



EVENT RESOURCE



The following resource has been produced to support you in delivering events with community. It includes overarching information and tips on what to consider when attending cultural events.

CULTURAL AWARENESS PRINCIPLES

- **Avoid assumptions:** Practices vary within communities
- **Be respectful and open:** It's okay to ask polite questions
- **Be inclusive, not intrusive:** Be patient and allow community members time to engage
- **Pronunciation matters—but effort matters more:** Make an attempt and encourage community members advice in pronunciation
- **Focus on creating welcoming environments for everyone:** Consider the needs of different community members and make adjustments as required.

RAMADAN

(RUH-muh-dahn)

ABOUT

- A holy month in Islam focused on fasting, reflection, worship, and community
- Often also referred to as Ramzan (RAH-muh-zahn) in South Asia
- Muslims fast from dawn (Suhoor) to sunset (Maghrib)

WHAT YOU'LL NOTICE

- Some participants will not eat or drink during the day
- Increased acts of charity from Muslim individuals and groups
- Evening gatherings (Iftar) to break the fast

GREETING

"Ramadan Mubarak"

PRACTICAL TIPS FOR STAFF

- Be mindful of energy levels during the day
- Schedule breaks away from food areas where possible
- Offer water/food at/following sunset
- Accommodate event commitments like prayer

AVOID

- Offering food to someone fasting during the day (especially pork)
- Scheduling activities around sunrise/sunset
- Asking why someone isn't fasting
- Assuming all Muslims fast.

EID AL-FITR

(EED AL-FIT-ER)

EID AL-ADHA

(EED AL-AD-HA)

ABOUT

- Two major Islamic celebrations
- Eid al-Fitr: Marks the end of Ramadan
- Also referred to as Meethi Eid (Sweet Eid), Choti Eid (Small Eid), and Rozar Eid (Bengali)
- Eid al-Adha: Festival of sacrifice
- Also referred to as Bakri Eid (Hindi/Urdu), Qurbani Eid (Sacrifice Eid), and Korbanir Eid (Bengali)

WHAT YOU'LL NOTICE

- Large gatherings with family and community, especially in the morning
- Traditional clothing and shared meals
- Gifts (Eidi) being shared, especially towards children
- Sacrifice of an animal such as a goat, sheep, or cow.

GREETING

"Eid Mubarak"

PRACTICAL TIPS FOR STAFF

- Acknowledge the celebration
- Be flexible with availability (staff/participants may have commitments)

AVOID

- Scheduling activities on key celebration and religious practice mornings if possible
- Making judgements on sacrificial traditions.

DIWALI

(dee-VAH-lee)

ABOUT

- Festival of lights celebrated by Hindus, Sikhs, Jains, and some Buddhists
- Often also referred to as Divali, Deepavali/Deepawali/Dipavali/Dipawali (South Indian), Tihar (Nepali), or Swanti (Newar)
- Symbolises light over darkness and good over evil

WHAT YOU'LL NOTICE

- Fireworks, lights, candles, traditional decorations and clothing
- Sharing of foods and sweets usually home made
- Community events and celebrations

GREETING

"Happy Diwali"

PRACTICAL TIPS FOR STAFF

- Expect high community participation
- Recognise it may span several days

AVOID

- Treating it as a single-day event only
- Blowing candles out as they will be lit for religious importance
- Wearing dark colours

HOLI

(HO-lee)

ABOUT

- Festival of colours celebrating spring, joy, and community celebrated by Hindus, Sikhs, Jains, and some Buddhists
- Also referred to as Dol Jatra or Bôshonto (West Bengal and Bangladesh), Phakua and Dôl Jātrā (Assam), Phāgu Pūrṇimā (Nepal), Dola jātra (Odisha), Fagua or Phagua (eastern Uttar Pradesh, western Bihar, northwestern Jharkhand, and Fiji), and Phagwa or Phagwah (Caribbean)

