



What is Ramadan?

Ramadan is the 9th month of the Islamic lunar calendar. Being one of the five pillars of Islam, fasting is prescribed for Muslims during this month with the exception of people with health issues, children and travelers. Ramadan is also the month in which the Holy Qur'an was revealed.



What is Fasting in Islam?

Fasting is to completely abstain from food, drink and marital intimacy from dawn to sunset for the entire month. Muslims wake up before dawn and have a pre-fast meal. Fasting is further perfected through all human faculties by keeping them away from evil talk, lying, back biting, arguing and so on.

What is the Significance of Ramadan?

In addition to fasting, Muslims also perform additional prayers, devote themselves to reciting Qur'an, feeding the poor, helping the needy, and performing charitable acts. Muslims perceive Ramadan as the month of opportunity to increase their good deeds and to develop awareness and gratefulness towards the bounties of the All-Compassionate Creator; most of which we usually take for granted.



During Ramadan, Muslims aim to foster certain attitudes and values, such as being better humans, kinder, more giving, more patient, and cultivating them over the entire course of the year. Ramadan is also a time of community; it is customary for Muslims to invite their neighbors and friends to share their evening meal called iftar.



He who fasts Ramadan with faith and hoping for reward (from God), then his past sins are forgiven...

Prophet Muhammed (peace be upon him)



IFTAR FRIENDSHIP DINNER

**BREAK BREAD
&
MAKE FRIEND**



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RAMADAN IN OUR CULTURE



Iftar:

The evening feast of “Iftar”, which takes place after sunset, is where the real fun begins. It is the event of the day that brings together family and friends to celebrate the day. The first food to traditionally break the fast are dates with a sip of water. This is then followed by a light fare of meze similar to a Turkish breakfast, including black and green olives, Turkish cheeses and “Ramazan pidesi” (bread commonly made during Ramadan). The feast continues with several main course and vegetable selections, desserts, Turkish coffee and fresh fruit.

Ramadan Drummers: One of the most charming Ramadan traditions in Turkey are the early morning drummers. Each day before sunrise, in many areas where Turks reside, traditional drummers wander the streets beating drums and singing to wake up residents in time for breakfast. This tradition dates back to Ottoman times, well before the advent of alarm clocks.

Cannons at Sundown: A centuries old tradition, a cannon is fired to announce 'Iftar', the meal that breaks the fast.

Shadow Puppet Shows: Shadow play is known to have been widely performed for the public and in private houses between the 17th and 19th centuries, particularly during the month of Ramazan, when there were nightly performances in the coffee houses or streets. Legend attributes the character of Karagoz to a real person who lived in 13th century.



Otherwise known as the Ramadan Feast is the three-day festival that ends the fasting month of Ramadan. Many people wake up early on the first day and dress in their best clothes to have a big family breakfast before enduring days of endless feasting. People tend to treat their guests to sweets and traditional desserts during the festival. It is customary to visit one's relatives with sweet treats and for children to go door to door kissing the hands of the elders and receiving sweets and small amounts of money in return.

ABOUT US

American Turkish Friendship Association (ATFA) is a 501 (c) (3) charitable, cultural non-profit non-governmental organization dedicated to addressing the social, spiritual, cultural and educational needs of the people living in Northern Virginia.

ATFA was founded in 2003 and supported by individuals who are affiliated with Hizmet social movement.

ATFA works with people and organizations of all backgrounds and faiths to promote greater understanding, cooperate on meaningful projects, and build stronger bonds amongst diverse communities.

Mission

Our mission is to build a peaceful society through education & dialogue initiatives, to create a platform that brings people from all walks of life together to find solutions our community is facing and to support the vulnerable people through promoting solidarity & philanthropy.

Vision

We envision a world where people live in peace, harmony and prosperity.

Our Contact:



E-mail: info@atfa.us



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