PUBLIC HOLIDAYS 2027

Every UAE public holiday in 2027, and how to plan around it

The UAE has seven official public holiday occasions in 2027, worth 12 days off, or 13 if Ramadan lasts 30 days. Only two dates are fixed. The rest follow the Islamic lunar calendar, so this guide gives the expected dates, explains what each occasion marks, and shows where the long weekends fall.



Dubai Marina at dusk. The UAE weekend runs on Saturday and Sunday, which decides how much each holiday below is really worth.

7
official holiday occasions for public and private sectors

12 to 13
public holiday days in total during 2027

2
occasions with fixed dates: New Year and National Day

5
occasions set by the Hijri calendar and the moon

2027 at a glance

Holiday	Expected date in 2027	Days	Status
New Year's Day	Friday, 1 January	1	FIXED DATE
Eid Al Fitr	Tue 9 to Thu 11 March (to Fri 12 March if Ramadan lasts 30 days)	3 to 4	EXPECTED - MOON SIGHTING
Arafah Day	Saturday, 15 May	1	EXPECTED - MOON SIGHTING
Eid Al Adha	Sunday 16 to Tuesday 18 May	3	EXPECTED - MOON SIGHTING
Hijri New Year	Sunday, 6 June	1	EXPECTED - MOON SIGHTING
Prophet Muhammad's Birthday	Saturday, 14 August	1	EXPECTED - MOON SIGHTING
National Day (Eid Al Etihad)	Thursday 2 and Friday 3 December	2	FIXED DATE

How to read this guide. The holiday list is official, set by Cabinet Resolution No. 27 of 2024 for both sectors. Islamic dates are astronomical projections that can move by a day; the UAE confirms each by moon sighting, close to the date.

INSIGHTS

The long weekends worth planning, and the ones that are not

Not every holiday day creates a break. With the UAE weekend on Saturday and Sunday, a holiday's value in 2027 depends on where its days land, not just how many it carries.

Break	How it forms	What it is worth
National Day 2 to 5 December	Thursday and Friday holiday, then the weekend	The cleanest break of the year. Four days in a row on fixed dates, so travel can be booked early with confidence.
Eid Al Fitr 9 to 14 March	Tuesday to Thursday holiday, or Tuesday to Friday if Ramadan lasts 30 days, plus the weekend	The longest potential break. In the 30-day case it runs six days, Tuesday to Sunday. In the 29-day case, one leave day on Friday 12 March creates the same six days.
New Year 1 to 3 January	Friday holiday followed by the weekend	A simple three-day opening weekend. Easy to enjoy in the UAE, too short for most long-haul trips.
Arafah Day and Eid Al Adha 15 to 18 May	Saturday to Tuesday, but Saturday and Sunday are already weekend days	Four calendar days that deliver two extra weekdays off, Monday and Tuesday. Adding Wednesday to Friday as leave makes a nine-day stretch.
Hijri New Year and Prophet's Birthday	Expected on Sunday 6 June and Saturday 14 August, both weekend days	As projected, neither adds a weekday off, unless an official announcement says otherwise.

Why the Islamic dates move every year

The Islamic, or Hijri, calendar follows the moon. A Hijri year has about 354 days, roughly 11 days shorter than the Gregorian year, so every Islamic holiday arrives about 11 days earlier each Gregorian year.

Each Hijri month lasts 29 or 30 days, and the next month begins when the crescent is sighted. The UAE announces the confirmed date only after that sighting, which is why every Islamic date in this guide is marked as expected.

Ramadan 2027 sets up the whole first quarter

Ramadan is expected to begin on Monday, 8 February 2027, according to astronomical calculations from the Emirates Astronomical Society. It is a working month in the UAE, observed with fasting from dawn to sunset and reduced working hours, rather than a public holiday.

How Ramadan ends decides the Eid Al Fitr break. If the Shawwal crescent is sighted after 29 days, Eid Al Fitr runs from Tuesday 9 March. If Ramadan completes 30 days, 30 Ramadan itself becomes a holiday, and the break runs to Friday 12 March.

