



ISLAMIC RELIEF USA
2024 CALENDAR

ISLAMIC CALENDAR

There is rich history and symbolism for each of the 12 months of the Islamic calendar, a calendar that differs from the Gregorian calendar because it follows the lunar [moon] cycle rather than the solar [sun] cycle. For example, four of the months—Muharram, Safar, Rajab, Dhu al-Qadah—prohibit fighting and violence for various reasons. Read more to learn of the significance of each month in the Islamic calendar.

MUHARRAM

This is the first month, and its name translates to “forbidden.” Its sacredness relates to being the first of four sacred months when fighting is prohibited so Muslims can return safely from Hajj. The 10th day, Ashura, commemorates key historical events.

SAFAR

Safar is the second month in the Islamic calendar and means “void” or “empty,” which is in reference to how houses would be empty as people would go out to gather food and provisions. The word “Safar” has the same Arabic root letters as the word “travel.”

RABI AL-AWWAL

This joyous third month marks the birth and death of Prophet Muhammad [SAW]. Rabi al-Awwal means “the first spring” or “to graze,” referring to the season when cattle would graze due to the new growth of grass.

RABI AL-THANI

The name of this fourth month translates to “the second spring.” Key deaths occurred during Rabi al-Thani, making it a time of mourning for some Muslims.

JUMADA AL-AWWAL

The origin of the month’s name is theorized by some as coming from the word *jamād* meaning “arid, dry, or cold,” denoting the dry and parched land and hence the dry months of the pre-Islamic Arabian calendar.

JUMADA AL-THANI

The name of this sixth month means “the last parched land,” relating to Arabs scattering to find water. It was a special month for the Prophet Muhammad [SAW], as it is the month in which his most beloved daughter Sayyida Fatima Zahra [AS] was born.

RAJAB

The seventh month of the Islamic calendar is one of the four sacred months when fighting is prohibited; in this case, it was so Muslims could safely make the Umrah pilgrimage. The name Rajab means “respect” or “honor.”

SHA'BAN

This eighth month is known as the month of Prophet Muhammad [SAW]. Its name means “scattered,” relating to the historical need to spread out to find water. Muslims often use Sha’ban to prepare for Ramadan.

RAMADAN

This ninth month is considered one of the holiest times for Muslims and is marked by fasting each day from dawn until dusk. This practice is meant to purify observers, and remind them to be compassionate and understanding of the less fortunate. It is also a time to focus on the Holy Qur’an, which was sent down on Laylatul Qadr [“Night of Power”], increase prayers and good deeds, and fulfill the pillar of zakat [almsgiving] to provide for those in need. The name “Ramadan” means “burning heat.”

SHAWWAL

This tenth month starts with Eid al-Fitr, the holiday that follows Ramadan. Shawwal stems from the verb *shala* which means to ‘lift or carry, generally to take or move things from one place to another, so named because a female camel normally would be carrying a fetus at this time of year.

DHU AL-QADAH

The eleventh month’s name means “the month of truce.” Dhu al-Qadah is the third of the sacred months that violence is forbidden, this time, to allow for the safe passage of Muslims from Mecca to Hajj [pilgrimage]. Good and bad deeds are believed to carry more weight than normal during this month.

DHU AL-HIJJAH

The final, sacred month is the time when Muslims carry out the Hajj pilgrimage. Its name means “pilgrimage.” Key dates this month honor Prophet Ibrahim’s [AS] devotion to Allah, and the completion of the religion of Islam. Eid al-Adha is a holiday when observers celebrate the completion of Hajj, and share meat provisions with the less fortunate.

SUNNAH FASTING DAYS

Prophet Muhammad [SAW] once said, “ Verily, the supplication of a fasting person is not turned away at the time of breaking fast.” Remember Islamic Relief and those we serve in your prayers as you break your fast.

Fasting for Allah [SWT] holds immense rewards—just one-day’s fast safeguards an observer from hell-fire for 70 years. Fasting nurtures piety, discipline, and spiritual growth, fostering a more fulfilling life. Beyond the benefits and rewards for fasting during Ramadan, the rewards of voluntary fasting bring about deep virtues and blessings throughout the year.

MONDAYS AND THURSDAYS

Fasting on Mondays and Thursdays is a practice that was observed by the Prophet [SAW]. Recent studies affirm the health benefits associated with intermittent fasting, highlighting its potential to enhance metabolic rates and aid in cleansing the body.

