

2024



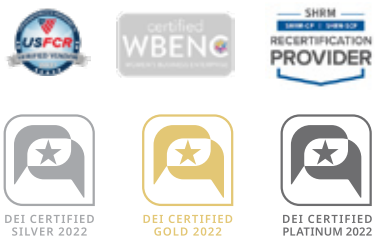
# CULTURAL CALENDAR

Recognizing important cultural holidays is just the beginning; the true goal for organizations lies in exemplifying a year-round commitment to celebrating differences and strengthening relationships across the workplace. Our annual Cultural Calendar is crafted to assist you on this journey. Please note that there are numerous culturally significant dates beyond what is listed and observing additional holidays is encouraged.

# 2024 CULTURAL CALENDAR

## JAN

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Third Monday in January.

### Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day, observed on the third Monday of January, honors the civil rights leader's immense contributions to the struggle for racial equality in the United States. The federal holiday was established after a prolonged campaign led by Coretta Scott King, who advocated for national recognition of her husband's legacy. Instituted in 1986, the holiday symbolizes a significant triumph in the movement for civil rights, reflecting a broader societal acknowledgment of the importance and relevance of Dr. King's work.

To this day, Dr. King's lifelong commitment to making the world a more equitable place for the marginalized remains a powerful inspiration for those who continue to challenge injustice and advance the fight for civil rights.

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### International Holocaust Remembrance Day

International Holocaust Remembrance Day, observed annually on January 27, marks the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi death camp. This date is an International Memorial Day for the victims of the Holocaust and the genocide that resulted in the death of six million Jewish people, along with millions of others.

The Remembrance Day serves to remind us of the devastating consequences of hatred, bigotry, and racism. It highlights the importance of being vigilant against antisemitism and stresses the critical need to maintain the memory of the Holocaust to educate future generations and prevent history from repeating itself.

People around the world participate in ceremonies and educational events that include lighting memorial candles, reciting prayers, and listening to testimonies to reflect on the lessons of history and honor those who were lost.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

NOTE: This is not an all-encompassing list of cultural holidays.







## MAY

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**Asian-American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month**

In May, the United States recognizes the long history, rich culture, and innumerable contributions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI). The observance celebrates the collective accomplishments of AAPI communities while acknowledging their diverse cultural heritage that spans the entire Asian continent and the Pacific islands of Melanesia, Micronesia, and Polynesia.

Cultural festivals, educational activities, and historical exhibits take place throughout the country, highlighting the perseverance and influence of the AAPI communities. AAPI Heritage Month also seeks to address the issues still faced by these communities, including combating prejudice and advocating for social justice and equal opportunity. By embracing the traditions and narratives of the AAPI population, this month fortifies the value of diversity and inclusion.

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**Yom HaShoah: Holocaust Memorial Day**

