

Eid-al-Adha and the Pilgrimage of Hajj

A Guide for Muslim Legal Professionals

Introduction

As the sacred month of Dhul Hijjah approaches, Muslims worldwide reflect on the pilgrimage of Hajj and Eid-al-Adha. For those in the legal profession, it is a time to pause, connect with the deep spiritual meaning of these blessed days, and draw inspiration from the story of Prophet Ibrahim, his wife Hajar, and their son Ismail (عليه السلام).

Key Dates in Dhul Hijjah 2026 (1447 AH)

- 1st - 10th Dhul Hijjah: The best 10 days of the year (estimated: May 18 - 27, 2026)
- 8th - 12th Dhul Hijjah: Hajj pilgrimage (estimated: May 25 - 30, 2026)
- 9th Dhul Hijjah: Day of Arafah (estimated: May 26, 2026)
- 10th Dhul Hijjah: Eid-al-Adha (estimated: May 27, 2026)

The Rituals of Hajj

Each year, millions of Muslims gather in Mecca for Hajj, the fifth pillar of Islam. Dressed in simple white garments, pilgrims commemorate the faith and sacrifice of Prophet Ibrahim, Hajar, and Ismail (عليه السلام). Key rites include:

- Circling the Kaaba seven times
- Walking/running between the hills of Safa and Marwa
- Spending a day in prayer on the plain of Arafat
- Symbolically stoning the devil in Mina
- Performing an animal sacrifice and distributing the meat to the needy

Eid-al-Adha

Eid-al-Adha, the "Festival of Sacrifice", marks the end of Hajj and honors Ibrahim's (عليه السلام) willingness to sacrifice his son Ismail (عليه السلام) in obedience to Allah, before Allah intervened. The day is marked by prayers, gatherings, gift-giving, and distributing meat to the needy.

Fasting During the First 9 Days of Dhul Hijjah

Muslims are encouraged to fast any number of days during the first nine days of Dhul Hijjah (est. May 18-26, 2026), as these are among the most virtuous days of the year. The Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ) said, "There are no days in which righteous deeds are more beloved to Allah than these ten days" (Bukhari).

Fasting on the Day of Arafah (9th Dhul Hijjah, est. May 26, 2026) is especially recommended for those not performing Hajj. The Prophet (ﷺ) said, "Fasting the day of Arafah expiates the sins of the past year and the coming year" (Muslim).

Note: Fasting is prohibited on Eid-al-Adha (10th Dhul Hijjah, est. May 27, 2026) and the three days following it, known as the Days of Tashriq (11th-13th Dhul Hijjah, est. May 28-30, 2026).

Other Recommended Acts During the First 10 Days:

- Engage in extra prayers, recitation of the Quran, and dhikr (remembrance of Allah)
- Give in charity, including Zakat and Sadaqah
- Plan and perform Qurbani (animal sacrifice) on Eid-al-Adha (May 27, 2026)
- Reflect, renew intentions, and strengthen commitment to faith

Conclusion

The story of Ibrahim, Hajar, and Ismail (عليه السلام) inspires us to make sacrifices for the sake of Allah. As Muslim legal professionals striving to strengthen our faith and serve our communities, let us use these sacred days of Dhul Hijjah to reflect on our spiritual journeys and renew our commitment to the values of compassion, justice, humility, and unity. May Allah bless the pilgrims, accept their Hajj, and allow us all to experience the joys of Eid. Ameen.

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