Aishah narrated: “The Prophet used to try to fast on Mondays and Thursdays.” [Tirmidhi, Nasai, and Ibn Majah]

THE WHITE DAYS

The 13th, 14th, and 15th of each lunar month, known as the “White Days,” offer a chance for meritorious fasting. The Prophet [SAW] conveyed that fasting during these days accrues rewards equivalent to fasting for a lifetime.

Abdullah ibn Amr ibn al-Aas said: “The Messenger of Allah, peace be upon him, said to me: ‘It is sufficient for you to fast three days every month because for every good deed you will have [the reward of] 10 like it, so that will be like fasting for a lifetime.’” [Bukhari and Muslim]

SHA’BAN

Preceding Ramadan, Sha’ban serves as a preparatory period. The Prophet [SAW] expressed his inclination towards supplementary fasting during this month.

Aisha [RA] reported: “The most beloved month to the Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings be upon him, for fasting was Sha’ban, then he would connect it with Ramadan.”

THE SIX DAYS OF SHAWWAL

Following Ramadan, Shawwal presents an occasion to observe six days of fasting. It is believed that fasting these six days carries immense blessings, equating to a lifetime of fasting.

Abu Ayyoob reported that the Messenger of Allah [SAW] said: “Whoever fasts Ramadan and follows it with six days of Shawwal, it will be as if he fasted for a lifetime.” [Muslim]

ARAFAH

The Day of Arafah [or Waqf Arafah] is the ninth day of Dhu al-Hijjah. For those not partaking in Hajj, fasting the initial nine days of Dhu al-Hijjah is recommended, with particular emphasis on the Day of Arafah. This day serves as an expiation for sins from the preceding and current years.

Abu Qatadah reported: “The Messenger of Allah, peace be upon him, was asked about the observance of fasting on the day of Arafah. He said, ‘It is an expiation for the sins of the preceding year and the current year.’” [Muslim]

DAY OF ASHURA

The 10th of Muharram commemorates the salvation of Prophet Musa [AS] and his followers. It stands as an important day for fasting, and the Prophet [SAW] recommended fasting Ashura and the day before it.

Ibn Abbas was asked about fasting on the day of Ashura, whereupon he said: “I do not know Allah’s Messenger, peace be upon him, singling out any day’s fast and considering it more excellent than another, except this day [the day of Ashura] and this month, meaning the month of Ramadan.” [Muslim]

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF YOUR YOUTH, HEALTH, WEALTH, TIME, AND LIFE

*Take advantage of **five things before five things** seize you; Your youth before Your old age, your health before your sickness, Your wealth before your poverty, your spare time before your being busy, and your life before you death.”*













— PROPHET MUHAMMAD (SAW) —







 BOSNIA: OLD BRIDGE AREA OF THE OLD CITY OF MOSTAR

JANUARY

• Jumada Al-Akhirah 1445
Rajab 1445

SU	M	T	W	TH	F	SA
	 1 New Year's Day	2	3	 4	5	6
	19	20	21	22	23	24
7	 8	9	10	 11	12	 13
25	26	27	28	29	30	1st Rajab
14	 15 MLK Jr. Day	16	17	 18	19	20
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
21	 22	23	24 Int. Day of Education	 25	 26	 27
9	10	11	12	White Days 13	White Days 14	White Days 15
28	 29	30	31			
16	17	18	19			

NOTES

-  Islamic Holidays
-  Important Islamic Dates
-  New Moon
-  Sunnah Fasts



DON'T PROCRASTINATE

*Beware of procrastination for you are [in] today and not [in] tomorrow. **If there is a tomorrow for you, be tomorrow as you are today.** If there isn't a tomorrow for you, you will grievously regret the opportunity you missed today."*

— PROPHET MUHAMMAD (SAW) —



TÜRKİYE: BURSA

FEBRUARY

• Rajab 1445
Shaban 1445

SU	M	T	W	TH	F	SA
				1	2	3
				20	21	22
4		5	6	8	9	10
23	24	25	26	Isra and Mi'raj 27	28	29
11		12	13	14 Ash Wednesday Valentine's Day	15	16
1st Shaban	2	3	4	5	6	7
18	19 Presidents' Day	20 World Day of Social Justice	21	22	23	24
8	9	10	11	12	White Days 13	White Days 14
25	26	27	28	29		
White Days 15	16	17	18	19		

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DON'T WASTE YOUR TIME

*Know that in you are two (dangerous) qualities;
laughing at something not amusing and laziness
when not tired.”*




