

HIGH HOLY DAYS CALENDAR 2022–23 & 2023–24

Codes

~ = Some holy days begin and end at sunset.

^ = Certain Hindu and Muslim holy days are calculated on a lunar calendar and are approximate.

* = Observance may include ceasing from labor, defined as commerce, writing, work, and travel.

NOTE: This calendar adapted and used with permission from [Grinnell College Center for Religion, Spirituality and Social Justice](#)

July 2022		
DATE	HIGH HOLY DAY	OBSERVANCES
July 9–10 (Muslim)	Eid al-Adha [^] ~ NIS	Special prayers are held at the mosque on the morning of July 9 and an evening feast is held the same day. Those traveling to the mosque would be away from campus on July 9.

September 2022		
DATE	HIGH HOLY DAY	OBSERVANCES
25 Jewish	Erev Rosh HaShanah ~ (Eve of the Jewish New Year)	A festive meal and religious service are held in the evening. From sundown on Sept. 25 through the end of the festival, all labor — school and other work as well as travel — ceases.
26–27 Jewish	Rosh HaShanah (sundown to nightfall: Jewish New Year)	Religious services are held during the day. Those observing the second day of Rosh Hashanah would maintain their abstention from labor until nightfall on Sept. 27. Those traveling to a synagogue or home for this festival may need to arrive before sundown on Sept. 25 and depart after the festival has ended.

October 2022

DATE	HIGH HOLY DAY	TRADITION
4 Jewish	Erev Yom Kippur/Kol Nidre <u>~</u> (Eve of the Day of Atonement)	The Day of Atonement, perhaps the most important of Jewish holidays, is devoted to prayer, repentance, and fasting. A special meal is eaten before sundown, which marks the beginning of the fast and of religious services. All labor ceases throughout the holy day.
5 Jewish	Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement)	Religious services are held throughout the day and the fast ends at nightfall. Those traveling to a synagogue or home may need to arrive well before sundown on Oct. 5.
9-17 Jewish	Sukkot	Sukkot/Shemini Atzeret: Sukkot is an eight-day harvest-related festival that has its origins in the Torah. A non-permanent booth is constructed during these days for people to spend time in for things such as eating, prayer, relaxing, and more. Some people might refrain from work and classes on the first and last days of the holiday.
24 Hindu	Diwali (Festival of Lights)	Those traveling to a temple for Puja — traditional ritual worship — may be away from campus all day Oct. 24.
31 Pagan	Samhain (New Year)	A ritual will be held — often, but not always — in the evening. Those traveling to a Pagan community gathering would be away from campus on Oct. 31.

November 2022

DATE	HIGH HOLY DAY	TRADITION
12 Baha'i	Birth of Baha'u'llah	Baha' celebrates the Birth of Baha'u'llah as one of the nine yearly holidays on which they take the day off and focus on their faith and worship. Believers often celebrate in their homes or at public worship centers. Those traveling to a temple or celebration may be off campus for the day.

December 2022

DATE	HIGH HOLY DAY	TRADITION
8 Buddhist	Bodhi Day (Buddha's Enlightenment)	A full day of remembrance and meditation. Those traveling to a temple for meditation would be away from campus the entire day of Dec. 8.
18–26 Jewish	Chanukah 🕯️ (Festival of Lights/Rededication)	An eight-day celebration commemorating the rededication of the Temple in Jerusalem after its defilement in 164 BCE. It is customary during Chanukah to eat foods fried in olive oil.

January 2023

DATE	HIGH HOLY DAY	TRADITION
6 Christian	Epiphany	This date is also known as Befana Day; commemorates the revelation of God through Jesus Christ and marks the time the three wise men arrived in Bethlehem and presented gifts to the baby Jesus. General Practices: Prayer, festive meals, offerings, gifts
7 Orthodox Christian	Christmas	Holiday with significant work restriction Christmas is an annual celebration commemorating the birth of Jesus of Nazareth, the Messiah whose message and self-sacrifice began the Christian religion. General Practices: Many celebrate this holiday by attending church services, holding celebratory meals, and visiting family. Date details: Eastern Orthodox Christmas is determined by the Julian calendar which regulates ceremonial cycle of the Eastern Orthodox Christian churches. Recommended Accommodations: Because this holiday typically falls during winter break, academic accommodations may not be required.
22 Cultural	Lunar New Year	Holiday with significant work restriction This is the most important of traditional Chinese holidays. General Practices: Families gather together to spend the evening preparing boiled dumplings and festive meals and giving of money to children in red envelopes.

January 2023

DATE	HIGH HOLY DAY	TRADITION
		Date details: Corresponds to the New Moon in Aquarius, which can fall from late January to mid-February Recommended Accommodations: Avoid scheduling important academic deadlines, events, and activities on this date. Many Chinese employees will probably request this day off.

February 2023

DATE	HIGH HOLY DAY	TRADITION
18 Hindu	Maha Shivaratri ▲ —	In a spirit of devotion, fasting, prayer, and keeping vigil begins late evening/early morning of Feb. 17. Those traveling to a temple for puja — ritual worship — would be away from campus the entire day Feb. 18.
22 Christian	Ash Wednesday (Lent Begins)	A somber service is held. Some may fast — abstain from food and drink — for the entire day.

