

# ARAB AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH



**National Arab American Heritage Month (NAAHM)** is an annual observance that takes place in April to celebrate Arab American heritage and culture. It honors the contributions of Arab Americans and Arabic-speaking Americans to the wider community. In 2017, Arab Americans began a national initiative to coordinate and advocate for an Arab American Heritage Month. In 2021, President Biden along with the U.S. state department officially recognized April as National Arab American Heritage Month.

## Be Informed



While Americans born in or with ancestral ties to Arab countries have made countless significant scientific, [medical](#) and engineering contributions, most have never

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### 5 Fast Facts

1. Nearly 4 million Americans can trace their heritage to an Arab country.
2. Arab immigration to the U.S. began in the 1880s, primarily from the Ottoman Empire (Migration Policy Institute).
3. The first official push for national recognition of Arab American Heritage Month began in 2017 by members of Arab American Foundation..
4. Michigan, Illinois, California, and New York have the largest Arab American populations in the country.
5. The majority of Arab Americans are native-born, and nearly 82% of Arabs in the U.S. are citizens, according to the Arab American Institute

Sources: <https://www.aaiusa.org/demographics>, <https://arabamericafoundation.org/>, <https://insight.livestories.com/s/v2/arab-american-heritage-v2/0adb9ffd-937c-4f57-9dca-80b81ee46b9f/>

### Additional Resources

Arab American Institute  
Arab America Foundation  
Arab American National Museum  
National Endowment for the Humanities  
Center for Arab American Studies  
American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC)  
Learning for Justice  
Halal Research Council

### Watch movies and shows by Arab American filmmakers

Ramy (Hulu)  
Marjoun and the Flying Headscarf (Netflix)  
Slingshot Hip Hop (Vimeo) The Feeling of Being Watched (Amazon & Kanopy)  
Mo (Netflix)  
The Square (Netflix)  
Amreeka (Prime Video)

## Engage



Be Social



Check out these Facebook Groups

**North Carolina Arab-American Network**  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/411976055545749/>

**South Carolina Arab Community**  
<https://www.facebook.com/people/South-Carolina-Arab-Community/100064702805118/>

**Arab-Amer. Family Support Ctr**  
<https://www.instagram.com/aafscny/?hl=en>

**Arab America**  
[https://www.instagram.com/arab\\_america/](https://www.instagram.com/arab_america/)

### Read Books By Arab American Authors

"The Prophet"	by Khalil Gibran
"Out of Place"	by Edward Said
"The Turtle of Oman"	by Naomi Shihab Nye
"The Arsonists' City"	by Hala Alyan
"Book of Khalid"	by Ameen Rihani
"The Other Americans"	by Laila Lalani
"The January Children"	by Safia Elhillo

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