— PROPHET MUHAMMAD (SAW) —



📍 YEMEN - OLD CITY OF SANA'A

MARCH

• Shaban 1445
Ramadan 1445

SU	M	T	W	TH	F	SA
					1 Women's History Month	2
					20	21
3	 4 World Wildlife Day	5	6	 7	8 Intl. Women's Day	9
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
10	 11	12	13	14	15	16
29	1st Ramadan	2	3	4	5	6
17 St. Patrick's Day	18	19	20	21	22 World Water Day	23
7	8	9	10	11	12	White Days 13
24 Palm Sunday	25	26	27	28	29 Good Friday	30
White Days 14	White Days 15	16	17	18	19	20

31
Easter

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ADMIT YOUR IGNORANCE

*When you are asked of some knowledge you know not of say, 'I do not know!' You will be saved of its consequences. **Don't make judgment of that which you haven't knowledge.***

— PROPHET MUHAMMAD (SAW) —



TANZANIA: MOUNT KILIMANJARO

APRIL

• Ramadan 1445
Shawwal 1445

SU	M	T	W	TH	F	SA
	1 Volunteer Month	2	3	4	★ 5	6
	22	23	24	25	Laylat al-Qadr 26	27
7 World Health Day	8	9	🏠🌙 10	🙏 11	🙏 12	🙏 13
28	29	30	Eid al-Fitr 1st Shawwal	2	3	4
🙏 14 Volunteer Week Starts	🙏 15 Tax Day	🙏 16	17	🙏 18	19	20 Volunteer Week Ends
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
21	🙏 22 Earth Day	🙏 23 Passover	🙏 24	🙏 25 World Malaria Day	26	27
12	White Days 13	White Days 14	White Days 15	16	17	18
28	🙏 29	30				
19	20	21				

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There will be a day when a group of people of Paradise will be over a group of people of Hell and they will say, “What has made you enter hell-fire? For surely we entered Paradise by you teaching us and your disciplining (educating) us!” They will say: We used to bid others to do good while we ourselves didn’t do it.”





— PROPHET MUHAMMAD (SAW) —

MAY

• Shawwal 1445
Dhul Qadah 1445

SU	M	T	W	TH	F	SA
			1	 2 Nat. Day of Prayer	3 Orthodox Good Friday	4
			22	23	24	25
5 Cinco de Mayo Orthodox Easter	 6	7	8	  9	10	11
26	27	28	29	1st Dhul Qadah	2	3
12 Mother's Day	 13	14	15	 16	17	18
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
19	 20	 21	 22	 23	24	25
11	12	White Days 13	White Days 14	White Days 15	16	17
26	 27 Memorial Day	28	29	 30	31	
18	19	20	21	22	23	

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DON'T BELITTLE YOUR SINS

*Surely the believer sees his sin as if it is a boulder, he fears that it will fall on him and surely the unbeliever sees his sin as if it is a fly passing on his nose. **Surely Allah (SWT), when He wills good for a servant he puts his sins before his two eyes. When he wills bad for a servant he makes him forget his sins.***

— PROPHET MUHAMMAD (SAW) —



SOUTH AFRICA: TABLE MOUNTAIN

JUNE

• Dhul Qadah 1445
Dhul Hijjah 1445

SU	M	T	W	TH	F	SA		
						1		
						24		
2		3	4	5 World Environment Day		6	7	8
25	26	27	28	29	30	1st Dhul Hijjah	2	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15		
3	4	5	6	7	8	Hajj Begins	9	
16 Father's Day	17	18	19 Juneteenth	20 World Refugee Day	21	22	Day of Arafah	
Eid al-Adha 10	11	12	White Days 13	White Days 14	White Days 15	16		
23	24	25	26	27	28	29		
17	18	19	20	21	22	23		

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PRIORITIZE YOUR PRAYERS

















Allah (SWT) has made me to love Salah like food is made loveable to the hungry and water to the thirsty. And surely the hungry one, when he eats, he is satiated and the thirsty one, when he drinks he is quenched but I am not satiated from Salah.”