> **The rule behind the calendar.** Cabinet Resolution No. 27 of 2024 sets one holiday list for the public and private sectors. The Cabinet may move some non-Eid holidays to the start or end of a week, and a holiday on a weekend is not automatically carried over to a weekday. Check the official announcement for each break before booking.

New Year and Eid Al Fitr open the year



New Year’s Day

Friday, 1 January 2027 - 1 day - Fixed date

What it is: The first day of the Gregorian calendar year. **Calendar basis:** Gregorian, the same date every year.

New Year’s Day is a public holiday across the world, and the UAE marks the turn of the year rather than a religious or national event. Dubai’s fireworks over the Burj Khalifa are the best known celebration, with displays and events in every emirate on the night of 31 December.

In 2027 the holiday falls on a Friday, so with the Saturday and Sunday weekend it gives residents a three-day break to open the year. No moon sighting is involved, and this date will not move.



Eid Al Fitr

Expected Tuesday 9 to Thursday 11 March 2027, to Friday 12 March if Ramadan lasts 30 days - 3 to 4 days

What it is: The festival that ends Ramadan, the month of fasting. **Hijri date:** 1 to 3 Shawwal 1448, plus 30 Ramadan when Ramadan lasts 30 days.

Eid Al Fitr means the festival of breaking the fast. It begins on the first morning after Ramadan ends, when the crescent of the new month, Shawwal, is sighted, and it closes a month in which Muslims fast from dawn to sunset.

The day starts with a special Eid prayer soon after sunrise. Before it, households give Zakat Al Fitr, a set charitable donation so that everyone can share in the festival, and the days that follow are given to family visits, gifts for children, new clothes and sweet dishes.

For planning, this is the first big break of 2027 and the least certain. The holiday is three days, or four when Ramadan runs to 30 days, and either version can be stretched to six days with the weekend, as the table on page 2 shows.

Ramadan working hours. Ramadan itself is not a public holiday. Working hours are reduced during the month for the private sector, and the exact reduction for 2027 will be announced by the Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratisation before the month begins.

Arafah Day and Eid Al Adha come as one break



Arafah Day

Expected Saturday, 15 May 2027 - 1 day

What it is: The central day of the Hajj pilgrimage. **Hijri date:** 9 Dhu Al Hijjah 1448.

On Arafah Day, pilgrims performing Hajj gather on the plain and hill of Arafat, near Makkah, for an afternoon of prayer and reflection. The standing at Arafat is considered the heart of Hajj, and a Hajj is not complete without it.

Muslims who are not on Hajj often fast on this day and spend it in prayer. In 2027 the day is expected on a Saturday, inside the UAE weekend, and it flows straight into Eid Al Adha the next morning.



Eid Al Adha

Expected Sunday 16 to Tuesday 18 May 2027 - 3 days

What it is: The Festival of Sacrifice, the larger of the two Eids. **Hijri date:** 10 to 12 Dhu Al Hijjah 1448.

Eid Al Adha commemorates the willingness of Prophet Ibrahim to sacrifice his son in obedience to God, and the mercy shown when a ram was provided in the son’s place. It falls at the end of the Hajj pilgrimage season.

The festival is marked with the Eid prayer, and by Qurbani, the sacrifice of an animal whose meat is shared with family, neighbours and people in need. Charity and family gatherings sit at the centre of the three days.

Together, Arafah Day and Eid Al Adha form a four-day block from Saturday 15 to Tuesday 18 May. Because two of those days are weekend days, the block adds two weekdays off, and it becomes a serious travel window only when leave is added after it.

