

## August 2008

Aug 1

 **Lammas** ([Christian](#))

The celebration of the 'first fruits' when bread made from the first harvest is placed on the altar.

Aug 1

New Moon

Aug 10

 **Tisha B'av** ([Jewish](#)) - Day of Mourning

A solemn festival of fasting and mourning when Jews remember the destruction of the second Temple in Jerusalem by the Romans in AD 70.

Aug 16

Full Moon

Aug 16

 **Raksha Bandhan** ([Hindu](#))

A Special festival for brothers and sisters. The festival that celebrates brotherhood and love. Girls tie 'rakhi', twisted red and gold threads, around the wrists of their brothers who, in return, usually give their sisters a present.


Aug 18

 **Lailat al Barai'ah** ([Muslim](#))

Islamic Night of Forgiveness

The 'Night of Records', when Allah is believed to register the deeds of humankind and to determine their fates for the coming year. It is a time for penitence, fasting and all night prayer.

Aug 24

 **Krishna Janmashtami** ([Hindu](#)) August / September

The celebration of Lord Krishna's birthday. He is famous for making mischief and playing tricks on his friends. He is also a great hero who helps and looks after people.

Aug 31

 **Lailat al Mi'raj** ([Muslim](#))

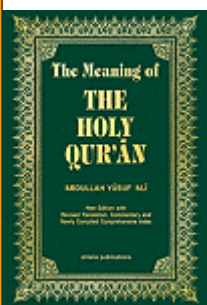




The Night Journey

The festival celebrates Prophet Muhammad's journey from Mecca to Jerusalem in a single night on a winged creature called Buraq.

## September 2008

Sept/Oct

 **Harvest Festival** ([Christian](#))

Sept 1		<p>☾ <b>Ramadan</b> begins (continues to October 13th) (<a href="#">Muslim</a>)</p> <p>The month of fasting from dawn to sunset. During Ramadan, Muslims celebrate the time when the verses of the Qur'an were revealed to the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him).</p> <p>Note that in the Muslim calander, a holiday begins on the sunset of the previous day, so observing Muslims will celebrate Ramadan on the sunset of Sunday, the 31st of August.</p>
Sept 3		<p>ॐ <b>Ganesh Chaturthi</b> (<a href="#">Hindu</a>)</p> <p>Hindus celebrate the birthday of Lord Ganesh, the elephant-headed God.</p>
Sept 8	<p>✝ <b>Nativity of Virgin Mary</b> (<a href="#">Christian</a>)</p>	
Sept 15	Full Moon	
Sept 22	<b>Autumn Begins</b>	
Sept 28		<p><b>Laylat ul-Qadr</b> (Laylat al Kadar)(<a href="#">Muslim</a>)</p> <p>On the 27th day of Ramadan. Muslims celebrate the festival of Laylat ul-Qadr. Its name means 'The Night of Power'. It marks the night in which the Qur'an was first revealed to the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) by Allah.</p>
Sept 29	New Moon	
Sept 30 - Oct 1		<p><b>Rosh Hashanah</b> (<a href="#">Jewish</a>)</p> <p>Jewish New Year's Day, 5767 years from the creation of the world. This is the most important time in the Jewish year. It is also the beginning of ten special days, called the <i>Days of Penitence</i>. This is the time when Jews say sorry to God for all the bad things they have done in the past year.</p>
Sept 30 - Oct 8		<p><b>Navaratri and Durgapuja</b> begins (<a href="#">Hindu</a>)</p> <p>Navarati means 'Nine Lights' and this festival is devoted to the Durga, the Goddess of Motherhood. Navaratri symbolises the triumph of good over evil and marks the start of autumn. <a href="#">Find out more</a></p>

## October 2008

Oct 2



**Eid-ul-Fitr** (Id-ul-Fitr) ([Muslim](#))

Eid ul-Fitr or Id-UI-Fitr is a Muslim holiday that marks the end of Ramadan, the Islamic holy month of fasting. Eid is an Arabic word meaning "festivity", while Fitr means "to break the fast" (and can also mean "nature", from the word "fitrah") and so symbolizes the breaking of the fasting period. Eid is celebrated over a three day period in Islamic countries.

Oct 7



**Pavarana** / Sangha Day ([Buddhist](#))

The last day of the Rains Retreat (the Vassa) is known as Pavarana Day or 'Leaving the Vassa'. Also known as Sangha Day

[Find out more](#)

Oct 9



**Dasera** (Dassehra) ([Hindu](#))

People act out the story of Rama's victory over demon Ravana.

[Find out more](#)

Oct 9



**Yom Kippur** (Day of Atonement) ([Jewish](#))

This is the final day of the Ten Days of Penitence, which began in the New Year (Rosh Hashanah). It is also called the Day of Atonement when Jews ask for forgiveness and look to the future. It is the holiest day of the year in the Jewish calendar.