— PROPHET MUHAMMAD (SAW) —





 BANGLADESH: HISTORIC MOSQUE CITY OF BAGERHAT

JULY

• Dhul Hijjah 1445
Muharram 1446

SU	M	T	W	TH	F	SA
	 1	2	3	 4 Independence Day	5	6
	25	26	27	28	29	30
 7 Islamic New Year 1st Muharram	 8	9	10	 11	12	13
14	2	3	4	5	6	7
 15	 15	  16 Ashura 10	17	 18 Nelson Mandela Intl. Day	 19 White Days 13	 20 White Days 14
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
 21 White Days 15	 22	23	24	 25	26	27
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
28	 29	30	31			
22	23	24	25			

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DON'T BECOME ATTACHED TO THIS WORLD

*This world is the **prison** of the believer and the **paradise** of the unbeliever.”*

— PROPHET MUHAMMAD (SAW) —







PAKISTAN: HISTORICAL MONUMENTS AT MAKLI, THATTA

AUGUST

• Muharram 1446
Safar 1446

SU	M	T	W	TH	F	SA
				☞ 1	2	3
				26	27	28
4	☞☝🌙 5	6	7	☞☝ 8	9 Intl. Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples	10
29	1st Safar	2	3	4	5	6
11	☞☝ 12	13	14	☞☝ 15	16	☞☝ 17
7	8	9	10	11	12	White Days 13
☞☝ 18	☞☝ 19 World Humanitarian Day	20	21	☞☝ 22	23	24
White Days 14	White Days 15	16	17	18	19	20
25	☞☝ 26 Women's Equality Day	27	28	☞☝ 29	30	31
21	22	23	24	25	26	27

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BE YOUR OWN ACCOUNTANT FOR YOUR DEEDS

Take account of yourself before you're taken account of so your accounting will be easier tomorrow. And weigh yourself before you are weighed and prepare for the great staging; the day you will be presented, not the least of a hidden thing of you will be hidden from Allah.”





— PROPHET MUHAMMAD (SAW) —

SEPTEMBER

• Safar 1446
Rabi ul Awal 1446

SU	M	T	W	TH	F	SA
1	 2 Labor Day	3	 4	 5 Intl. Day of Charity	6	7
28	29	30	1st Rabi ul Awal	2	3	4
8 Int. Literacy Day	 9	10	11	 12	13	14
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
 15 Birth of the Prophet (SAW)	 16 White Days 13	 17 White Days 14	 18 White Days 15	 19	20	21 Int. Day of Peace
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
22	 23	24	25	 26	27	28
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
29	 30					
26	27					

NOTES

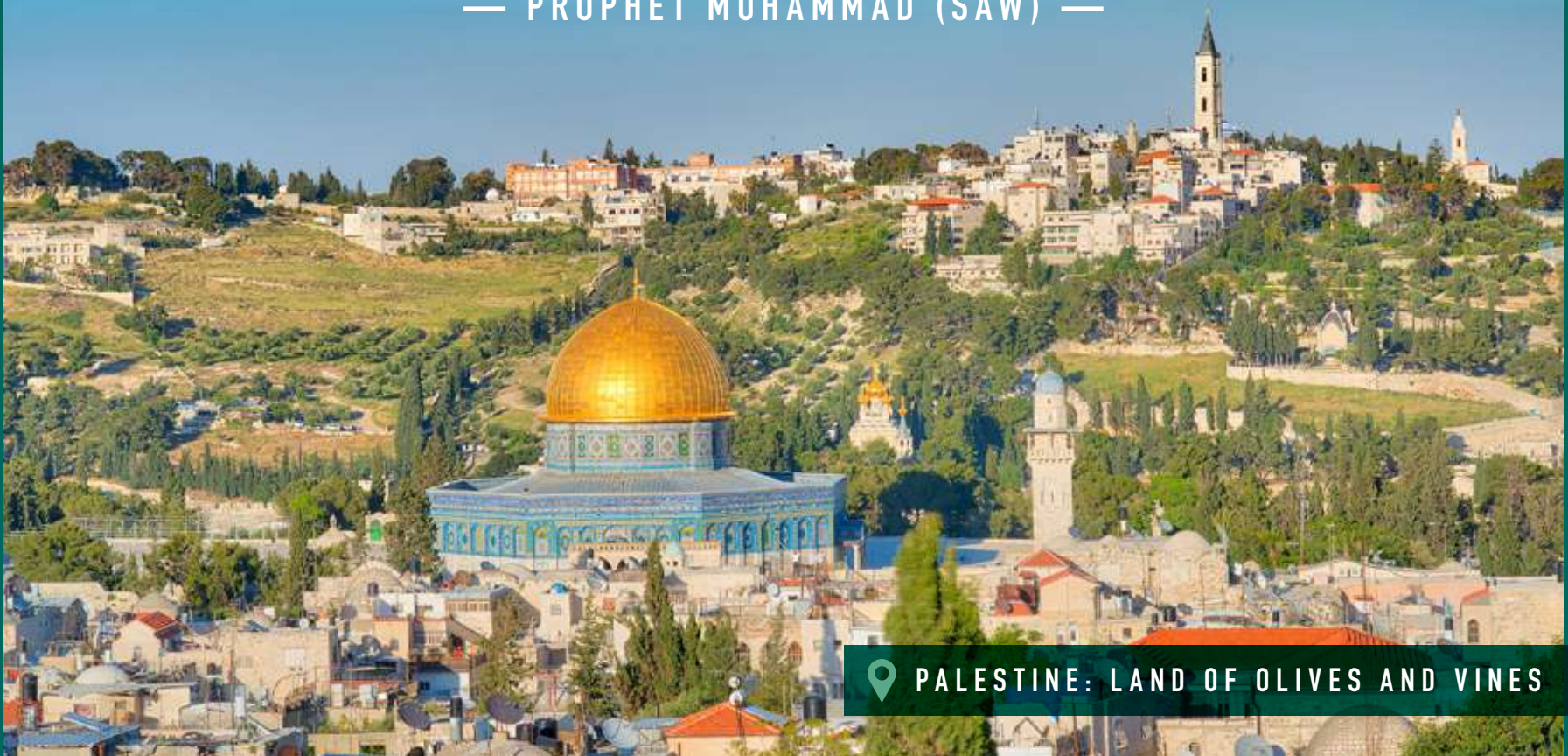
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QUALITY IS BETTER THAN QUANTITY

