Thurs) – 29 th (Mon) Lunar New Year (Chinese New Year / Vietnamese New Year) Year of the Goat (Chinese Zodiac)	Chinese, Vietnamese												
MAR	5 th (Thurs) Purim Reading of story from Scroll of Esther with celebrations of survival and gifts to others	JEWISH	5 th (Fri) Mahaprabhu Appearance	HINDU	5 th (Thurs) Magha Puja This day commemorates an important event in the life of the Buddha as revered teacher (Thai/Cambodian)	BUDDHIST	6 th (Fri) Holi Hindu Spring Festival, in honour of Lord Krishna	HINDU	21 st (Sat) Naw Ruz New Year	BAHA'I	14 th – 22 nd (Sat – Sun) ... National Close the Gap Day / Harmony Day (UN International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination)	CULTURAL DIVERSITY WEEK	21 st (Sat) Rama Navami	HINDU								
APR	3 rd (Fri) Mahavir Jayanti Solemn remembrance of Christ's suffering	JAIN	3 rd (Fri) Good Friday Solemn remembrance of Christ's suffering	CHRISTIAN	4 th (Sat) Hanuman Jayanti	HINDU	4 th (Sat) Theravadin New Year	BUDDHIST	4 th – 11 th (Sat – Sat) Passover Celebrating deliverance and freedom from slavery, and exodus from Egypt	JEWISH	5 th (Sun) Easter Commemorates the resurrection of Jesus Christ	CHRISTIAN	8 th (Wed) Buddha's Birthday (Mahayana Tradition)	BUDDHIST	10 th (Fri) Eastern Orthodox Good Friday	CHRISTIAN	12 th (Sun) Eastern Orthodox Easter	CHRISTIAN	14 th (Tues) Vaisakhi Sikh New Year Celebrates initiation of Khalsa Panth (Brotherhood of the Pure), donning 5 articles of faith.	SIKH	25 th (Sat) Anzac Day Centenary, no public holiday	Australian
MAY	3 rd (Sun) Narasimhadeva Appearance	HINDU	4 th (Mon) Buddha Day / Vesak Day Commemorating birth, enlightenment and death of the Buddha	BUDDHIST	16 th (Sat) Isra and Miraj Night journey and ascension of the Prophet	ISLAMIC	24 th (Sat) Pentecost Celebrates gift of the Holy Spirit, birthday of the Christian Church	CHRISTIAN	24 th / 25 th (Sat / Sun) Shavut Combined harvest festival, celebration of the gift of Torah	JEWISH	26 th (Mon) National Sorry Day Renewal of reconciliation efforts	Australian, Aboriginal, Indian	27 th May – 3 rd June (Wed – Wed) ... National Reconciliation Week Anniversaries of 1967 Referendum (May 27 th 1967) and landmark Mabo decision (3 rd June 1992)	Australian, Aboriginal, Indian	29 th (Fri) ... Ascension of Baha'u'llah Marks death of founder of Baha'i faith, Baha'u'llah in 1892.	BAHA'I	31 st (Sun) ... Eastern Orthodox Pentecost	CHRISTIAN				
JUN	1 st (Mon) Buddha Day / Vesak Day (UN observance)	BUDDHIST	16 th (Tues) Martyrdom of Sri Guru Arjan Dev Ji First martyr of the Sikh faith and compiled the Sikh scriptures	SIKH	18 th (Thurs) Ramadan Begins Holy month, begins at dawn, commemorating revelation of the Qur'an to the Prophet	ISLAMIC	21 st (Sun) Summer / Winter solstice	JULY	2 nd (Thurs) Dharma Day Commemoration of the Buddha's 1 st Teaching	BUDDHIST	7 th – 14 th (Tues – Tues) NAIDOC Week Celebrating history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders	Australian, Aboriginal, Indian	18 th – 21 st (Sat – Tues) Eid al-Fitr End of Ramadan, celebrated with a festive meal, charity and good deeds.	ISLAMIC	31 st (Fri) Guru Purnima	HINDU						