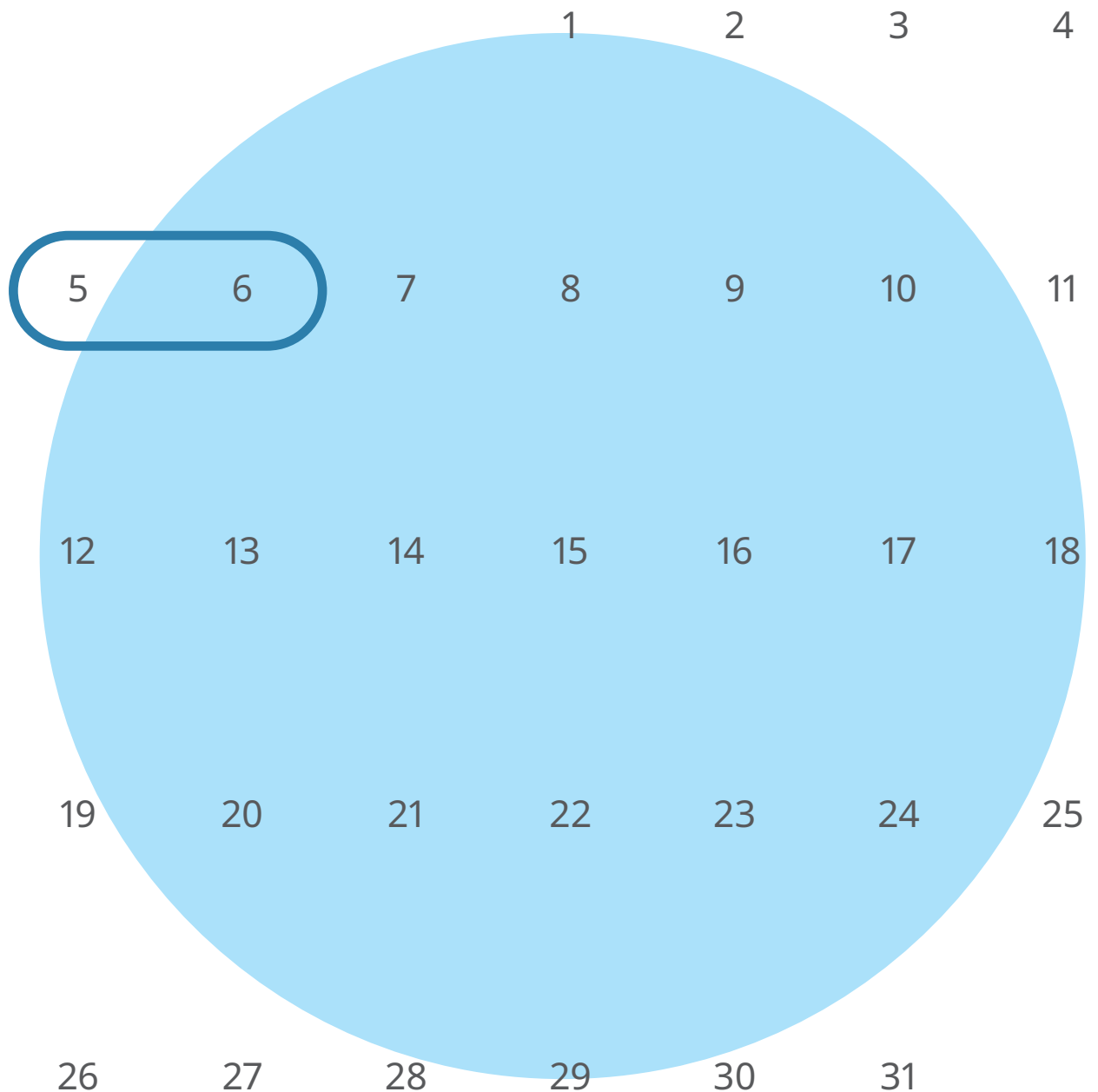
Yom HaShoah is a day of national remembrance in Israel and among Jewish communities around the world, set aside to honor the memory of those who perished in the Holocaust.

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Falling on May 5, 2024, it is marked by memorial ceremonies and a commitment to educate future generations about this dark chapter in human history. Many communities organize vigils and name recitations, and educational institutions often hold special programming.

The reflections of Yom HaShoah underscore the importance of taking a stand against antisemitism and universally upholding human rights.

Sunday    Monday    Tuesday    Wednesday    Thursday    Friday    Saturday



NOTE: This is not an all-encompassing list of cultural holidays.





# 2024 CULTURAL CALENDAR

## JUL

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### Independence Day

July 4 commemorates the Declaration of Independence, a historic document proclaiming the colonies' separation from British rule in 1776. The holiday amplifies freedom and democracy, the founding ideals of the United States.

Citizens reflect on America's history, honor those who fought for the country's freedom, engage in civic traditions, and embrace the spirit of patriotism that unites diverse backgrounds in celebration of a shared history and future.

