



Facts about the Islamic Calendar

The Islamic year has twelve months that are based on a lunar cycle. Islamic months begin at sunset of the first day, the day when the lunar crescent is visually sighted. Since sighting of the crescent new moon can vary based on atmospheric conditions, actual dates can vary by 1 or 2 days from when predicted.

The lunar year is approximately 354 days long, so the months rotate backward through the seasons and are not fixed to the Gregorian calendar.

Months of the Islamic year

Each month in the Islamic year has a meaning to it. Following are the translations. To access the corresponding Gregorian dates for the 2008-2009 calendar year, access this website:

<http://www.ing.org/about/islampage.asp?num=14>.

1. **Muharram** - "Forbidden" - it is one of the four months during which it is forbidden to wage war or fight.
2. **Safar** - "Empty" or "Yellow"
3. **Rabia Awal** - "First spring"
4. **Rabia Thani** - "Second spring."
5. **Jumaada Awal** - "First freeze."
6. **Jumaada Thani** - "Second freeze."
7. **Rajab** - "To respect" - this is another holy month when fighting is prohibited.
8. **Sha'ban** - "To spread and distribute."
9. **Ramadan** - "Parched thirst" - this is the month of daytime fasting.
10. **Shawwal** - "To be light and vigorous."
11. **Dhul-Qi'dah** - "The month of rest" - a month when no warfare or fighting is allowed.
12. **Dhul-Hijjah** - "The month of [Haji](#)" - this is the month of the annual pilgrimage to Mecca, again when no warfare or fighting is allowed.

Important Dates in the Islamic year

Ramadan: Of all the months in the Islamic calendar, Ramadan is the most sacred. Between dawn and sunset, many Muslims abstain from eating and drinking.

Eid Al-Fitr

Hajj begins

Eid Al-Adha

Islamic New Year 1429 H.

Islamic Holidays, A.H. 1428–1430 (2008–2009)

All holidays begin at sundown on the evening before the date given. The Islamic calendar is based on lunar observation; thus, the above dates may vary by one or two days. Dates apply to North America.

In the Year of the <u>Hegira</u>	<u>Muharram</u> (Islamic New Year)	<u>Mawlid al-Nabi</u> (Muhammad's Birthday)	<u>Ramadan</u> begins	<u>Eid al-Fitr</u> (Ramadan ends)	<u>Eid al-Adha</u> (Festival of Sacrifice)
A.H. 1429	Jan. 10, 2008	March 20, 2008	Sept. 2, 2008	Oct. 2, 2008	Dec. 9, 2008
A.H. 1430	Dec. 29, 2008	March 9, 2009	Aug. 22, 2009	Sept. 21, 2009	Nov. 28, 2009