

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

The Islamic Months

All twelve months of the
Hijri calendar, in order

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For parents

One month at a time

Learning twelve names from a list lasts a week. Knowing "it is Sha'ban now, so Ramadan is next" lasts a lifetime. Move a marker on this chart when each month begins.

Look for the new moon together

Each month begins with the new crescent, low in the west after sunset. Say the du'a at the bottom of the chart when you see it.

The four sacred months

Dhul-Qa'dah, Dhul-Hijjah, Muharram and Rajab (Quran 9:36; Sahih al-Bukhari and Sahih Muslim). They are marked on the chart.

An ordinary month is not an empty one

Most months have no special acts of worship. Prayer, Quran and good character belong to all twelve.

About the sources

Quran references are given by surah and verse. Hadith are given with the collection they are narrated in - Sahih al-Bukhari, Sahih Muslim, Abu Dawud, Tirmidhi - rather than a number, because numbering differs between printings. This is a learning aid for families, not a substitute for a teacher or a scholar.

The twelve Islamic months

#	Month	Arabic	Known for
1	Muharram *	مُحَرَّم	Sacred. The new year begins. Ashura on the 10th.
2	Safar	صَفَر	An ordinary month - not unlucky.
3	Rabi' al-Awwal	رَبِيعِ الْأَوَّل	Hijrah reached Madinah. Most date the Prophet's birth here.
4	Rabi' al-Thani	رَبِيعِ الْآخِر	An ordinary month.
5	Jumada al-Ula	جُمَادَى الْأُولَى	An ordinary month.
6	Jumada al-Akhirah	جُمَادَى الْآخِرَة	An ordinary month.
7	Rajab *	رَجَب	Sacred.
8	Sha'ban	شَعْبَان	The Prophet fasted much of it.
9	Ramadan	رَمَضَان	Fasting. Laylat al-Qadr.
10	Shawwal	شَوَّال	Eid al-Fitr on the 1st.
11	Dhul-Qa'dah *	ذُو الْقَعْدَة	Sacred. Hajj season.
12	Dhul-Hijjah *	ذُو الْحِجَّة	Sacred. Hajj, Arafah, Eid al-Adha.

* Sacred month (Quran 9:36). Each month is 29 or 30 days, so the Islamic year is about 354 days and every month moves about eleven days earlier each year.

The du'a on seeing the new moon

اللَّهُمَّ أَهْلِهِ عَلَيْنَا بِإِيمَانٍ، وَالسَّلَامَةِ وَالْإِسْلَامِ، رَبِّي وَرَبُّكَ اللَّهُ

Allahumma ahlilhu 'alayna bil-yumni wal-iman, was-salamati wal-Islam, Rabbi wa Rabbuka'llah

"O Allah, bring it upon us with blessing and faith, with safety and Islam. My Lord and your Lord is Allah."

Source: Tirmidhi