18

### Nelson Mandela Day

Nelson Mandela, South Africa's first Black president, is a global icon of peace and reconciliation. The United Nations established this holiday to honor Mandela's remarkable contributions including dismantling apartheid, fostering racial unity, and pioneering social and economic reform in South Africa.

People around the world are encouraged to devote 67 minutes to community service, symbolizing the 67 years Mandela spent fighting for social justice, 27 of which he was imprisoned. It's a call to action for people to take responsibility for changing the world and making it a better place, in the same vein as Mandela. Nelson Mandela Day is a tribute to one man's indomitable spirit but also to the global movement to continue his life's work of ensuring human rights and dignity for all.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

NOTE: This is not an all-encompassing list of cultural holidays.



# 2024 CULTURAL CALENDAR

# AUG

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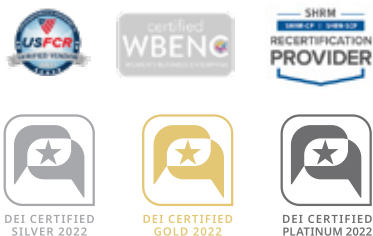
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**9 International Indigenous People's Day**  
International Indigenous People's Day, observed on August 9, is a recognition of the first inhabitants of nations around the globe and their descendants. The day aims to protect and promote the rights of the world's indigenous population. This observance highlights the achievements and contributions of these communities, brings attention to their rich cultural heritage, and recognizes the global issues they still face.

Celebrations and educational events on this day foster reverence for indigenous people and acknowledge their role in the stewardship of nations across the globe. The holiday is a commitment to acknowledging past injustices while simultaneously working towards greater inclusion and equality for indigenous people.

**26 Women's Equality Day**  
Women's Equality Day marks the anniversary of the 19th Amendment's certification, which granted women the right to vote in the United States. This day not only commemorates this significant historical milestone but also serves as a platform for current gender equality advocacy. Across the country, educational events, exhibitions, and workshops spotlight the ongoing efforts toward achieving equal pay, combating gender discrimination, and reinforcing women's rights in all realms of society.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
				8	<b>9</b>	10
				15	16	17
				22	23	24
				29	30	31
				25	<b>26</b>	27

*NOTE: This is not an all-encompassing list of cultural holidays.*

# 2024 CULTURAL CALENDAR

## SEP

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SEPT.  
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### Hispanic Heritage Month

Hispanic Heritage Month celebrates the histories, cultures, and contributions of American citizens whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean, Central and South America. Commencing on September 15, the anniversary of independence for the Latin American countries of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua, this month honors their rich and diverse socio-cultural heritage and recognizes the significant presence and influence of Hispanic Americans.

OCT.  
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It is a multifaceted commemoration encompassing a wide array of events such as parades, concerts, food fairs and art exhibits which showcase the many contributions of Hispanic Americans, spotlight their achievements and demonstrate appreciation for the mosaic of their traditions and customs.

Sunday      Monday      Tuesday      Wednesday      Thursday      Friday      Saturday

1      2      3      4      5      6      7

8      9      10      11      12      13      14

15      16      17      18      19      20      21

22      23      24      25      26      27      28

29      30

**NOTE:** This is not an all-encompassing list of cultural holidays.

# OCT

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**SEPT. 15** → **OCT. 15** **Hispanic Heritage Month** (continued)

**1** **National Disability Employment Awareness Month**

National Disability Employment Awareness Month is observed each October to amplify the many and varied contributions of people with disabilities to America's workplaces and economy. This month is a reaffirmation of the importance of inclusive policies and practices that ensure everyone has access to the same employment opportunities.

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This observance originated in 1945 when Congress enacted a law declaring the first week in October "National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week." In 1962, the word "physically" was removed to acknowledge the employment needs and contributions of individuals with all types of disabilities. Today, it's a call to employers, both in the public and private sectors, to examine their recruitment and hiring practices and ensure they embrace diversity and inclusion. The observance is marked by job fairs, mentoring initiatives, and awareness campaigns that challenge misconceptions about disability and employment.

