



EID UL FITR FAQs

What is Eid Ul Fitr?

Eid ul Fitr is one of the two most significant holidays for Muslims. It falls at the end of the fasting month of Ramadan and literally means “Feast of Breaking Fast”. It is marked by celebrations, family and friends gatherings, food especially desserts, and fun outings with the family.

When is it?

The Islamic calendar is lunar, and some Muslims will wait to hear reliable reports of a new moon sighting before declaring the end of Ramadan. Others accept calculated predictions. As such, this year Eid is likely to fall on May 1st, 2022 (Sunday) or May 2nd, 2022 (Monday).

How is it celebrated?

The most important ritual associated with Eid is the morning congregational prayer and service at the mosque. Most mosques will have an early morning prayer service which takes around an hour or so to complete. It includes congregational reciting of the praises of God, followed by congregational worship service and a sermon. Following this, most mosques will have a brunch for congregants, as well as activities for children and an opportunity to gather with the community.

Apart from this, some of the other important rituals are:

- Wearing new clothes or your best clothes.
- Giving of the “Zakat -Ul- Fitr” (charity) before the prayer.
- Chanting of “Takbirat” (praises of God) in the vehicle while driving to the mosque.
- Children receive “Eidi” – gifts of cash or toys, etc. from all the important adults in their life.
- People exchange gifts and treats particularly sweet treats and desserts.
- Family and friends gather for a special dinner.
- Visiting each other’s homes.
- Picnics, outdoor gatherings
- The night before Eid is traditionally celebrated by women gathering together to decorate their palms with henna.

How can we greet people on Eid?

We say “Eid Mubarak” which means “Blessed Eid”. You can also say “Happy Eid”.



Any special foods?

Since Eid literally means “Feast”, it's marked by preparing and eating a lot of different foods. There are many special dishes that are made on the occasion of Eid, depending on the Muslim's cultural background and country of origin.

This link is helpful: <https://inspiration.rehlat.com/en/destinations/13-most-delicious-eid-dishes-from-around-the-world/>

What accommodations will youth need on Eid?

- If Eid falls on a school day, allow the youth to have an excused absence from school.
- You may consider decorating your home or the shelter to allow the youth to have a sense of festivity and joy.
- Giving gifts – wrapped or unwrapped – is a tradition they may enjoy. This can be done after they return from the mosque.
- When they return from the mosque they may like to have a special brunch with a variety of desserts.
- A picnic, outing, sports play date with friends, or a special Eid dinner with family and friends would be great.
- It would be a good idea to ask the youth in your care how they would like to celebrate Eid to get more ideas of what can be done to make this day special for them.
- They may want to speak to their family back home - so please provide them additional time to do so.

How do Afghans celebrate Eid?

Eid is a time for celebration across the nation. Afghans celebrate by playing traditional games after the prayer services. These include:

- Egg fights: gather in parks with hard-boiled eggs, each trying to crack the other's egg.
- Flying kites
- One-legged wrestling

They prepare special dishes such as - tea, cookies, dried fruit, haft mewa (7 dried fruit dish made overnight), gosh e feel (elephant ear pastries), Shir letti (dessert dish made of water, milk, and a special kind of flour called omaj), shir brenj (milk-rice).

More information for Eid celebrations in Afghanistan:

<https://www.afghanistan-analysts.org/en/reports/context-culture/happy-eid-and-ten-stories-of-celebrations-and-customs-from-all-over-the-country-2/>