

December Summary of Significant Dates

International Day of Persons with Disabilities, Bodhi Day and Hannukah are all celebrated this month!

Below are a few significant dates occurring in December 2024.

Month Long Observances

- **Universal Human Rights Month:** People across the globe are encouraged to come together and stand up for equality, justice, and the dignity of all humans.

General Significant Dates

- **December 1 – World AIDS Day:** A day when people all around the world unite to show support for people living with and affected by HIV and to remember those who lost their lives to AIDS.
- **December 2 – International Day of the Abolition of Slavery:** This day focuses on eradicating modern forms of slavery, such as human trafficking, sexual exploitation, child labour, forced marriage, and the forced recruitment of children for use in armed conflict.
- **December 3 – International Day of Persons with Disabilities:** Promoted by the UN, this day promotes an understanding of disability issues and encourages support for the dignity, rights, and well-being of persons with disabilities.
- **December 6 – National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women:** A day to remember those who have experienced gender-based violence and those who we have lost to it. The day was chosen to mourn and honour 14 young women who were murdered at Polytechnique Montréal on this day in 1989.
- **December 10 – Human Rights Day:** This day marks the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948. The Declaration states that each person is entitled to fundamental rights, including the right to equality, life, liberty, and security of the person.
- **December 18 – International Migrants Day:** This day reflects on and celebrates the contributions of millions of migrants worldwide.
- **December 26 – Boxing Day:** The day after Christmas Day was traditionally celebrated as the day tradesmen and servants would receive gifts from their employers.
- **December 26 - Jan 1 – Kwanzaa:** A week of festivities honouring African American culture and heritage. Friends and family gather each day to give thanks, exchange gifts, and share feasts. This festival is celebrated in Canada and around the world.

Religious Dates

- **December 1 - 24 – Advent:** Marks a month-long period of preparation and anticipation for the birth of Jesus on Christmas Day.
- **December 8 – Bodhi Day (Buddha Enlightenment):** Buddhists believe that Siddhartha Gautama - the founder of Buddhism and widely known as Buddha, achieved enlightenment through meditation on this day.
- **December 16 - 24 – Posadas Navidenas:** A nine-day religious observance for Hispanic Catholics to commemorate when Virgin Mary and St. Joseph searched for a place to stay for Jesus to be born.
- **December 21 – Yule- Winter Solstice:** The oldest Pagan celebration that simultaneously celebrates the shortest day of the year, midwinter, the return of the Sun, and a festival of rebirth.
- **December 25 - Jan 2 – Hanukkah (or Chanukah):** An eight-day Jewish wintertime “festival of lights,” celebrated with a nightly menorah lighting, special prayers, and fried food.
- **December 25 – Christmas Day (Gregorian Calendar):** A holiday celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ. It is recognized as a public holiday in many nations around the world and is also celebrated secularly by many non-Christians.
- **December 26 – Zartosht No-Diso:** An occasion to remember the death anniversary of Zoroastrian prophet Zarathustra.