

How is Eid al-Fitr Celebrated?



During the month of [Ramadan](#), Muslims observe a strict fast and participate in pious activities such as charitable giving and peace-making. It is a time of intense spiritual renewal for those who observe it. At the end of Ramadan, Muslims throughout the world observe a joyous three-day celebration called *Eid al-Fitr* (the Festival of Fast-Breaking). Eid al-Fitr falls on the [first day of Shawwal](#), the month which follows Ramadan in [the Islamic calendar](#). It is a time to give in charity to those in need, and celebrate with family and friends the completion of a month of blessings and joy.

Before the day of Eid, during the last few days of Ramadan, each Muslim family gives a determined amount as a donation to the poor. This donation is of actual food -- rice, barley, dates, rice, etc. -- to ensure that the needy can have a holiday meal and participate in the celebration. This donation is known as [*sadaqah al-fitr*](#) (charity of fast-breaking).

On the day of Eid, Muslims gather early in the morning in outdoor locations or mosques to perform the Eid prayer. This consists of a sermon followed by a short congregational prayer.

After the Eid prayer, Muslims usually scatter to visit various family and friends, give gifts (especially to children), and make phone calls to distant relatives to give [*well-wishes for the holiday*](#). These activities traditionally continue for three days. In most Muslim countries, the entire 3-day period is an official government/school holiday.