

# Party planning pandemonium

<b>Christmas</b> (Christianity)	<b>Eid al-Fitr</b> (Islam)	<b>Holi</b> (Hinduism)	<b>Passover</b> (Judaism)	<b>Vaisakhi</b> (Sikhism)	<b>Vesak</b> (Buddhism)
<p>On 25 December, Christians around the world celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.</p>	<p>This important festival marks the end of Ramadan, a month when people fast. It's to give thanks to Allah for His support during the month of fasting.</p>	<p>This Spring celebration is a festival of love and colour. It honours the god Krishna.</p>	<p>This festival usually lasts just over a week. It remembers Moses leading the Israelites out of Egypt into freedom.</p>	<p>This Sikh New Year celebration is a harvest festival. It remembers Sikhism becoming a collective faith almost three hundred years ago.</p>	<p>Vesak is also known as Buddha Day. It's a celebration of Siddhattha Gotama's (Buddhism's founder) birthday, as well as other important moments in his life.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nativity scene: lots of Christians set up a nativity scene in their homes to represent the story of Jesus' birth.</li> <li>• Carols: these are hymns with lyrics about Christmas and its message.</li> <li>• Fir trees: these are a symbol of Christ and new life.</li> <li>• Frankincense and myrrh: some people burn these oils to remember the gifts of the Wise Men.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seviyan: these noodles are a traditional Eid breakfast in Pakistan, Bagladesh, and India.</li> <li>• Perfume and new clothes: on the morning of Eid, Muslims will wash and dress in new or clean clothes.</li> <li>• Halal meat: lots of food is cooked for Eid, but all meat must be halal.</li> <li>• Kahk al Eid: traditional sugar cookies.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Holika bonfire: the night before Holi, a bonfire is lit to symbolise good triumphing over evil.</li> <li>• Coloured powder: Holi is famous for its colour throwing celebrations.</li> <li>• Thandai: this is a traditional creamy milk drink, flavored with nuts and spices.</li> <li>• Buttermilk: another, older, tradition is handing a pot of buttermilk in the town centre and creating a human pyramid to break the pot.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Haggadah: this text contains all of the prayers and procedures for Passover.</li> <li>• Karpas: this is typically parsley dipped in saltwater, and is a symbol of the Passover story.</li> <li>• Four cups of wine: symbolising the four times God promised the Israelites freedom.</li> <li>• Matzah: this is unleavened bread, made without yeast so it doesn't rise. It was eaten by the Israelites when they escaped Egypt.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nagar kirtans: these are processions where hymns from the Guru Grath Sahib are sung.</li> <li>• Aawat pauni: this is a tradition where members of the community harvest wheat together.</li> <li>• Lassi: a yoghurt-based drink that is popular during Vaisakhi.</li> <li>• Kada Prasad: this is a sweetened semolina pudding, which is blessed by the Guru.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flowers and lanterns: these are offerings for Buddha.</li> <li>• Buddhist flag: an important ceremony where the Buddhist flag is hoisted at various temples before dawn.</li> <li>• Vegetarian food: people are encouraged not to kill any animals for or during this celebration.</li> <li>• Birds: birds are often released as a symbolic act of giving freedom to others.</li> </ul>