The virtue of knowledge is greater than that of worship. And know you that if you prayed until your back becomes bent and you fasted until you became thin as strings that would not benefit you unless it is done with piety.”

— PROPHET MUHAMMAD (SAW) —







PALESTINE: LAND OF OLIVES AND VINES

OCTOBER

• Rabi ul Awal 1446
Rabi Al-Akhar 1446

SU	M	T	W	TH	F	SA
		1	2	 3 Rosh Hashanah	 4	5
		28	29	30	1st Rabi Al-Akhar	2
6	 7 Child Health Day	8	9	 10	11 Intl. Day of the Girl	12
3	4	5	6	7	8	Yom Kippur 9
13	 14 Indigenous Peoples' Day	15	 16 World Food Day	 17 Intl. Day for the Eradication of Poverty	 18	19
10	11	12	White Days 13	White Days 14	White Days 15	16
20	 21 Charity Week Starts	22	23	 24	25	26
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
27 Charity Week Ends	 28	29	30	 31		
24	25	26	27	28		

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REMEMBER GOD IN TIMES OF EASE

*“Shall I not teach you words which may benefit you by Allah’s help? I said: Yes, Oh Messenger of Allah. He [SA] said: **Get to know Allah [SWT] in your time of leisure and comfort and Allah [SWT] will remember you in your hard times.**”*

— PROPHET MUHAMMAD (PBUH) —







NOVEMBER

• Rabi Al-Akhar 1446
Jumada Al-Awwal 1446

SU	M	T	W	TH	F	SA
	☞			☞	1	2
					29	30
☾ 3	☞ 4	5 Election Day	6	☞ 7	8	9
1st Jumada Al-Awwal	2	3	4	5	6	7
10	☞ 11 Veterans Day	12	13	☞ 14	☞ 15	☞ 16
8	9	10	11	12	White Days 13	White Days 14
☞ 17	☞ 18	19	20 World Children's Day	☞ 21	22	23
White Days 15	16	17	18	19	20	21
24	☞ 25	26	27	☞ 28 Thanksgiving (National Day of Mourning)	29 Native American Heritage Day	30
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

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STAY AWAY FROM GOSSIP

Beware of backbiting, for backbiting is worse than adultery! So I asked, “Oh Messenger of Allah, and why is that? He [SAW] said: Because a man can commit adultery and then repent to Allah [SWT] and Allah [SWT] can forgive him.

But the backbiting cannot be forgiven until those who were backbit forgive first.”












— PROPHET MUHAMMAD (SAW) —







ARGENTINA: LOS GLACIARES NATIONAL PARK

DECEMBER

• Jumada Al-Awwal 1446
Jumada Al-Akhirah 1446

SU	M	T	W	TH	F	SA
1	 2	3 Giving Tuesday	4 Giving Tuesday	 5 Intl. Volunteer Day	6	7
29	1st Jumada Al-Akhirah	2	3	4	5	6
8	 9	10 Human Rights Day	11	 12	13	 14
7	8	9	10	11	12	White Days 13
 15	 16	17	18	 19	20	21
White Days 14	White Days 15	16	17	18	19	20
22	 23	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day	 26 Hanukkah Begins Kwanzaa	27	28
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
29	 30	31 New Year's Eve				
28	29	30				

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