March 2023

DATE	HIGH HOLY DAY	TRADITION
8 Hindu	Holi (Generally celebrated in the evening)	Celebrating the arrival of spring. Those traveling to a temple would be away from campus on March 8.
22– April 20 Muslim	Ramadan	Ramadan is the ninth month of the Muslim calendar and the holy month of fasting, prayer, reflection, and community. It begins and ends with the appearance of the crescent moon.

April 2023

DATE	HIGH HOLY DAY	TRADITION
5–13 Jewish	Pesach/Passover ~* (First Night of Passover Seder)	It is customary throughout the eight-day festival to refrain from eating bread or other wheat or common grain products, including grain fermentation products. The first two and last two days of the holiday are generally considered festival days, and those who are observant cease all labor on them. Those traveling to synagogue, temple, or home may be away from campus April 5–7 and/or April 12–13.
7 Christian	Good Friday	A somber service is often held. Some may fast from Good Friday until Easter — April 7 until April 9. Those traveling to services would be away from campus the entire day.
9 Christian	Easter (Sunday)	A joyful service is held in churches. Those traveling to a church or home for this holiday would be away from campus April 9.
16 Orthodox Christian	Easter/Pascha (Orthodox)	A joyful service is held in churches. Those traveling to a church or home for this holiday would be away from campus April 16.
21–22 Muslim	Eid al-Fitr	Begins at the sighting of the crescent moon, the Feast of Breaking the Fast marking the end of Ramadan.

May 2023

DATE	HIGH HOLY DAY	TRADITION
1 Pagan	Beltane - May Day	A celebratory ritual is held. Those traveling to a Pagan community gathering would be away from campus on May 1.

2023–2024

September 2023

DATE	HIGH HOLY DAY	OBSERVANCES
15 Jewish	Erev Rosh HaShanah ≈ (Eve of the Jewish New Year)	A festive meal and religious service are held in the evening. From sundown on Sept. 15 through the end of the festival, all labor — school and other work as well as travel — ceases.
16-17 Jewish	Rosh HaShanah (sundown to nightfall: Jewish New Year)	Religious services are held during the day. Those observing the second day of Rosh Hashanah would maintain their abstention from labor until nightfall on Sept. 17. Those traveling to a synagogue or home for this festival may need to arrive before sundown on Sept. 15 and depart after the festival has ended.
24 Jewish	Erev Yom Kippur/Kol Nidre ≈ (Eve of the Day of Atonement)	The Day of Atonement, perhaps the most important of Jewish holidays, is devoted to prayer, repentance, and fasting. A special meal is eaten before sundown, which marks the beginning of the fast and of religious services. All labor ceases throughout the holy day.
25 Jewish	Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement)	Religious services are held throughout the day and the fast ends at nightfall. Those traveling to a synagogue or home may need to arrive well before sundown on Sept. 25.
29 - Oct. 7 Jewish	Sukkot	Sukkot/Shemini Atzeret: Sukkot is an eight-day harvest-related festival that has its origins in the Torah. A non-permanent booth is constructed during these days for people to spend time in for things such as eating, prayer, relaxing, and more. Some people might refrain from work and classes on the first and last days of the holiday.

October 2023

DATE	HIGH HOLY DAY	TRADITION
31 Pagan	Samhain (New Year)	A ritual will be held — often, but not always — in the evening. Those traveling to a Pagan community gathering would be away from campus on Oct. 31.

November 2022

DATE	HIGH HOLY DAY	TRADITION
12 Hindu	Diwali (Festival of Lights)	Those traveling to a temple for Puja — traditional ritual worship — may be away from campus all day Nov. 12.
12 Baha'i	Birth of Baha'u'llah	Baha' celebrates the Birth of Baha'u'llah as one of the nine yearly holidays on which they take the day off and focus on their faith and worship. Believers often celebrate in their homes or at public worship centers. Those traveling to a temple or celebration may be off campus for the day.

December 2023

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22–April 20 Muslim	Ramadan	Ramadan is the ninth month of the Muslim calendar and the holy month of fasting, prayer, reflection, and community. It begins and ends with the appearance of the crescent moon.
25 Hindu	Holi (Generally celebrated in the evening)	Celebrating the arrival of spring. Those traveling to a temple would be away from campus on March 25.
29 Christian	Good Friday	A somber service is often held. Some may fast from Good Friday until Easter — March 29–31. Those traveling to services would be away from campus the entire day.
31 Christian	Easter (Sunday)	A joyful service is held in churches. Those traveling to a church or home for this holiday would be away from campus.

April 2024

DATE	HIGH HOLY DAY	TRADITION
9–10 Muslim	Eid al-Fitr	Begins at the sighting of the crescent moon, the Feast of Breaking the Fast marking the end of Ramadan.
22–30 (Jewish) 23	Passover/Pesach* And the Second Day of Passover	It is customary throughout the eight-day festival to refrain from eating bread or other wheat or common grain products, including fermentation products. The first two and last two days are generally considered festival days, and those who are observant cease all labor on them. Those traveling to synagogue or home may be away from campus April 22–24 and/or April 29–30.

May 2024

DATE	HIGH HOLY DAY	TRADITION
1 Pagan	Beltane - May Day	A celebratory ritual is held. Those traveling to a Pagan community gathering would be away from campus on May 1.
5 Orthodox Christian	Easter/Pascha (Orthodox)	A joyful service is held in churches. Those traveling to a church or home for this holiday would be away from campus on May 5.

Codes

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