**1** **LGBTQ+ History Month**

LGBTQ+ History Month, has been observed annually in October since 1994, and highlights the contributions of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer people to local, national, and international history. It's a time to reflect on the trials and triumphs of the LGBTQ+ community and the advocates who have fought for equality and acceptance.

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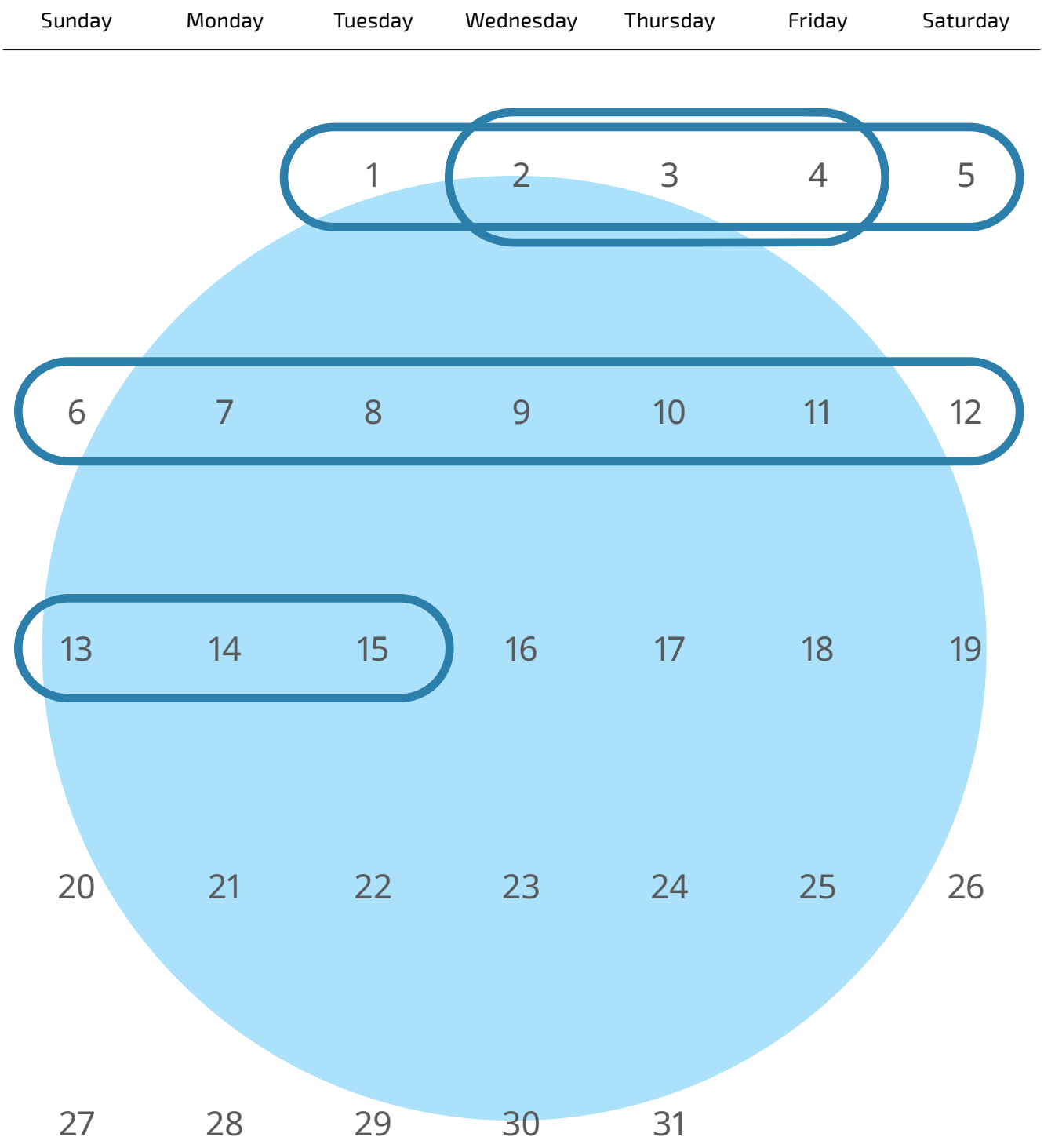
This month also incorporates National Coming Out Day on October 11, which advocates for a safe world for LGBTQ+ individuals to live truthfully and openly. It's an opportunity for people to learn more about the civil rights movement within the LGBTQ+ community and the ongoing struggles many still face. Educational events, pride celebrations, and historical exhibits are common, promoting a spirit of unity and pride.

