

Our Islamic Calendar

**What month and year are we
in, in our Islamic calendar?**

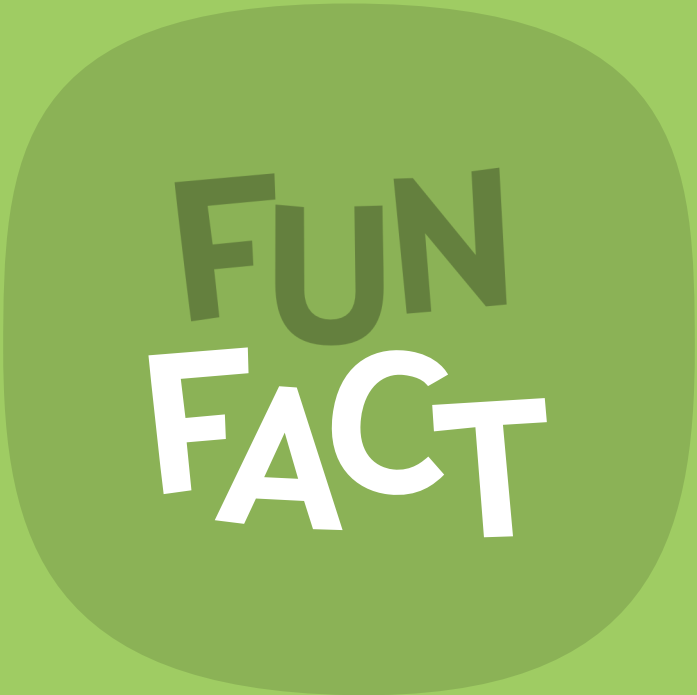
It is the month of
Muharram, the year 1446.

Did you know we Muslims have our own calendar Alhamdulillah!

Our calendar is based on the moon, it is known as the lunar calendar.

The calendar which we normally use on a day to day basis, is based on the sun, and is known as the solar calendar.






**FUN
FACT**

The solar calendar has 365 days, while the lunar calendar has 354 days.

There is a difference of 10 to 11 days between the two calendars.



**FUN
FACT**

The solar calendar is also known as the Gregorian calendar. It was named after Pope Gregory XIII, who instituted the calendar on 24 February 1582.

Our calendar (lunar calendar) is also known as the Hijri calendar. It was instituted by the second greatest companion (Sahabi) of our Prophet ﷺ, Umar Radiyallahu Anhu in the year 638 (16AH).



What are the two calendars based on?

The current calendar (Gregorian) is based on the supposed birth of Prophet Isa (Jesus alayhis salam).

Whereas, our calendar is based on the Hijrah of our beloved Prophet ﷺ .

Hijrah is when our Prophet ﷺ and his companions left their homes in Makkah and migrated to the blessed city of Madina.

Let's watch this video about the Hijrah

https://youtu.be/_9GJWdPPE2s

Brief History of Our Calendar

At the time of our Prophet ﷺ, there was not a specific calendar for the Muslims. Dates were remembered using special events. For example, they used to remember incidents with the Year of the Elephants.

After our Prophet ﷺ, passed away, Abu Bakr (may Allah be pleased with him) became the Khalifah of the Muslims. A Khalifah is the person who takes on the responsibility of the Prophet ﷺ, in managing the affairs of the Muslims. It is the most difficult responsibility to ever have.

Abu Bakr (RA) remained the Khalifa for 2 years, 2 months and 14 days, until he passed away. During his Khilafah (leadership), he protected Islam and the Muslims from many hardships. He is right buried next to our Prophet ﷺ.



Brief History of Our Calendar (Continued)

After the demise of Abu Bakr (RA), Umar (RA) became the Khalifah of the Muslims. He is also known as Ameer ul Mu'mineen, the Leader of the Believers. Umar (RA) was a great Sahabi, the Muslim Ummah is hugely indebted to Umar (RA) for his contributions to this Ummah.

Umar (RA) took care of the affairs of the Muslims for 10 years until he was martyred in Masjid un Nabawi, at the time of Fajr, by a Zoroastrian man by the name of Feiroz, also known as Abu Lu'Lu'.

During the rule of Umar (RA), he felt that it would be beneficial for the Muslims to have their own calendar. After consultation with all the Sahaabah, they came to a decision that the beginning of the Islamic calendar will be from the time our Prophet ﷺ made Hijrah.

Therefore, since it had already been 16 years since the Hijrah, the Islamic calendar started from 16AH.

AH refers to After Hijrah.





Where Do the Names of the Solar Calendar Months Come From?

Did you know, that the names of the months in the solar calendar, which we use, are taken from the Roman gods, leaders, festivals, and numbers! The Romans had incorrect beliefs, they believed that there were many Gods.

March (Martius):

Named after Mars, the god of war, they believed that the soldiers started fighting again in this month.

April (Aprilis):

Comes from a Latin word that means "to open," like how flowers open in spring.

May (Maius):

Named for the goddess Maia.

June (Junius):

Named for the goddess Juno.

July (Quintilis):

It means the fifth month.

August (Sextilis):

It means the sixth month.

September:

It means the seventh month.

October:

It means the eighth month.

November:

It means the ninth month.

December:

It means the tenth month.

January (Januarius):

Added later, named after Janus, the god of beginnings and endings.

February (Februarius):

Added later, named after Februa, a festival of purification.

Year 4+

Where Do the Names of the Solar Calendar Months Come From?

Muharram

The first month. It means "forbidden", it is from the word Haraam, since war was not allowed in this month, the name of this month was given Muharram.

Safar

The second month. It means "empty." Before Islam, Arabs named it Safar, because people would leave their homes in Makkah to travel and gather provisions during the winter season, leaving the town empty.

Rabi al-Awwal

The third month. It means "the first spring." It's a happy month because our Prophet Muhammad ﷺ was born, but also sad because he passed away in this month.

Rabi al-Thani

The fourth month. It means "the second spring."

Jumada al- Awwal

The word Jumada derives from a word meaning dry parched land, or a land devoid of rain. It could also mean to freeze. This name might relate to the weather conditions when the months were first named historically.

Jumada al- Thani

The sixth month. It means "the last parched land." In this month, the beloved daughter of our Prophet ﷺ, Fatimah (RA) was born and died in this month, and Abu Bakr (RA) also passed away in this month.

Rajab

The seventh month. It means "respect" or "honour." It's a sacred month with no fighting, so Muslims can perform Umrah safely.

Sha'ban

The eighth month. It means "scattered" as people scattered to find water. It's a time to prepare for Ramadan and is sometimes called the month of our Prophet Muhammad ﷺ.

Ramadhan

The ninth month. It means "burning heat" and is known for fasting from dawn to dusk. It's a time to cleanse the mind, body, and soul, and to appreciate what we have.

Shawwal

The tenth month. The name originates from, 'shuwal', which means 'to be raised' or 'lifted'. During this month the Arabs would lift up their belongings and tents since they would travel in this month. It's a month of celebration with Eid al-Fitr, where people share food, gifts, and prayers.

Dhu'l al-Qadah

The eleventh month. It means "the month of truce." It's a sacred month with no fighting, so Muslims can travel to Makkah for Hajj safely.

Dhu'l Hijjah

The twelfth and final month. It means "pilgrimage" because Hajj happens in this month. Important days include the Day of Arafah and Eid al-Adha, a time of great celebration.

Alhamdulillah, We Are Fortunate!

We have our own calendar, we should appreciate it and try following it.

Before a new month commences, we should study the incidents that occurred in that month and also see if there are any special virtues mentioned about the month.

Let's recall what we have studied today.