Ramadan
An Islamic Festival
When is Ramadan Celebrated?

**Ramadan** is in the ninth month of the Islamic lunar calendar. The Islamic calendar is based on the moon rather than the sun although it has 12 months like the Western calendar.

The **Qur’an** was first revealed to the prophet Muhammad during this month. The actual night that the Qur’an was revealed is a night known as **Lailut ul-Qadr** (‘The Night of Power’); Muhammad was told to learn the whole book by heart!

**Ramadan Dates:**
- **2018**: May 17 to June 14
- **2019**: May 6 to June 3
- **2020**: April 24 to May 23
- **2021**: April 13 to May 12
- **2022**: April 2 to May 1
- **2023**: March 23 to April 20
What is Ramadan?

Ramadan is a very important time for Muslims; Ramadan is celebrated all over the world.

During Ramadan, Muslims request forgiveness for sins in the past, pray for direction and try to cleanse themselves through self-control and great acts of faith.

Restraint from everyday enjoyment is considered an act of obedience to God, as well as making amends for mistakes.

Ramadan is a time for Muslims to pray (salat) more than normal.

It is a time of fasting for the Islamic people; Fasting is one of the Five Pillars or duties of Islam.
Celebrating Ramadan

Muslims try to give up bad habits during Ramadan, and some will try to become better Muslims by praying more or reading the Qur’an.

Many Muslims will attempt to read the whole of the Qur’an at least once during the Ramadan period. Many will also attend special services in mosques.

Fasting is intended to help teach Muslims to focus their attention on God, be self-disciplined and generous. It also reminds them of the suffering of the poor, who may rarely get to eat well. The prophet Muhammad set the example of fasting.

Each day during this month, Muslims all over the world abstain from eating, drinking and ‘ill-natured’ activities such as watching television, from dawn until the sun sets.
What Is It like to Fast?

No eating or drinking during day light hours.

Fasting begins very early in the morning.

The morning meal is very filling. This meal is called Suhoor; High energy foods such as yogurts, cheese and honey are eaten.

People slow down as the day goes on.

At the end of the day after sunset the families all eat together and celebrate their day of fasting. This meal is called Iftar.
Fasting During Ramadan

Some people do not fast during Ramadan:
• Pregnant ladies
• Children under 10
• Old people
• Muslim soldiers
• Ill people

If you cannot fast, you must donate money to feed the poor people.

This is known as Zakah.
Eid ul Fitr

The end of Ramadan is a big celebration called 'Eid-ul-Fitr': Festival of the Breaking of the Fast.

Muslims are celebrating the end of fasting and thanking Allah for the strength that he gave them throughout Ramadan.

There are special services, processions and a special celebratory meal eaten during daytime.

Muslims dress in their finest clothes, give gifts to children and spend time with their friends and family.

During Eid, it is obligatory to give money to charity to help poor people buy new clothes and food so that, they too, can celebrate.
Happy Eid

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