

Ramadan — the month at a glance

What begins the month, what fills its days and nights, and what must be given before it ends.



★ Decreed upon you

كُتِبَ عَلَيْكُمُ الصِّيَامُ كَمَا كُتِبَ عَلَى الَّذِينَ مِنْ قَبْلِكُمْ

"Fasting is decreed upon you as it was decreed upon those before you, that you may become righteous."

Qur'an 2:183

★ Why this month

"The month of Ramadan, in which the Qur'an was revealed — guidance for the people, clear proofs, and the criterion."

Qur'an 2:185

★ When it begins

"Fast when you see it and break when you see it; if it is hidden from you, complete thirty days of Sha'ban."

Sahih al-Bukhari 1909

★ Suhur

"Take suhur, for in suhur there is blessing." Eat and drink until the white thread of dawn is clear from the black.

Sahih al-Bukhari 1923 • Qur'an 2:187

★ Iftar

"People will stay upon good as long as they hasten the breaking of the fast." Break it at sunset, then pray Maghrib.

Sahih al-Bukhari 1957

★ Not only food

"Whoever does not leave false speech and acting on it — Allah has no need of his leaving his food and drink."

Sahih al-Bukhari 1903

★ The nights

"Whoever stands in Ramadan out of faith and in hope of reward is forgiven what went before." Tarawih, and the Qur'an read through.

Sahih al-Bukhari 2009

★ The last ten

لَيْلَةُ الْقَدْرِ خَيْرٌ مِنْ أَلْفِ شَهْرٍ

"The Night of Decree is better than a thousand months." Seek it in the odd nights of the last ten; i'tikaf belongs to them.

Qur'an 97:3 • Sahih al-Bukhari 2017

★ Before the 'Eid prayer

Zakat al-fitr — a sa' of the staple food — is due from every Muslim, young and old, and paid before the people go out to pray.

Sahih al-Bukhari 1503