

Italian American Heritage Month

October marks **Italian American Heritage Month** by recognizing the contributions and achievements of Italian Americans. Over 26 million Americans of Italian descent currently reside in the U.S. — making up America’s seventh largest ethnic group. The heritage month is in October to coincide with Columbus Day — the national holiday celebrated on the second Monday of the month. Italian American Heritage Month celebrates the distinguished cultural contributions of Americans with Italian lineage.

How to Observe Italian-American Month

- Explore dining at an Italian restaurant
- Cook your favorite Italian meal
- Try a delicious gelato treat

October 24th Dussehra - Hindu

Known as one of the most prominent festivals of the Hindu community, **Dussehra** marks the victory of Lord Rama over the demonic ruler, Ravana, who kidnapped Rama’s wife, Sita. Also called Vijayadashami, this day is celebrated after the conclusion of the nine-day-long festival of Navratri.

Dussehra is a Sanskrit word which translates to ‘ten (dasha) defeat (hara)’ in English as it is known that demon King Ravana had 10 heads. According to the Hindu calendar, this day falls on the 10th day of the month of Ashvina which overlaps with September-October in Gregorian calendar. In 2023, Dussehra will be observed on 24th October (Tuesday).

On this day, devotees wear new clothes and organize public festivities for commemorating the victory of good over evil in the northern parts of India. Celebrated as the conclusion of the nine-day-long fast of Navratri, Dussehra is observed by organizing a theatrical enactment of Rama’s life story which is called Ram Lila.

People in the Eastern region of India including West Bengal, Bihar and Odisha observe this day as the end of Durga Puja which is celebrated by wearing a red saree and putting on vermilion. It is observed as an emotional occasion and Bengalis sing folk songs while immersing the idols of Goddess Durga in water bodies.