



United States Residents Born Between 1936 and 1966 Are In For a Big Surprise



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Ramadan starts in the United States

Ramadan (also known as Ramadhan or Ramzan) is the ninth month in the Islamic calendar. It is a period of prayer, fasting, charity-giving and self-accountability for Muslims in the United States. The first verses of the Koran (Qu'ran) were revealed to the Prophet Muhammad (also written as Mohammad or Muhammed) during the last third of Ramadan, making this an especially holy period.

What Do People Do?

Ramadan is a month of fasting for many Muslims in the United States. Fasting during Ramadan is one of the Five Pillars (fundamental religious duties) of Islam. It is a time of self-examination and increased religious devotion.



Ramadan lanterns are popular during the month of Ramadan.

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People of Islamic faith are encouraged to read the entire Qur'an during Ramadan. Some Muslims recite the entire Qur'an by the end of Ramadan through special prayers known as *Tarawih*, which are held in mosques every night of the month, during which a section of the Qur'an is recited. Ramadan is also a month for acts of charity. Some Islamic centers and organizations actively take part in charity events and activities such as giving basic necessities, including food and clothing, to the homeless or donating school equipment to schools.

Some schools for students of Islamic faith may hold special events to welcome Ramadan. Some school authorities may issue requests

on or prior to Ramadan, asking staff members at all schools within a district to help Muslim students perform their fasting ritual.

Public Life

Many Islamic businesses and organizations may amend opening hours to suit prayer times during Ramadan in the United States. There may also be some congestion around mosques during prayer times, such as in the evenings.

Background

Ramadan is the ninth month in the Islamic calendar, which consists of 12 months and lasts for about 354 days. The word “Ramadan” is derived from an Arabic word for intense heat, scorched ground and shortness of food and drink. It is considered to be the most holy and blessed month. Fighting is not allowed during this period.

The month of Ramadan traditionally begins with a new moon sighting, marking the start of the ninth month in the Islamic calendar. Many Muslims (except children, the sick and the elderly) abstain from food, drink, and certain other activities during daylight hours in Ramadan. This is considered as the holiest season in the Islamic year and commemorates the time when the Qu’ran (Islamic holy book) is said to have been revealed to the Prophet Muhammad. This occurred on [Laylat Al-Qadr](#), one of the last 10 nights of the month. Ramadan ends when the first crescent of the new moon is sighted again, marking the new lunar month’s start. [Eid-al-Fitr](#) is the Islamic holiday that marks the end of Ramadan.

About Ramadan starts in other countries

Read more about [Ramadan starts](#).

Ramadan starts Observances

Note: Regional customs or moon sightings may cause a variation of the date for Islamic holidays, which begin at sundown the day before the date specified for the holiday. The Islamic calendar is lunar and the days begin at sunset, so there may be one-day error depending on when the New Moon is first seen.

Select another year-range:

Weekday ▾	Date ▾	Year ▾	Name	Holiday Type	Where It is Observed
Wed	Aug	2010	Ramadan	Muslim	

	11		starts	
Mon	Aug 1	2011	Ramadan starts	Muslim
Fri	Jul 20	2012	Ramadan starts	Muslim
Tue	Jul 9	2013	Ramadan starts	Muslim
Sun	Jun 29	2014	Ramadan starts	Muslim
Thu	Jun 18	2015	Ramadan starts	Muslim
Tue	Jun 7	2016	Ramadan starts	Muslim
Sat	May 27	2017	Ramadan starts	Muslim
Wed	May 16	2018	Ramadan starts	Muslim
Mon	May 6	2019	Ramadan starts	Muslim
Fri	Apr 24	2020	Ramadan starts	Muslim

Quick Facts

Many Muslims in the United States fast in the hours of daylight during Ramadan, the ninth month in the Islamic calendar.

Ramadan starts 2017

Saturday, May 27, 2017

Ramadan starts 2018

Wednesday, May 16, 2018

Advertising





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Name in other languages

Name	Language
Ramadan starts	English
Ramadán comienza	Spanish
הַרְמַדָּאן מֵתַחִיל	Hebrew
يبدأ شهر رمضان	Arabic
라마단이 시작됩니다	Korean
Ramadan (Anfang)	German

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[List of dates for other years](#)

Related holidays

- [Lailat al-Qadr](#) – Wednesday, June 21, 2017
- [Eid al-Fitr](#) – Monday, June 26, 2017

Other holidays in May 2017 in the United States

- [Law Day](#) – Monday, May 1, 2017
- [Yom Ha'atzmaut](#) – Tuesday, May 2, 2017

- [Kent State Shootings Remembrance](#) – Thursday, May 4, 2017
- [Cinco de Mayo](#) – Friday, May 5, 2017
- [National Nurses Day](#) – Saturday, May 6, 2017
- [Truman Day](#) – Monday, May 8, 2017
- [State Holiday](#) – Wednesday, May 10, 2017
- [Lag BaOmer](#) – Sunday, May 14, 2017
- [Peace Officers Memorial Day](#) – Monday, May 15, 2017
- [National Defense Transportation Day](#) – Friday, May 19, 2017
- [Armed Forces Day](#) – Saturday, May 20, 2017
- [National Maritime Day](#) – Monday, May 22, 2017
- [Emergency Medical Services for Children Day](#) – Wednesday, May 24, 2017
- [Ascension Day](#) – Thursday, May 25, 2017
- [Memorial Day](#) – Monday, May 29, 2017
- [Shavuot](#) – Wednesday, May 31, 2017

Fun Holiday on May 27, 2017

- [Sun Screen Day](#)

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