Oct 14

Full Moon

Oct 14 - 20



**Sukkot** / Sukkoth begins ([Jewish](#))

A harvest festival commemorating the 40 years that the Jews spent in the wilderness on the way from slavery in Egypt to freedom in the Promised Land.

Oct 22



**Simchat Torah** ([Jewish](#)) 9th day of Sukkot

This festival marks the completion of the annual cycle of reading from the Torah.

Oct 28

New Moon

Oct 28



**Diwali** (Sikh/ [Hindu](#)) Hindu New Year

The most important date in the Hindu Calendar, the story of Rama and Sita is retold and people spend time with their families.

[Find out more](#)

Oct 31

**Hallowe'en** (National) (Secular)

## November 2008

Nov 1



### [All Saints' Day](#) (Christian)

This day provides a chance to offer thanks for the work and witness of all saints, recognising that not all are known or specially celebrated.

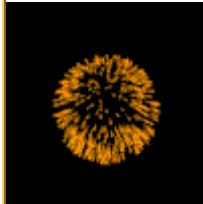
Nov 2



### [All Souls Day](#) (Christian)

On this day in particular the departed are remembered and prayers on their behalf are offered.

Nov 5



### [Bonfire Night](#) (National) (Secular)

Every year people celebrate Bonfire Night with firework displays and blazing bonfires. It remembers an event which happened 400 years ago.

Nov 5



### [Kathina Day](#) (Buddhist)

In the Theravada Buddhist tradition, Kathina Day is celebrated by the lay community offering monks new Kathina robes at the end of their three month Rains Retreat. The date of the festival varies according to when the rainy season arrives in different countries.

[Find out more](#)

Nov 9



### [Remembrance Sunday](#) (National)

The Sunday nearest to Armistice Day, devoted to remembering the dead of the two World wars and subsequent wars.

Nov 13

Full Moon

Nov 13



### [Birthday of Guru Nanak](#) (1469) (Sikh)

This day celebrates the first Sikh guru, and is marked by reading the Sikh holy book, the Granth Sahib.

*Note* : The birth date of Guru Nanak was 15 April 1469, but it is traditionally celebrated in November.

Nov 13



### [Sangha Day](#) (Full Moon Day) (Buddhist)

Sangha Day is a celebration of friendship. Buddhists come together to celebrate their worldwide community, the Sangha.

Nov 27









New Moon


Nov 30



### [St Andrew's Day](#) (Christian)

This holy day of the Patron Saint of Scotland celebrates Scottish culture and history.

Nov 30	 <b>Advent (Christian)</b> The start of the Christian year and the Christian Church New Year. Four Sundays before Christmas.
<b>December 2008</b>	
Dec 6-9	 <b>Hajj</b> or holy pilgrimage ( <b>Muslim</b> ) Start of the annual pilgrimage to Mecca that Muslims should complete at least once in their lifetime. It is one of the 5 pillars of Islam.
Dec 8	 <b>Feast of Immaculate Conception (Christian)</b> Celebrates the (mainly Roman Catholic) doctrine that Mary herself was born free from the Original Sin, leaving her sinless for the conception and bearing of Jesus.
Dec 8	 <b>Bodhi Day (Buddhist)</b> Some Buddhists (eg Pure Land followers) celebrate Gautama's attainment of Enlightenment on this day under the Bodhi tree in Bodhgaya, North India.
Dec 9	 <b>Eid-al-Adha (Id al-Adha) / The Festival of Sacrifice (Muslim)</b> The festival marks the end of the Hajj (holy pilgrimage to Mecca).
Dec 12	Full Moon
Dec 21	<b>Yule (Pagan)</b> Yule is the time of the winter solstice, when the sun child is reborn, an image of the return of all new life born through the love of the Gods.
Dec 22 - 29	 <b>Hanukkah</b> begins (alternate spelling Chanukah) ( <b>Jewish</b> ) Celebrates the rededication of the Temple in Jerusalem after it was recaptured from the Syrian Greeks by the Maccabee brothers in 165 BCE. <a href="#">Find out more</a>
Dec 24	 <b>Christmas Eve (Christian)</b>
Dec 25	 <b>Christmas (Christian)</b> Celebrates the birth of Jesus, who Christians believe to be the son of God.
Dec 26	 <b>St Stephen's Day (Christian)</b> St Stephen, the first Christian martyr, is celebrated on this day by Roman Catholics. The day is also called the Feast of

	Stephen.
Dec 27	New Moon
Dec 29	 <b>Muharram</b> ( <a href="#">Muslim</a> ) First day of New Year