

The Islamic Calendar

Islam has its own calendar. It dates from the hijrah (migration) when Allah's Messenger (ﷺ) and his companions left Makkah for madinah in the year 622 CE.

The islamic calendar is based on the movement of the moon. It is called a lunar calendar. The lunar year is roughly 11 days shorter than the solar year. Its months have 29 or 30 days.

In relation to the western calendar, the Islamic calendar moves backward every year. This means that islamic festivals including the month of Ramadan fall at different times of the western year. They bear no fixed relation to the changes of seasons.

The names of the Islamic months are as follow:

- ◆ Muharram
- ◆ Safar
- ◆ Rabi' ul Awwal
- ◆ Rabi' uth Thani
- ◆ Jumadal Ula
- ◆ Jumadal Ukhra
- ◆ Rajab
- ◆ Sha'baan
- ◆ Ramadan
- ◆ Shawwal
- ◆ Dhul Qi'da
- ◆ Dhul Hijjah



Answer the following questions.

1. When does the islamic calendar date from?
2. Why do Islamic festivals fall at different times every year?
3. Find out today's date, month and year according to the Islamic calendar.