

Mosaic March: Embracing Religious Holidays in Unity



Ramadan (March 10 – April 8, 2024) is the ninth month of the Islamic calendar and a sacred time for Muslims. It commemorates when the Qur'an, Islam's holy book, was revealed to the Prophet Muhammad. During Ramadan, Muslims fast from sunrise to sundown, focusing on prayer, reflection, and charity. The fast ends each evening with iftar, a special meal shared with loved ones. Ramadan culminates in Eid-al-Fitr, a festive celebration marked by special prayers, feasting, and acts of generosity towards others. ¹

Easter (March 31, 2024) is a significant Christian holiday celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ. It marks the end of Holy Week, including Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, and Good Friday. Lent is a 40-day period of reflection and penance, that begins on Ash Wednesday (February 14, 2024). Christians engage in self-discipline and charity during the Lenten season, with Good Friday (March 29, 2024), marking the day Jesus was crucified. These days hold deep spiritual significance for Christians worldwide, marking key events in the Christian faith. ²

Holi (March 24-25, 2024), known as the festival of colors, is a vibrant celebration that resonates with millions in India and beyond. It symbolizes the victory of good over evil and welcomes the arrival of spring. Families and friends gather to embrace unity and camaraderie during this two-day festival. Puja (a worship ritual) occurs on the first day of Holi, while the second day is dedicated to playful revelry and social harmony. People celebrate by throwing colored powder and squirting water guns (symbolizing the washing away of sins). The colors hold a symbolic significance; for example, - red represents love & fertility, while green equates to new beginnings. Holi fosters warmth and affection and transcends social barriers, for people from all walks of life. ³

Purim (March 23-24, 2024) Commemorates the salvation of the Jewish people from Haman, a chief advisor to the King who plotted to exterminate Jews during the Persian Empire. Purim begins with reading the Book of Esther (Megillah), recounting miraculous events leading to the deliverance of Jewish people. Purim is a joyous holiday known for its extravagant costumes, performances, gift baskets, and feasts. Purim holds deep and profound significance as a testament to divine intervention and Jewish resilience throughout history. ⁴



¹ <https://www.courier-journal.com/story/news/local/2024/02/14/when-is-ramadan-2024-muslim-celebration-march-april-islam-kentucky/72583701007/>
² <https://www.heraldtribune.com/story/news/2024/02/13/lent-easter-ash-wednesday-holidays-florida/72577381007/>
³ <https://www.ndtv.com/offbeat/holi-2024-date-when-is-holi-how-to-perform-puja-all-you-need-to-know-5024105>
⁴ https://www.chabad.org/holidays/purim/article_cdo/aid/4309537/jewish/15-Purim-Facts-Every-Jew-Should-Know.htm