



RAMADAN MONTH

SULTAN OF 11 MONTHS





WHAT IS RAMADAN?



Ramadan is a special month to millions of Muslims around the world. During the month of Ramadan, Muslims won't eat or drink between dawn and sunset. This is called fasting.

Fasting is important during Ramadan as it allows Muslims to devote themselves to their faith and come closer to Allah.

Fasting is one of the Five Pillars of Islam, which form the basis of how Muslims live their lives. The other pillars are faith, prayer, charity and making the pilgrimage to the holy city of Mecca.

Ramadan is also a time for spiritual reflection, prayer, doing good deeds and spending time with family and friends.



Ramadan/The Most Sacred Month of The Year

Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic calendar, but the date changes each year.

This is because Islam uses the lunar calendar (based on the cycles of the Moon), so it isn't a fixed date in the Western/solar calendar.

Muslims intending to fast wake up early and eat a light meal, known as **suhoor**, before dawn. Suhoor is typically consumed about half an hour before dawn, in time for the fajr, or morning, prayer, according to the IslamiCity news website. After the sun fully sets at the end of each day, the person typically breaks his or her fast with water and dates, followed by prayers and then a meal called **iftar**.

Many Muslims also usually go to the mosque to pray, when lockdown restrictions aren't in place.



AT THE END OF RAMADAN

There is a special festival to mark the end of Ramadan. This is called **Eid al-Fitr** - the Festival of the Breaking of the Fast.

It begins when the first sight of the new moon is seen in the sky.



EID AL-FITR

Eid Al-Fitr, also called the "**Festival of Breaking the Fast**", is a religious holiday celebrated by Muslims worldwide that marks the end of the month-long dawn-to-sunset fasting of Ramadan.

Eid-al-Fitr is regarded as a time to celebrate, with Muslims gathering their friends and family to show gratitude toward God following the previous month of reflection. The holiday serves as a great reminder for Muslims to be grateful for what they have, and to share with those who may be less fortunate.



HOW IS IT CELEBRATED?

As well as giving thanks, Muslims give an obligatory payment to charity (zakat al-Fitr), but this one is a smaller donation compared with the usual 2.5-percent zakat that wealthy Muslims are taxed. This is another of the five pillars of Islam. In addition to these payments, some Muslims take the initiative to work voluntarily at soup kitchens and hand out their own food to those in need of relief.

As with Eid-al-Adha, gifting is a big part of Eid celebrations. Children receive *eidia* offerings in money bags, and sweet treats such as cookies and dates are exchanged among loved ones, neighbours, colleagues, friends and even strangers. Family members will also buy one another presents, although most of these are saved for the youngest members of each family.

Countries across the world hold huge events to celebrate Eid-al-Fitr. Days of fireworks shows are especially popular in Turkey, the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia as people take the opportunity to spend quality time together. Muslims will not only celebrate the end of fasting, but will also thank Allah for the help and strength that they were given throughout the previous month.

Often children are given presents and new clothes.



GEVHER UĞURLU'S TEAM
İSMAİL HAKKI TONGUÇ İMAM
HATİP
SECONDARY SCHOOL