WHAT YOU'LL NOTICE

- Lighting of bonfires the night before the main day of Holi
- Coloured powder, with each colour symbolising a different meaning
- Traditional joyful music and dancing enjoyed by community members

GREETING

"Happy Holi"

PRACTICAL TIPS FOR STAFF

- Encourage fun and inclusive participation
- Plan for event safety
- Focus on use of bright, vibrant colours and themes in activation set up (i.e. colourful displays)

AVOID

- Throwing colours on someone without their consent
- Using toxic coloured powder
- Avoid wearing dark clothing
- Leaving delicate resources that cannot be washed or remain unprotected

HARVEST FESTIVALS

ABOUT

- Celebrations of agricultural seasons and gratitude
- Various festivals celebrating different stages of the harvest seasons (e.g. Pongal/Thai Pongal, Baisakhi, Onam)

WHAT YOU'LL NOTICE

- Cultural dress and community gatherings
- Emphasis on food-based events and the sharing of food

PRACTICAL TIPS FOR STAFF

- Focus on community engagement and celebration
- Recognise strong cultural and family significance
- Acknowledge importance of cleaning, decoration and religious significance

SOUTH ASIAN NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS

ABOUT

- Various cultural New Year festivals (e.g. Vaisakhi, Tamil New Year, Pohela Boishakh, Sinhala, Nowruz)
- Often linked to harvest cycles and seasonal change as opposed to Australian calendar
- Occurs at different times across cultures depending on traditional calendars

WHAT YOU'LL NOTICE

- Performances, traditional dress, culturally significant foods, community events and religious offerings

PRACTICAL TIPS FOR STAFF

- Expect large, vibrant gatherings
- Use this as an opportunity for deeper engagement.

QUICK REFERENCE CHEAT SHEET

Event	Pronunciation	Greeting	Key Tip
Ramadan	RUH-muh-dahn	Ramadan Mubarak	Be mindful of fasting
Eid	EED	Eid Mubarak	Acknowledge celebrations
Diwali	Dee-VAH-lee	Happy Diwali	Multi-day festival
Holi	HO-lee	Happy Holi	Ask before using colours
Harvest	Varies	Varies	Focus on community
New Year	Varies	Varies	Expect large gatherings

ALTERNATIVE NAMES

Event	Alt	Pronunciation
Ramadan	Ramzan	RAH-muh-zahn
Eid al-Fitr	Meethi Eid	MEE-thee eed
	Choti Eid	CHOH-tee eed
	Rozar Eid	ROH-zah eed
Eid al-Adha	Bakri Eid	BAH-kree eed
	Qurbani Eid	kurr-BAH-nee eed
	Korbanir Eid	horr-BAH-nihr eed
Diwali	Divali	dee-VAH-lee
	Deepavali/ Deepawali/ Dipavali/ Dipawali	DEE-pah-VAH-lee
	Tihar	TEE-hahr
	Swanti	SWAHN-tee
Holi	Dol Jatra/Dôl Jātrā	doll JAH-trah
	Dola Jātra	doll-ah JAH-trah
	Bôshonto	Boh-SHON-toh
	Phāgu Pūrṇimā	FAH-goo poor-NEE-mah
	Phakua	FAH-koo-ah
	Fagua/Phagua/Phagwa/Phagwah	FAH-goo-ah
Harvest	Pongal	PONG-al
	Thai Pongal	tie PONG-al
	Onam	OH-nahm
	Nuakhai	N00-ah-KIE
New Year	Pohela Boishakh	PO-heh-la BOI-suhk
	Nowruz	now-R00Z
	Avurudu	a-voo-R00-doo
	Biska Jatra	BISS-kah jah-trah
	Gudi Padwa	G00-dee PUHD-wah
	Baisakhi	BIE-sah-kee
	Bohag Bihu	BOH-hahg BEE-hoo
	Puthandu	poo-THAHN-doo
	Vishu	VEE-shu
	Losar	loh-SAHR
	Ugadi	oo-GAH-dee
	Navreh	NAHV-reh