

The Islamic Calendar

The Islamic calendar dates from 622 CE, the time of the Hijrah, Muhammad's famous journey to Medina. It is also a lunar calendar, meaning each month begins with the appearance of the new moon. Therefore, Islamic celebrations and holidays happen eleven days earlier each solar year, giving them no particular connection to the seasons.

Here are the months of the Islamic calendar. Below, you will find the dates of significant Islamic festivals.

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1. Muharram	2. Safar	3. Rabi 1
4. Rabi 2	5. Jumad 1	6. Jumad 2
7. Rajab	8. Sha' Ban	9. Ramadan
10. Shawwal	11. Dhul-Quada	12. Dhul-Hijjah

Significant Festivals and Holidays

- 1 Muharram: New Year's Day (celebrates the Hijrah)
- 12 Rabi 1: *Mawlid-al-Nabi*, Muhammad's birthday celebration
- 27 Rajab: *Lailat-al-Miraj*, Nygannad's ascension to Heaven
- 1-28 Ramadan: the month of fasting
- 1 Shawwal: *Eid-al-Fitr*, the festival to complete Ramadan
- 8-13 Dhul-Hijja: *Hajj*, the annual pilgrimage to Mecca
- 10 Dhul-Hijja: *Eid-ul-Adha*, the feast of sacrifice

Extension:

Explain in detail the happenings during one of these special occasions.