

Key events and dates for New Zealand ethnic communities 2025



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
06/01/2025	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
14/01/2025 – 17/01/2025**	Pongal	Multi-day Hindu harvest festival celebrated by Tamils in India and Sri Lanka. Dedicated to the Hindu sun god Surya.	Tamil Hinduism
14/01/2025*	Mahayana New Year	Buddhist New Year	Buddhism
27/01/2025	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
29/01/2025**	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 Filipino Indonesian Korean Malaysian Vietnamese



February

Date(s)	Holiday/Event	Description	Communities
21/02/2025	International Mother Language Day United Nations	Promoting awareness of linguistic and cultural diversity and promoting multilingualism.	All
28/02/2025 – 02/03/2025**	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
28/02/2025 - 29/03/2025**	Ramadan	A period of fasting and spiritual growth and is one of the five “pillars of Islam”	Islam

March

Date(s)	Holiday/Event	Description	Communities
13/03/2025 - 14/03/2025**	Holi	A joyous Hindu festival known as festival of colour, spring, and love.	Hinduism
15/03/2025	International day to combat Islamophobia	(The unreasonable dislike or fear of, and prejudice against Muslims.) International observance to commemorate the incidents of ethnic cleansing and suppression of Muslims through history. Including the anniversary of the mosque attacks in Christchurch.	All
20/03/2025 - 21/03/2025**	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
20/03/2025**	Nowruz	Nowruz is a two-week celebration that marks the beginning of the New Year in Iran's official Solar Hijri calendar.	Iranian Persian
21/03/2025	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
30/03/2025 - 31/03/2025**	Eid Al-Fitr or ul-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

April

Date(s)	Holiday/Event	Description	Communities
12/04/2025 - 20/04/2025	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
13/04/2025 - 16/04/2025**	Theravada New Year	The Buddhist New Year depends on the country of origin or ethnic background of the people.	Buddhism
14/04/2025**	Vaisakhi	Solar New Year Festival.	Sikhism Hinduism Punjabi Tamil
18/04/2025 – 21/04/2025**	Easter	For Christians, Easter is the oldest Christian festival, celebrating the resurrection of Jesus.	Christian

May

Date(s)	Holiday/Event	Description	Communities
12/05/2025*	Vesak/Budh Purnima (In India)	Celebrating the birth, enlightenment, and death of the Buddha.	Buddhism
14/05/2025	Girmit Day	Commemorating the first Indian settlers in Fiji. Girmit Remembrance Day commemorates the plight of the Girmityas, who were taken from India to Fiji by the British colonisers in the 19th century.	Fijian Indian
25/05/2025	Africa Day	Annual commemoration of the foundation of the Organisation of African Unity.	Members of the African Union
29/05/2025	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
31/05/25**	Dragon Boat Festival	Takes place on the fifth day of the fifth lunar month each year (i.e. late May or June).	Chinese Indonesian Japanese Korean Malaysian Singaporean Vietnamese

June

Date(s)	Holiday/Event	Description	Communities
1/06/2025 - 3/06/2025**	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
6/06/2025 - 7/06/2025**	Eid al-Adha	Honours the willingness of Ibrahim to sacrifice his son Ismail as an act of obedience to God's command.	Islam
20/06/2025	World Refugee Day United Nations	Organised by the United Nations. Designed to celebrate and honour refugees from around the world	All
26/06/2025**	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

August

Date(s)	Holiday/Event	Description	Communities
8/08/2025**	Raksha Bandhan	A Hindu festival celebrating the bond between brothers and sisters. Sisters tie a rakhi (sacred thread) around their brothers' wrists, symbolising protection and care.	Hinduism

September

Date(s)	Holiday/Event	Description	Communities
4/09/2025 – 7/09/2025**	Onam Festival	An annual harvest and cultural festival related to Hinduism that is celebrated mostly by the people of Kerala. A major annual event for Keralites.	Hindu – Malyali Community
22/09/2025 - 24/09/2025**	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

October

Date(s)	Holiday/Event	Description	Communities
2/10/2025	Dussehra	This is the tenth and final day of the Hindu festival of Navaratri, usually in October. In India it especially commemorates the victory of the god Rama over the demon king Ravana.	Hinduism Gujrati
6/10/2025	Moon Festival	Harvest festival. Also known as Mid-Autumn Festival.	Chinese Cambodian Filipino Chinese Indon Chinese Japanese Korean Malaysian Singaporean Vietnamese
06/10/2025 – 13/10/2025	Sukkot	Also known as the Feast of Tabernacles, is both an agricultural festival of thanksgiving and a commemoration of the forty-year period during which the children of Israel wandered in the desert after leaving slavery in Egypt, living in temporary shelters as they travelled.	Judaism
20/10/2025	Birth of the Bab	The anniversary of the birth in 1819 CE in Shiraz, Persia (now Iran), of Siyyid 'Ali Muhammad, who later took the title of 'the Bab', meaning 'the Gate'. The Bab was the herald of the Baha'i faith.	Baha'i
21/10/2025	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

November

Date(s)	Holiday/Event	Description	Communities
5/11/2025	Guru Nanak's Birthday Guru Purabh Guru Nank Prakash Utsav	<p>This day celebrates the birth of the first Sikh guru, Guru Nanak.</p> <p>One of the most celebrated and important Sikh gurus and the founder of Sikhism, Guru Nanak is highly revered by the Sikh community.</p> <p>This is one of the most sacred festivals in Sikhism.</p>	Sikh
29/11/2025	International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People - Question of Palestine (un.org)	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
14/12/2025 - 22/12/2025	Hanukkah (Chanukah)	Celebrates the rededication of the Temple of Jerusalem after it was retaken by the Maccabees.	Judaism
25/12/2025	Christmas	<p>The annual Christian festival celebrating Christ's birth, held on 25 December in the Western Church.</p> <p>The Eastern Church celebrates Christmas on 8 January each year.</p>	Christian