**2** *Second Monday in October.* **Rosh Hashanah**

Rosh Hashanah, often known as the Jewish New Year, is a deeply significant holiday that ushers in the High Holy Days or "Days of Awe" for the Jewish community. According to tradition, it commemorates the anniversary of the creation of Adam and Eve and emphasizes the special relationship between God and humanity.

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The blowing of the shofar, a ram's horn, is a central and unique feature of the Rosh Hashanah service. This serves as a call to repentance and a reminder to Jews that God is their king. Observing Rosh Hashanah includes attending synagogue services, reciting special prayers and liturgy, and spending time with family. Many communities engage in Tashlikh, a practice where pieces of bread are cast into flowing water to symbolically cast away sins.



*NOTE: This is not an all-encompassing list of cultural holidays.*

# 2024 CULTURAL CALENDAR

# NOV

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**National Native American, American Indian, and Alaskan Native Heritage Month**

Each November, the United States observes National Native American Heritage Month. It is a time dedicated to recognizing the rich cultural legacy and acknowledging the vital contributions of Native American communities.

Museums, universities, and community organizations shine a light on the achievements, scholarly works, and traditional practices of Native Americans through exhibits, symposiums, and events. This observance also magnifies the need to preserve and promote the rights and freedoms of Native Americans, as well as foster conversations and solutions to create a future that is equal and just for all.

