# Zoroastrianism

# Nowraz

Nowruz, festival celebrating the start of the new year on the Persian calendar. Nowruz, meaning “new day” in Persian (or Fārsī), occurs on the spring equinox, which is the first day of the month of Farvardīn on the Iranian calendar. The holiday usually falls on March 21 on the Gregorian calendar. The day of Nowruz has its origins in the Iranian religion of Zoroastrianism and is thus rooted in the traditions of the Iranian peoples; however, it has been celebrated by diverse communities for over 3,000 years in Western Asia, Central Asia, the Caucasus, the Black Sea Basin, the Balkans, and South Asia. The popular belief is that ancient Iranians celebrated the 13th day of Nowruz after twelve days of celebrating, each day represents a month of the year. It was an official ending to Nowruz and a beginning to the remaining twelve months of the year.

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# Historical accounts suggest that Nowruz celebrations occurred in ancient Persepolis during the Achaemenid Empire (550-330 B.C.). Mythology centered on its inception includes tales of a Persian king soaring across the skies in a jeweled chariot on the first day of spring.

# Jashn-e-tirgan

About Jashn-e Tirgan: The Tirgan Festival similar to all major Iranian festivals follows the solar calendar system of day reckoning. It is celebrated on the start of Summer season about 1st of July, the longest day of the year. The name "TIR" has roots in the ancient Avestan name "Tishtar", the Sirius star. The Legend of Tirgan  
  
One legend describes how Iran and Turan, two long-standing enemies, decided to declare peace by drawing the boundaries between the two empires. Arash, the best archer in the Iranian army, was chosen to ascend Mount Damavand to shoot an arrow, with the landing location determining the boundary. **Tirgan** ([Persian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Persian_language" \o "Persian language): تیرگان, Tirgan), is a [mid summer ancient](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Summer_solstice" \o "Summer solstice) [Iranian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iran" \o "Iran) festival, celebrated annually on [Tir](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tir_(month)" \o "Tir (month)) 13 ([July 2](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/July_2" \o "July 2), [3](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/July_3" \o "July 3), or [4](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/July_4" \o "July 4)). It is celebrated by splashing water, dancing, reciting [poetry](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Persian_poetry" \o "Persian poetry), and serving traditional foods such as [spinach soup](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spinach_soup" \o "Spinach soup) and [sholezard](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sholezard" \o "Sholezard). The custom of tying rainbow-colored bands on wrists, which are worn for ten days and then thrown into a stream, is also a way to rejoice for children. It is celebrated on the start of Summer season about 1st of July, the longest day of the year. The name "TIR" has roots in the ancient Avestan name "Tishtar", the Sirius star. Sirius(dog star) was also known to the ancient Egyptians indicating the inundation of the river Nile.

# Mehregan festival

Mehregan (Persian: مهرگان) or Jashn-e Mehr (جشن مهر lit. Mithra Festival) is a Zoroastrian and Iranian festival celebrated to honor the yazata Mithra (Persian: Mehr), which is responsible for friendship, affection and love. It is celebrated each year at the beginning of autumn, on the 16th day of Mehr, the 7th month of Persian Solar Calendar, which corresponds to the second week of October. The exact day may vary from one year to the next depending on the astronomical Northward equinox, which marks the beginning of autumn. Mihragan is a Zoroastrian festival celebrating the deity Mithra, associated with the sun and light. Narsin: Meaning uncertain. Depending on the area, some communities celebrate Mehregan with great fanfare including festival like celebrations. Other traditions include applying sormeh-dan eyeliner, praying, throwing seeds in celebration and offering gift of charity to those who are less fortunate.