

# Hola Mohalla

In Sikhism, Hola Mohalla (also known as Hola) is a three-day-long festival taking place in the first month of Chet in the Sikh Calendar. While the exact date of Hola Mohalla may change from year to year, it generally falls in March. In 2023, Hola Mohalla will begin on **Wednesday, March 8<sup>th</sup>** and ends on **Friday, March 10<sup>th</sup>**. It is important to note the distinction between Hola Mohalla and the Hindu holiday of Holi, which usually falls around the same time. For more information on Holi Day please refer to our Holi Day Holiday Factsheet.

## Background

Sikhism was founded by Guru Nanak in the 15<sup>th</sup> century in the Punjab region of South Asia. The religion is followed by 25 million people in India and around the world. A historically significant Sikh site is the Harmandir Sahib (Golden Temple) in the Sikh homeland of Amritsar, Punjab, in India. There are Sikh communities and houses of worship known as a Gurdwara located across the world. For a comprehensive overview of Sikhism and Sikh tradition please see [Tanenbaum Religious Factsheet on Sikhism](#).

## Celebration of Hola Mohalla

“Hola Mohalla” is a Punjabi term referring to a military charge or parade. Hola was initially started by the Tenth Sikh Guru Gobind Singh as a way for Sikhs to celebrate and demonstrate their military traditions. Sikh men and women who are initiated into the faith are known as Khalsa and they play an integral part in the celebration of the holiday. The Khalsa traditionally formed the leadership class of Sikh society, and on Hola, they hold mock battles and martial arts performances to demonstrate their skills. Sikhs may also go to their local gurdwara to celebrate and worship with their community during the holiday, listen to or read scripture, pray, or meet with family and friends.

## Impact on the Workplace

Some individuals may request time off or work remotely around Hola Mohalla to prepare for travel and to spend time with loved ones. As with all holidays, it is important to remember that there are many ways to celebrate Hola and that it is up to each individual as to what that observance looks like. For companies with colleagues in India, keep in mind when planning meetings, conferences, and events that offices may be closed on Hola in observance of the holiday.

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