



UAE FACTS

A. Important dates and years

Formation of United Arab Emirates happened on December 2nd, 1971, with 6 Emirate and Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan as first President. Ras Al Khaimah as 7th Emirate joined in February 1972. From the same year, UAE formally started to celebrate National Day on December 2nd.

In May 1973 UAE dirham was launched as an official currency. Same year, new cabinet was formed with Sheikh Rashid Al Maktoum as Prime Minister.

In 1977 first airport in Sharjah was opened and in 1982 Abu Dhabi International airport opened their current location. Three years later, in October 1985, Emirates Airlines begins its operations from Dubai, having only flights to India and Pakistan.

In September 1999, Burj Al Arab has been open, where was the first millennium celebration in December.

Sheikh Zayed died in November 2004. Two year later, Sheikh Maktoum Bin Rashid died during his visit in Australia. His brother, sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum succeeds him.

In January 2008, Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque was open for public. Same year in November, Dubai mall opened its doors.

In September 2009, Sheikh Mohammed inaugurates the first section of Dubai Metro's Red Line, serving 10 stations.

In January 2010, Dubai inaugurates the world's tallest skyscraper, the Burj Khalifa.

B. Ramadan

Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic calendar and is observed by Muslims worldwide as a month of fasting to commemorate the first revelation of the Quran to Muhammad according to Islamic belief. The month lasts 29–30 days based on the visual sightings of the crescent moon, according to numerous biographical accounts compiled in the hadiths. The word Ramadan comes from the Arabic root *ramiḍa* or *ar-ramāḍ*, which means scorching heat or dryness. Fasting is *fardh* (obligatory) for adult Muslims, except those who are suffering from an illness, travelling, are elderly, pregnant, breastfeeding, diabetic or going through menstrual period.

While fasting from dawn until sunset, Muslims refrain from consuming food, drinking liquids, smoking, and engaging in sexual relations. Muslims are also instructed to refrain from sinful behavior that may negate the reward of fasting, such as false speech (insulting, backbiting, cursing, lying, etc.) and fighting.

Each day, before dawn, Muslims observe a pre-fast meal called the *Suḥur*. After stopping a short time before dawn, Muslims begin the first prayer of the day. At sunset, families are gathering going to tents, restaurants or staying at home for fast-breaking meal known as *Iftar*.

In the evening, dates are usually the first food to break the fast. According to tradition, Muhammad broke fast with three dates. Following that, Muslims generally adjourn for the *Maghrib* prayer, the fourth of the five daily prayers, after which the main meal is served. In the Middle East, the *Iftar* meal consists of water, juices, dates, salads and appetizers, one or more

main dishes, and various kinds of desserts. Usually, the dessert is the most important part during Iftar.

I.Important Ramadan dates

The beginning and end of Ramadan are determined by the lunar Islamic calendar. Greeting is Ramadan Kareem.

Since the new moon marks the beginning of the new month, Muslims can usually safely estimate the beginning of Ramadan. Laylat al-Qadr, which in Arabic means "the night of power" or "the night of decree", is considered the holiest night of the year. This is the night in which Muslims believe the first revelation of the Quran was sent down to Muhammad stating that this night was "better than one thousand months".

The holiday of Eid al-Fitr marks the end of Ramadan. It last for three days. Greeting for this occasion is Eid Mubarak.

II.Ramadan in UAE

During holy month of Ramadan, all night clubs are closed, bars, pubs and restaurants will generally remain open but will only serve alcohol after sunset. Open dining areas will be covered with curtains or frosted glass. Brunches will not be organized. During day time, eating, drinking, chewing gum and smoking is strictly prohibited in public areas. Loud music should not be played. By Iftar time, low volume will be noticed in some restaurants, bars and pubs. It is highly recommended to refer of swearing in public as well.

Most of the UAE residents will leave on holidays during Ramadan time. For the ones who stay, working hours in will be shortened. Those in the private sector will be legally entitled to only working six hours a day over Ramadan, so 9am to 3pm or 8am to 2pm. In general, normal working hours shall be reduced by two hours. Knowledge and Human Development Authority has announced that school days should only be five hours long, that students who are fasting shouldn't be required to do PE classes and that eating and drinking should only be permitted in designated areas of schools.

Ramadan is starting from 27th of February 2025, till 29th of March 2025 (approximate dates).