

# SPRING HOLIDAYS

Many people credit wintertime as the holiday season, however spring has its fair share of celebrations too. The first two weeks of April are host to three major religious holidays; Easter, Orthodox Easter and Passover. Easter is both a mainstream and holiday important to the Christian faith. Orthodox Easter is a similar celebration to Easter; however, the celebration is later in the year as it is observed by those in the Greek Orthodox Catholic Church, which follows a different calendar than the one that you or I may use. Passover is a Jewish holiday that takes place over eight days (or seven days when observed in Israel).

## Easter

Easter, to those of Christian faith, represents the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Easter is observed on a Sunday and predicated by a more somber day of significance referred to as "Good Friday." Good Friday refers to the day Christians believe that Jesus Christ was killed and buried with the promise that he would return from the grave after three days. [The word Easter does not have one specific](#) meaning beyond being in reference to the day that Christians believe that Jesus Christ rose from the grave. For more about Easter, check out the links listed below:

### [Why Easter Eggs, Bunnies, and Lambs Are Easter Symbols](#) (approx. 15-minute read)

This article explores many of the different symbols and their meanings that are associated with the Easter Holiday

### [The Great Eggscape!](#) (9:48 minute video)

In this video, Awnie reads an Easter story all about determination and friendship.

### [The Differences & Similarities Between Easter & Passover](#) (approx. 8-minute read)

This article explores the similarities between Easter and Passover.

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## SPRING HOLIDAYS, continued

### Orthodox Easter

Orthodox Easter honors the death and celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ. just like “Western Christian” Easter. Those in the Orthodox church follow the Julian calendar, while most of the world follows the Gregorian calendar. Orthodox Easter is a very important holiday for those who follow the religion, with celebrations and rituals taking place over the days leading up to Easter Sunday. For more about Orthodox Easter, check out the links listed below:

[5 Meaningful Ways to Celebrate Orthodox Easter with Kids](#) (approx. 15-minute read)

This article both explains the differences in the Julian and Gregorian calendar *and* provides some fun activities for families to do in honor of the holiday.

[The Cultural Significance of Greek Orthodox Easter](#) (2:34 minute video)

This video dives into both the religious and cultural significance of Greek Orthodox Easter.

### Passover

Passover is a celebration that commemorates the Israelites being liberated from slavery in ancient Egypt. In [Shemot](#) (the second book of the Torah, Judaism’s religious text) the story of the Israelites’ deliverance from slavery from ancient Egyptians is told. Passover is observed over seven days to honor the [seven days](#) that the Israelites escaped from Egypt, with the seventh day ending with the Israelites crossing the Red Sea and finally escaping the Egyptians.

[The Prince of Egypt](#) (1 hour 39-minute movie)

This critically acclaimed animated movie tells the story of Moses, the man chosen by God to lead the Israelites out of Egypt.

[PBS Learning Media, Passover for Kids](#) (1:40 minute video)

This video explains Passover in an easy-to-understand format.

