



This year, the month of April on the interfaith calendar is packed with religious festivals.

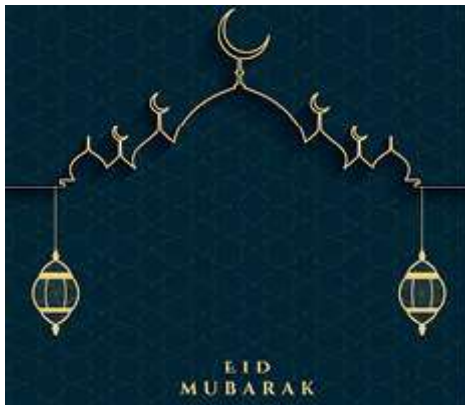
Religious festivals give communities the opportunity to come together, to preserve both their culture and their heritage. Learning about religious festivals, including their origins and meanings, helps us to support a working environment where we all feel welcome and valued.



KIRSTY WILKOJC
HR BUSINESS PARTNER

Below is a list that briefly describes the origin and the meaning of each festival in April.

Ramadan (April 2-May 2)



Ramadan marks the ninth month of the Islamic calendar and is observed by Muslims as a month of fasting, prayer, reflection and community. Muslims fast during the month of Ramadan from dawn to sunset, with nothing to eat or drink.

The predawn meal is referred to as *subur*, and the nightly feast that breaks the fast is called *iftar*. During Ramadan, Muslims also refrain from sinful behaviours, sexual relations and smoking, devoting themselves instead to prayer and the study of the Quran. Ramadan is regarded as a great opportunity to practice self-control, self-discipline and charity.

The holiday of Eid al-fitr marks the end of Ramadan.

Vaisakhi (April 14)

Vaisakhi, also known as Baisakhi, is the spring harvest festival celebrated every year in mid-April by Punjabi farmers.

Vaisakhi marks the beginning of the Sikh solar new year and is also a celebration of the founding of the Sikh community in 1699. The festival is not strictly regarded as a holy day, but rather an occasion for celebrating the growth of the Sikh community, recalling collective memories and shared values.

Those observing the festival wear traditional clothing in yellow and orange as a symbol of joy and celebration, and mark the occasion by singing, dancing, and enjoying parades with family and friends.



Passover (April 15-23)



Passover is a major Jewish holiday that commemorates the exodus of the Jewish people from Egyptian slavery. The holiday is celebrated with a traditional meal called seder, which retells the story of the Jewish people leaving Egypt.

Traditionally, Jewish people eat matzah; a special unleavened bread. The biblical narrative for matzah is that the Israelites left Egypt hastily because they could not wait for their bread dough to rise and symbolises redemption and freedom for the Jewish people. This unleavened bread serves as a reminder to be humble, and to never forget what life was like in servitude.

Easter (April 17)

Easter is one of the most important celebrations in the Christian faith, commemorating the resurrection of Jesus Christ after his crucifixion and death.

The celebrations begin on the evening of Maundy Thursday, continuing through Good Friday, into Holy Saturday and ending with prayers on the evening of Easter Sunday. The name Easter is related to the word east, which naturally points to the sunrise, to new days and new beginnings.

Christians celebrate Easter because it recognises that people can leave behind their old way of living and move forward into a new life.



Ramadan Mubarak, Happy Vaisakhi, Happy Pesach and Happy Easter to all our colleagues who are celebrating this month.

If you have a friend, colleague or client who practices a different religion, take the initiative, and ask them a few questions about their holidays in April. Conversations like this will help us to better understand and respect one another.

Get in touch

LSH Together

Email us

Not what you want?
[Visit your Preference Centre >](#)

[Forward to a Friend](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | [Twitter](#) | [RSS](#) |

[Privacy Policy](#)