



2009 Holidays and Festivals in India

Month	Day(s)	Holiday Name	Significance of Holiday
Jan	7	Muharram	Islamic New Year
Jan	15	Pongal	Harvest festival. Major festival in the Southern states.
Jan	26	Republic Day	Republic Day of India
Jan	31	Vasant Panchami	Basant Panchami heralds the beginning of spring.
Feb	19	Shivaji Jayanti	The birthday of Chhatrapati Shivaji - the maker of the Maratha union.
Feb	22	Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati Jayanti	Commemorates the birth of Swami Dayanand Saraswati
Feb	23	Maha Shivaratri / Shivaratri	Solemn worship of Hindu deity, Lord Shiva. Fasting and chanting takes place mostly at night.
Mar	9	Milad un-Nabi	Birthday of the Prophet Mohammed
Mar	11	Holi	Festival of Colors observed mainly in the northern states. The Holi festival has an ancient origin and celebrates the triumph of 'good' over 'bad'.
Apr	3	Rama Navami	Commemorates the birth of Lord Rama.
Apr	10	Good Friday	Anniversary of the Crucifixion of Jesus Christ
Apr	14	Vaisakhi	Also called Baisakhi. Celebrated by the Sikhs commemorating the birth of the Khalsa, the beginning of the harvest season.
May	8	Buddha Purnima / Vesak	Marks the birth and enlightenment of Buddha.
Jun	24	Rath Yatra	Major Hindu festival associated with Lord Jagannath held at Puri in the state of Orissa.
Jul	7	Hazarat Ali's Birthday	Hazarat Ali's Birthday
Aug	14	Janmashtami	A Hindu festival celebrating the birth of Lord Krishna, an avatar of god Vishnu.
Aug	15	Independence Day	Independence Day of India.
Aug	21	Jamshedi Navroz	Parsi New Year
Aug	23	Ganesh Chatuthi / Vinayaka Chaturthi	Birth anniversary of Lord Ganesha. One of the Major festivals.
Sep	2	Onam	Harvest festival.
Sep	22	Ramzan Id / Eid ul-Fita	Muslim Holiday that marks the end of Ramadan.
Sep	28	Dussehra / Dasar	Worship the Goddess Durga. One of the major festivals.
Oct	2	Mathatma Gandhi Jayanti	Birth anniversary of Mahatma Ghandhi the Father of the Nation.
Oct	17	Diwali / Deepavali	Festival of Lights. Major festival of India. Number of days varies according to local government policy.
Oct	18	Govardhan Puja	The day Krishna defeated Indra. Lord Krishna taught people to worship nature, as mountains bring rains to earth.
Nov	24	Guru Tegh Bahadur's Martyrdom Day	Guru Tegh Bahadur's martyrdom day is celebrated to worship the graet Guru and pay him respect.
Nov	28	Bakri Id / Eid ul-Adha	The Feast of Sacrifice, is meant to commemorate Prophet Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his son on God's orders and takes place at the end of the pilgrimage.
Dec	24-25	Christmas	Birth of Jesus Christ