

Key events and dates for New Zealand ethnic communities 2024

The calendar below includes significant cultural and faith days recognised by New Zealand’s ethnic communities. It is not an exhaustive list – there will be other events and dates which are not included.

Please note, dates with a single asterisk (*) may vary by country of origin, while those marked with two asterisks (**) may vary based on the Lunar cycle.

January

Date(s)	Holiday/Event	Description	Communities
15/01/2024 – 18/01/2024**	Pongal	Multi-day Hindu harvest festival celebrated by Tamils in India and Sri Lanka. Dedicated to the Hindu sun god Surya.	Tamil Hinduism
17/01/2024	Birthday of Guru Gobind Singh Ji	The 10th and final Sikh master. Created the Khalsa (the Community of the Pure) and declared the Scriptures (Guru Granth Sahib) to be the Sikh's Guru from that time on.	Tamil Hinduism Sikh
25/01/2024 – 27/01/2024*	Mahayana New Year	Buddhist New Year	Buddhism
27/01/2024	International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust UNESCO	Memorial for the six million Jews killed by the Nazis between 1933 and 1945.	Judaism

February

Date(s)	Holiday/Event	Description	Communities
10/02/2024 – 12/02/2024**	Losar/Tibetan New Year	Three-day festival where people visit monasteries, make offerings, receive blessings, and take part in various activities symbolising purification and welcoming in the new.	Buddhism
10/02/2024**	Lunar New Year Tết (Vietnamese Lunar New Year) Seollal (Korean New Year)	Celebration of the arrival of spring and the beginning of a new year on the lunisolar calendar.	Chinese Vietnamese Korean
21/02/2024	International Mother Language Day United Nations	Promoting awareness of linguistic and cultural diversity and promoting multilingualism.	All

March

Date(s)	Holiday/Event	Description	Communities
10/03/2024 - 08/04/2024**	Ramadan	A period of fasting and spiritual growth and is one of the five “pillars of Islam”	Islam
19/03/2024 - 20/03/2024	Naw-Rúz	Naw-Rúz is the first day of the Bahá’í calendar year and one of 11 holy days for adherents of the Bahá’í Faith	Baha'i
20/03/2024**	Nowruz	Nowruz is a two-week celebration that marks the beginning of the New Year in Iran's official Solar Hijri calendar.	Iranian Persian
21/03/2024	Race Relations Day	Race Relations Day is celebrated annually on the same day as the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination United Nations .	All
25/03/2024	Holi	A Hindu festival known as festival of colour, spring, and love.	Hinduism

April

Date(s)	Holiday/Event	Description	Communities
01/04/2024 – 04/04/2024**	Easter	For Christians, Easter is the oldest Christian festival, celebrating the resurrection of Jesus.	Christian
9/04/2024 - 10/04/2024**	Eid Al-Fitr	An important religious holiday that celebrates the end of Ramadan, the Islamic holy month of fasting. Also known as the festival of the 'Breaking of the Fast'.	Islam
13/04/2024**	Vaisakhi	Solar New Year Festival.	Sikhism Hinduism Punjabi
13/04/2024 – 15/04/2024**	Songkran	Thai new year and national holiday.	Thai
13/04/2024 – 16/04/2024**	Khmer New Year	Cambodian new year.	Cambodian
23/04/2024 - 30/04/2024	Pesach/Passover	An eight-day festival for families and communities to remember the time when Hebrew slaves were led by Moses out of Egypt to freedom.	Judaism
24/04/2024 - 26/04/2024*	Theravada New Year	The Buddhist New Year depends on the country of origin or ethnic background of the people.	Buddhism

May

Date(s)	Holiday/Event	Description	Communities
14/05/2024	Girmit Day	Commemorating the first Indian settlers in Fiji.	Fijian Indian
23/05/2024	Vesak	Celebrating the birth, enlightenment, and death of the Buddha.	Buddhism
25/05/2024	Africa Day	Annual commemoration of the foundation of the Organisation of African Unity.	Members of the African Union
28/05/2024	Ascension of Baha'ullah	Baha'is observe the anniversary of the death in exile of Baha'u'llah, the founder of the Baha'i faith, on May 29, 1892, outside Akko (now northern Israel).	Baha'i

June

Date(s)	Holiday/Event	Description	Communities
11/06/2024 - 13/06/2024	Shavuot	Shavuot, also known as Feast of Weeks, commemorates the anniversary of the day God gave the Torah and Commandments to the nation of Israel assembled at Mount Sinai. Marks the end of Pesach.	Judaism
16/06/2024 - 20/06/2024**	Eid al-Adha	Honours the willingness of Ibrahim to sacrifice his son Ismail as an act of obedience to God's command.	Islam
20/06/2024	World Refugee Day United Nations	Organised by the United Nations. Designed to celebrate and honour refugees from around the world	All

July

Date(s)	Holiday/Event	Description	Communities
07/07/2024**	Islamic New Year	The Islamic New Year, known as Al-Hijra, marks the beginning of Muharram, the first month of the Muslim lunar calendar. Al-Hijra means the 'migration' of the Prophet Muhammad from Mecca to Medina.	Islam

September

Date(s)	Holiday/Event	Description	Communities
11/09/2024	Enkutatash	Ethiopian New Year and national holiday.	Ethiopian
17/09/2024	Moon Festival	Harvest festival. Also known as Mid-Autumn Festival.	Chinese

October

Date(s)	Holiday/Event	Description	Communities
03/10/2024 - 04/10/2024	Rosh Hashanah	Jewish New Year festival, marked by the blowing of the horn (shofar) which begins the 10days of penitence culminating in Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement). It is the beginning of the holiest time of the year for Jews, and the anniversary of the creation of the world.	Judaism

November

Date(s)	Holiday/Event	Description	Communities
1/11/2024	Diwali and Mahavira Nirvana	Diwali, also known as Festival of Lights, is one of the most celebrated Hindu festivals, commemorating the victory of good over evil.	Hinduism
2/11/2024	Birth of the Bab	The anniversary of the birth in 1819 CE in Shiraz, Persia (now Iran), of Siyyid 'AliMuhammad, who later took the title of 'the Bab', meaning 'the Gate'. The Bab was the herald of the Baha'i faith.	Baha'i
15/11/24	Guru Nanak Gurupurab/ Guru Nanak Jayanti	Guru Nanak was the founder of Sikhism Guru Nanak's birthday, known as Gurpurab, is a significant celebration in Sikhism. It typically lasts for up to three days starting November 15.	Sikh
29/11/2024	International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People - Question of Palestine (un.org)	The International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People is observed annually on or around 29 November, solemnly commemorating the adoption by the Assembly, on 29 November 1947, of resolution 181 (II), which provided for the partition of Palestine into two States.	Arabs/Middle Eastern



December

Date(s)	Holiday/Event	Description	Communities
25/12/2024	Christmas	The annual Christian festival celebrating Christ's birth, held on 25 December in the Western Church. The Eastern Church celebrates Christmas on 8 January each year.	Christian
26/12/2024 - 02/01/2025	Hanukkah (Chanukah)	Celebrates the rededication of the Temple of Jerusalem after it was retaken by the Maccabees.	Judaism