

DECEMBER CULTURAL DATES

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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4	5 International Volunteer Day	6 St. Nicholas Day	7	8 Bodhi Day - Buddhist Feast of the Immaculate Conception	9	10 Human Rights Day
11 Masá'il (15th Month)	12 Our Lady of Guadalupe - Mexico	13 Aga Khan's Birthday - Islam Ismaili	14	15 Navidades - Puerto Rico	16 Posadas - Mexico	17
18 International Migrants Day	19	20	21 Yule - Wicca December Solstice Tohji-Tasai-Shinto	22	23 Joseph Smith's Birthday - Mormon	24 Christmas Eve
Hanukkah Posadas - Mexico						
25 Christmas Day	26 Boxing Day Death of Prophet Zarathustra - Zoroastrian Wren Day/St. Stephen's Day - Ireland Junkanoo - Bahamas	27 Kwanzaa	28	29	30 Sharaf (16th Month)	31 Gahambar Maidyarem - Zoroastrian Omisoka - Japan Hogmanay - Scotland New Year's Eve
Hanukkah						



Cultural Celebrations



Religious & Spiritual Celebrations



Awareness Day



For more details about each of these cultural dates, check out the other side of this calendar!



Cultural Celebrations



Religious & Spiritual Celebrations



Awareness Day

	December 2 - International Day for the Abolition of Slavery - A day to recognize the existence of modern slavery and the fact that more than 40 million people worldwide are victims.
	December 5 - International Volunteer Day - A unique chance for volunteers and organizations to celebrate their efforts, to share their values, and to promote their work among their communities.
	December 6 - St. Nicholas Day - He is the patron saint of Russia and came from a town in Turkey. Being known as a protector of children, the tradition of leaving shoes out in the hopes of receiving treats is practiced in the Dutch, German and Eastern European communities.
	December 8 - Bodhi Day - Buddhist -In Japanese Zen, Bodhi Day is called "Rohatsu" and is the observance of enlightenment of the historical Buddha. Zen monasteries observe this day with a meditation retreat lasting several days. On the last night of a Rohatsu sesshin, monks and students often sit in meditation until dawn, as the Buddha did 25 centuries ago.
	December 8 - Feast of the Immaculate Conception - Many Christians, particularly Catholics, commemorate this day, in honour of the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary.
	December 10 - Human Rights Day -A day celebrating the United Nations General Assembly adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR).
	December 11 - Masá'il (15th Month) - The first day of the fifteenth Bahá'í month. The English translation of Masá'il (Arabic) is Questions.
	December 12 - Our Lady of Guadalupe - Mexico - An important religious festival in Mexico. It commemorates the appearance of the Blessed Virgin to an Indian boy in 1531. Processions, dances, and visits are led to her Mexico City shrine.
	December 13 - Aga Khan's Birthday- Islam Ismaili - He is the religious head of the Ismaili sect.
	December 15 - Navidades - Puerto Rico - Marks the beginning of the Christmas season and ends with Three Kings Day on January 6th.
	December 16-24 - Posadas - Mexico - A nine-day traditional celebration throughout Mexico. Processions of pilgrims go door to door asking for posada, which means shelter, commemorating the search by Mary and Joseph for shelter.
	December 18 - International Migrants Day - Throughout human history, migration has been a courageous expression of the individual's will to overcome adversity and to live a better life.
	December 18-26 - Hanukkah - Hanukkah, also known as the Festival of Lights, is an eight-day Jewish observance to remember the Jewish people's struggle for religious freedom. It begins at sundown on the first day and ends at nightfall on the final day.
	December 21 - Yule - Wicca - The winter solstice is an ancient pagan holiday known for rituals and traditions that celebrate nature and setting one's intentions for the coming season.
	December 21 - Tohji-Tasai-Shinto - The sun is of central importance in Japan and this day celebrates the end of the Yin period of the Sun in its declining strength and the growing power of the Yang period.
	December 21 - December Solstice - The winter solstice in the Northern Hemisphere is when it is the darkest day of the year.
	December 23 - Joseph Smith's Birthday - Mormon - He was the American Mormon Leader, founder of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.
	December 24 - Christmas Eve - The evening or entire day before Christmas Day, the festival commemorating the birth of Jesus. The idea of Jesus being born at night is reflected in the fact that Christmas Eve is referred to as Heilige Nacht (Holy Night) in German, Nochebuena (the Good Night) in Spanish and similarly in other expressions of Christmas spirituality. Christmas Eve around the world, includes the gathering of family and friends, the singing of Christmas carols, the illumination and enjoyment of Christmas lights, trees, and other decorations, the wrapping, exchange and opening of gifts, and general preparation for Christmas Day.
	December 25 - Christmas Day - Many Christians in Canada mark the birth of Jesus Christ on December 25, which is known as Christmas Day where many exchange gifts and enjoy festive meals.
	December 26 - Boxing Day - Boxing Day is a holiday for many Canadians and it gives people the chance to take part in the post-Christmas sales or watch ice hockey games.
	December 26 - Death of Prophet Zarathustra - Zoroastiran - This day marks the death of the founder of the Zoroastrian faith.
	December 26 - Wren Day/St. Stephen's Day - Ireland - On Wren Day, boys in wren costumes go from house to house with a captured wren, singing songs and gathering coins. These coins help to pay for a big celebratory feast in the evening.
	December 26 - Junkanoo - Bahamas - A festival that combines elements of Mardi Gras, mummers' parades, and ancient African tribal rituals. Continues on January 1.
	December 26-January 1 - Kwanzaa - A day where celebrations often include songs and dances,African drums, storytelling, poetry reading, and a large traditional meal.
	December 30 - Sharaf (16th Month) - The first day of the sixteenth Bahá'í month. The English translation of Sharaf (Arabic) is Honour.
	December 31-January 4 - Gahambar Maidyarem - Zoroastrian - This day celebrates the creation of animals. It is also a time for the equitable sharing of food.
	December 31 - Omisoka - Japan - To usher in the new year, families clean their homes, eat toshi-koshi buckwheat noodles in the hope that one's life will be stretched out as long as these noodles. As midnight approaches, Shinto temples around the country begin ringing out the old year, sounding the temple bell 108 times, signifying the 108 human worldly desires removed by the striking of the bell. Most offices are closed Dec 30 - Jan 4 or Dec 29 - Jan 3.
	December 31 - Hogmanay - Scotland -The Scottish New Year, Hogmanay is derived from the French phrase meaning 'Lead to the mistletoe'. Fire ceremonies, banging of pots and pans at midnight and bringing bread, salt and coal to their hosts to symbolize life, hospitality and warmth mark this exuberant occasion.