

## One Stop Information Center (OSIC)

### HOLIDAYS AND ISLAMIC EVENTS IN THE UAE

The following chart shows the major Holidays and Islamic events in the UAE for the year 2007/2008

Occasion	Duration	Hijri Year	Gregorian Year 2007	Gregorian Year 2008
New Year ●	1	-	1 Jan 07	1 Jan 08
Arafat (Haj) Day *	1	9 Zulhajja	-	7 Dec 08
Eid Al Adha *	3	10 Zulhajja	-	8 Dec 08
Hijri New year's Day *	1	1 Muhrram	20 Jan 07	9 Jan 08
Prophet Mohammed's Birthday*	1	12 Rabul Awal	31 Mar 07	20 Mar 08
Israa & Miraj Night *	1	27 Rajab	10 Aug 07	30 Jul 08
Ramadan expected to begin	29/30	1 Ramadan	13 Sep 07	1 Sep 08
Eid Al Fitr *	3	1 Shwwal	12 Oct 07	1 Oct 08
UAE National Day ●	2	-	2/3 Dec 07	2/3 Dec 08
Arafat (Haj) Day *	1	9 Zulhajja	19 Dec 07	7 Dec 08
Eid Al Adha *	3	10 Zulhajja	20 Dec 07	8 Dec 08

**Islamic holidays \*:** dates for Islamic holidays are fixed for Hijri dates. However, may change in accordance to Gregorian dates.

#### **Fixed Holidays ●**

*Source: Islamic Affairs & Charitable Activities Department*

The number in brackets applies to the public sector only. Not all the listed holidays are strictly observed by the private sector.

The Islamic (Hijri) calendar is based on lunar months. These are 354 or 355 days in the Hijri year, which is divided into 12 months. The Hijri year is thus about 11 days shorter than Gregorian year, and the event of the Hijri year fall about 11 days earlier on the Gregorian calendar each year as shown in the above chart.

The Gregorian dates of the Islamic holidays are not very precise as they depend on the sighting of the moon. The actual dates on which these holidays will fall might differ slightly from the dates mentioned in the above chart.

#### **The Islamic events:**

Lailat Al Mi'raj celebrates the Prophet's ascension into Heaven. Eid Al Fitr is the feast of the Breaking of the Fast and is the next day after the end of Ramadan (First Day of Shawwal). Eid al Adha means Feast of the Sacrifice and it marks the end of the season of pilgrimage to Mecca. In Ramadan, the Muslim holy month of fasting, work hours are reduced and there is

no consumption of food or water, or smoking in public during daylight hours. (Note: Pilgrimage expected to begin 10 days before Eid Al Adha).

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