



RAMZAN

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TIME

DATES

June - July

FREQUENCY

Annual

DURATION

2 Days



ABOUT THE FESTIVAL (Legend/History/Myth)

Ramzan is a month long festival celebrated to commemorate the first revelation of the Holy Quran to Prophet Muhammed. Widely celebrated by the Muslim community, the festival falls in the ninth lunar month (Ramadan) of the Islamic calendar. It is believed that Prophet Muhammed, who was illiterate, was chosen by God to compile the Holy Book. Revelations with regard to this is said to have happened for 10 days. Hence the last 10 days of Ramzan are significant as believers wait for Lailath-al-Qadr or the Night of Power. Ramzan is associated with a month of fasting intended at reminding Islamic believers of the pangs of hunger, thirst and deprivation and inculcating discipline and submission to laws laid down in the Quran.





EVENTS/PROGRAMS

Fasting
Special Prayers
Iftar
Mehandi

DESCRIPTION (*How festival is celebrated*)

During Ramzan, Muslims fast from dawn until sunset and refrain from consuming food, drinking liquids, smoking etc. Following the rules of fasting are said to multiply spiritual rewards (*thawab*). Fasting during Ramzan typically includes increased offering of *salat* (prayers) and recitation of the Quran. Each day, before dawn, a pre-fast meal called the *suhur* is consumed. Traditionally, dates are usually the first food to break the fast in the evening. This is followed by the *Maghrib* (fourth prayer) after which the main meal is served. Social gatherings featuring traditional dishes are frequent at *Iftar*. The rituals practiced during Ramzan end with Eid-al-Fitr. Eid is observed on the first day of the month of *Shawwal* on sighting of the new moon. Congregational prayers called *Salat-al-Eid* are offered and *Takbir* (declaration of faith) is recited. Charitable contributions known as *Zakat-al-Fitr* are made. Eid is celebrated by gathering with friends and family, preparing feasts and delicacies, wearing new clothes and exchanging gifts.