**Diwali**

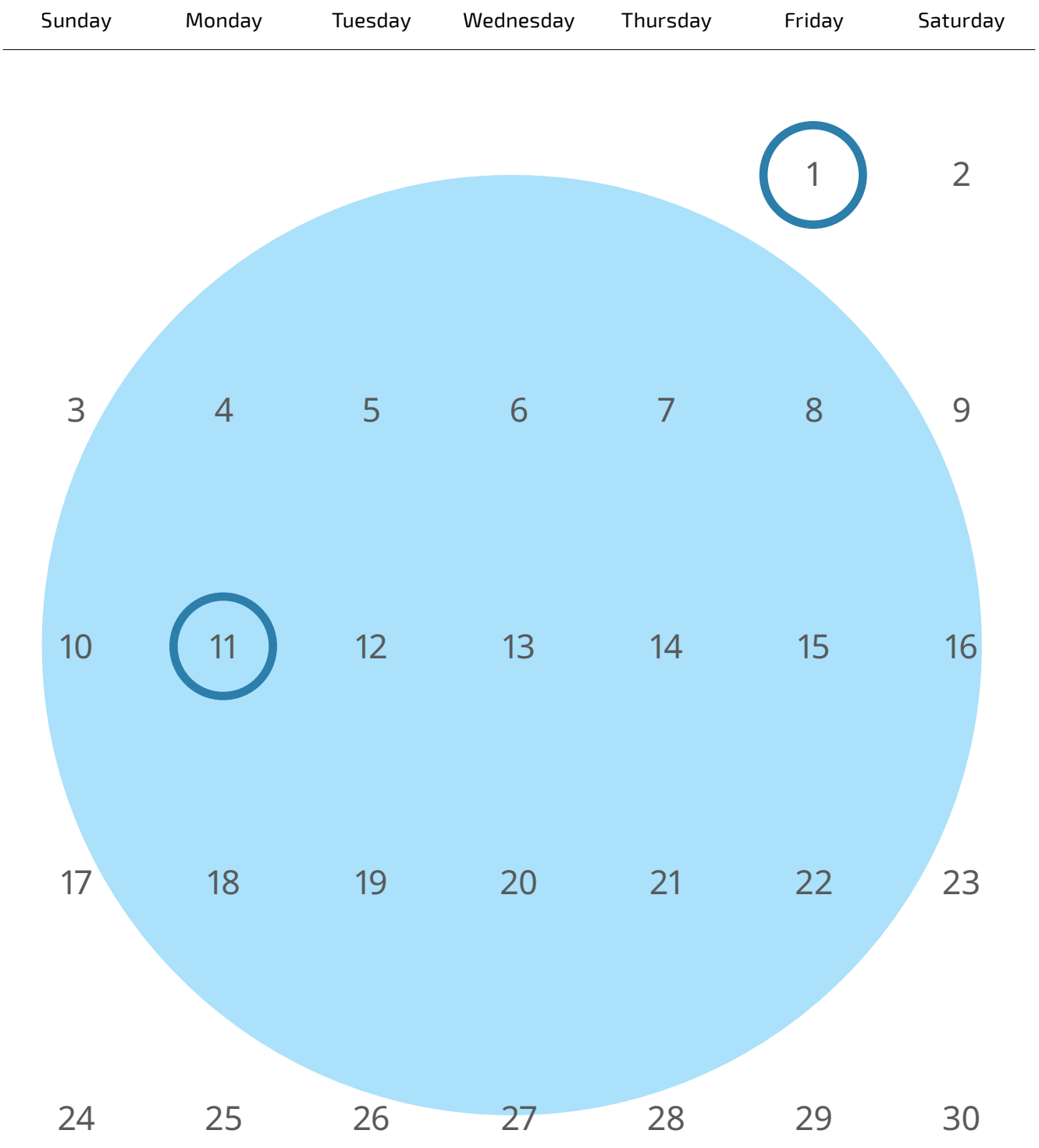
Diwali, known as the Festival of Lights, is one of the most beloved and widely celebrated festivals in India and across the world by Hindus, Jains, Sikhs, and some Buddhists. Symbolizing the victory of light over darkness, knowledge over ignorance, and good over evil, Diwali is a time of illumination and joy. Falling on November 1 in 2024, Diwali is celebrated over five days, with the main day of festivities taking place on the third day, which corresponds to the darkest new moon night of the Hindu Lunisolar month Kartika. Homes and public spaces are adorned with thousands of lights, candles, and clay lamps called "diyas." Families and friends gather to share sweets, exchange gifts, enjoy festive meals, and light fireworks.

It is also an auspicious time for new beginnings, with prayers offered to Lakshmi, the goddess of wealth and prosperity, and Ganesha, the god of wisdom and remover of obstacles. Diwali's heartwarming traditions and the message of hope, unity, and compassion resonate globally, embodying a spirit of peace and celebration.

**Veterans Day**

Veterans Day is an American holiday dedicated to acknowledging and expressing gratitude for the valor and service of military veterans. Annually observed on November 11, this day marks the anniversary of the armistice ending World War I and is synchronized with international observances recognizing the conclusion of the Great War.

This day is reserved to honor the courage and sacrifices of those who have served in the United States Armed Forces. Unlike Memorial Day, which remembers those who have passed away while serving, Veterans Day pays tribute to all American veterans—living or deceased. Patriotic ceremonies, educational activities, and national public events underscore the day's significance. Parades and church services are common expressions of remembrance, and many institutions also host events to educate the public about the veterans' role in protecting freedom. Veterans Day is a poignant reminder of the duty, honor, and selfless service of the men and women who have worn the uniform and reaffirms the nation's commitment to uphold the ideals they fought to preserve.



**NOTE:** This is not an all-encompassing list of cultural holidays.