AUG	15 th (Sat) Assumption / Dormition of Mary Commemorates the death, burial and ascension of the Virgin Mary	CHRISTIAN	28 th (Fri) Vu Lan / Ullumbana	BUDDHIST	29 th (Sat) Raksha Bandhan	HINDU	5 th (Sat) Krishna Janmashtami	HINDU	14 th / 15 th (Mon / Tues) Rosh Hashanah (Jewish New Year) Celebrates the birth of the world marked by the sound of the Shofar (ramshorn), prayer and 10 days of repentance	JEWISH	17 th (Thurs) Ganesh Chaturthi	HINDU	21 st (Mon) Hajj Season of pilgrimage to Mecca. A tenet of Islam, Muslims gather at this holy place to worship.	ISLAMIC	22 nd (Tues) Radhastami	HINDU	23 rd (Wed) Yom Kippur Day of Atonement, holiest day of the year: 25 hour fast devoted to prayer and repentance	JEWISH	23 rd – 26 th (Wed – Fri) Eid-ul-Adha Abraham proved himself by sacrificing his only son; he was replaced with a ram	ISLAMIC	28 th (Mon) Sukkot Remember of reliance on Divine when in the desert; Jews build and dwell in booths	JEWISH
OCT	6 th (Tues) Simchat Torah Celebrating the end of the cycle of Torah readings by dancing with the scrolls	JEWISH	13 th – 21 st (Tues – Wed) Navaratri Festival of the divine Mother, honouring Durga and the female Deities	HINDU	15 th (Thurs) Hijrah Islamic New Year, marking Prophet Mohammed's move from Mecca to Medina.	ISLAMIC	20 th (Tues) Birth of the Bab Baha'i followers celebrate their Prophet Baha'u'llah's birth date	BAHA'I	20 th (Tues) Guruship of Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji Sikh Scripture bestowed Guruship by Guru Gobind Singh Ji-1708. SGGS is revered as the Sikhs' eternal, living Guru.	SIKH	24 th (Sat) Ashura Marks Noah's departure from the ark and Moses' exodus from Egypt	ISLAMIC	28 th (Wed) Kathina End of rainy season retreat for Theravada Buddhists	BUDDHIST								
NOV	1 st (Sun) All Saints Day Honouring saints known and unknown, who led lives of holiness and devotion to God	CHRISTIAN	11 th (Wed) Remembrance Day Minute's silence and services held in memory of fallen soldiers from world wars	CHRISTIAN	11 th (Wed) – 16 th (Mon) Diwali / Deepavali Hindu Festival of lights over 5 days, celebrating victory of light over darkness. Festival can include the Govardhan Puja. Sikhs celebrate Guru Hargobind Sahib's release from prison. He also secured the release of 52 Hindu kings. Others before self.	HINDU	25 th (Wed) Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji's birthday Founder of Sikh faith, and the first Guru, stressing equality of humans, women and the Universal Message of Oneness	HINDU, SIKH														
DEC	8 th (Tues) Bodhi Day Commemorates the day that the historical Buddha attained enlightenment, or "Bodhi" in Sanskrit & Pali.	BUDDHIST	7 th – 14 th (Mon – Mon) Chanukah Chanukah celebrates the recapture and rededication of the Temple in Jerusalem in the time of the Greeks.	JEWISH	22 nd (Tues) Mawlid an-Nabi Prophet Mohammed's Birthday	ISLAMIC	25 th (Fri) Christmas Day Christmas celebrates the birth of Jesus, holiness through prayer and carols, themes of peace and goodwill, and the sharing of gifts.	CHRISTIAN	Jewish festivals begin at sundown on the previous day and, except for Day of Atonement, are celebrated for 2 days. Muslim & Buddhist festival dates are estimated and may vary depending on sighting of the lunar crescent/moon. Only major religious and cultural dates are included in this calendar. There may be others of importance to individuals of particular faiths or communities. It is recommended that personal explanations and memories of traditions are sought and shared.													