Two quieter occasions in the middle of the year



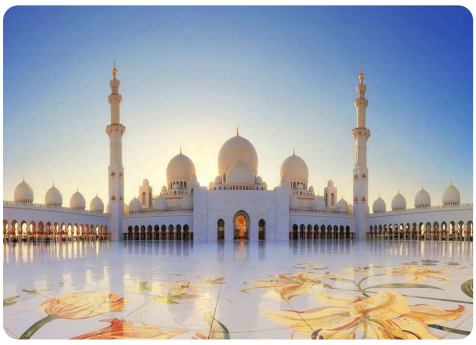
Hijri New Year

Expected Sunday, 6 June 2027 - 1 day

What it is: The first day of the Islamic lunar year, 1449. **Hijri date:** 1 Muharram 1449.

The Hijri calendar counts its years from the Hijra, the migration of Prophet Muhammad and his followers from Makkah to Madinah in 622 CE. That journey marks year one, and 2027 sees the start of the year 1449.

Muharram, the month that opens the year, is one of the four sacred months in Islam. The day is observed quietly in the UAE, with reflection rather than public celebration, and in 2027 it is expected on a Sunday, the second day of the weekend.



Prophet Muhammad’s Birthday

Expected Saturday, 14 August 2027 - 1 day

What it is: Mawlid Al Nabawi, the anniversary of the birth of Prophet Muhammad. **Hijri date:** 12 Rabi Al Awwal 1449.

The Prophet’s Birthday is observed on the 12th day of Rabi Al Awwal, the third month of the Hijri year. It honours the birth of Prophet Muhammad in Makkah, in the year known as the Year of the Elephant.

Across the Muslim world the day is marked with religious talks, readings about the Prophet’s life, charity and family gatherings. In the UAE it is a calm, reflective public holiday rather than a festival, and in 2027 it is expected on a Saturday, inside the weekend.

A year of weekend collisions. Three of the seven occasions in 2027, Arafah Day, Hijri New Year and the Prophet’s Birthday, are expected to fall on a Saturday or a Sunday as projected. That is the main reason 2027 delivers fewer extra weekdays off than its total of 12 to 13 holiday days suggests, and why the two Eid breaks and National Day carry most of the year’s planning value.

National Day closes the year with the best break



National Day - Eid Al Etihad

Thursday 2 and Friday 3 December 2027 - 2 days - Fixed date

What it is: The anniversary of the union that created the United Arab Emirates. **Calendar basis:** Gregorian, 2 and 3 December every year.

On 2 December 1971, the rulers of six emirates signed the union that created the United Arab Emirates, with Ras Al Khaimah joining in February 1972. National Day, now also called Eid Al Etihad, the festival of the union, marks that founding, and 2027 is the 56th National Day.

The two days are the most public celebration in this guide, with flags on buildings and cars, and fireworks, air shows, concerts and heritage events across all seven emirates.

For planning, this is the strongest break of 2027: four days in a row on fixed dates, the one break that can be booked early without a moon-sighting caveat.

Your 2027 planning checklist

Book and plan

- Book National Day travel first. Its dates are fixed and it is the most in-demand break.
- Hold Eid plans loosely until the moon sighting is announced, and prefer refundable fares.
- Use one leave day on Friday 12 March to stretch Eid Al Fitr to six days in a 29-day Ramadan year.
- Use three leave days after Eid Al Adha, 19 to 21 May, for nine days away.
- Expect reduced hours, not holidays, during Ramadan from around 8 February.

Know the rules

- One federal list covers the public and private sectors, under Cabinet Resolution No. 27 of 2024.
- Islamic dates can move by a day. The official announcement, not the projection, is final.
- A holiday on a weekend is not automatically moved to a weekday.
- The Cabinet may move some non-Eid holidays within the week.
- School term dates are set separately by the education authorities.

Sources and basis. Cabinet Resolution No. 27 of 2024, as published on the UAE Government Portal (u.ae) and the UAE Legislation portal. Expected 2027 dates: Hijri calendar projections, including Emirates Astronomical Society and UAE Astronomy Centre forecasts reported in October 2026. All Islamic dates remain subject to official moon-sighting announcements.

Photographs: Dubai Marina; Burj Khalifa fireworks; Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque; Mount Arafat; Jumeirah Mosque; Flag Garden, Dubai. A Qojo Media planning aid, not legal advice: confirm each break against its official announcement.