

Bahá'í Holy Days

Bahá'ís commemorate 11 holy days each year. These occasions are usually observed with community gatherings in large or small settings, with programs befitting the significance of the day. The tables below indicate where these days fall on a Gregorian calendar for 2019 and 2020.

2019

21 March	Naw Rúz the Bahá'í New Year.
21 April	First Day of Ridván (meaning “Paradise” in Arabic) — the most important of the Bahá'í holy days. It is the day on which Bahá'u'lláh declared His mission as a Messenger of God.
29 April	Ninth Day of Ridván the day on which Bahá'u'lláh's family joined Him in the Garden of Ridván.
2 May	Twelfth Day of Ridván the day on which Bahá'u'lláh and His family left the garden to travel to Constantinople.
24 May	Declaration of the Báb the anniversary of the Báb's announcement of His mission in 1844.
29 May	Ascension of Bahá'u'lláh marking the passing of Bahá'u'lláh in 1892.
10 July	Martyrdom of the Báb Who was executed in 1850.
29 October	Birth of the Báb*
30 October	Birth of Bahá'u'lláh*
26 November	Day of the Covenant commemorating Bahá'u'lláh's appointment of His son, 'Abdu'l-Bahá, as the One to whom His followers should turn after His passing.
28 November	Ascension of 'Abdu'l-Bahá marking the passing of 'Abdu'l-Bahá in 1921.

Bahá'ís are enjoined to suspend work on all but the last two of these holy days.

2020

20 March	Naw Rúz the Bahá'í New Year.
20 April	First Day of Ridván (meaning “Paradise” in Arabic) — the most important of the Bahá'í holy days. It is the day on which Bahá'u'lláh declared His mission as a Messenger of God.
28 April	Ninth Day of Ridván the day on which Bahá'u'lláh's family joined Him in the Garden of Ridván.
1 May	Twelfth Day of Ridván the day on which Bahá'u'lláh and His family left the garden to travel to Constantinople.
23 May	Declaration of the Báb the anniversary of the Báb's announcement of His mission in 1844.
28 May	Ascension of Bahá'u'lláh marking the passing of Bahá'u'lláh in 1892.
9 July	Martyrdom of the Báb Who was executed in 1850.
18 October	Birth of the Báb*
19 October	Birth of Bahá'u'lláh*
25 November	Day of the Covenant commemorating Bahá'u'lláh's appointment of His son, 'Abdu'l-Bahá, as the One to whom His followers should turn after His passing.
27 November	Ascension of 'Abdu'l-Bahá marking the passing of 'Abdu'l-Bahá in 1921.

Bahá'ís are enjoined to suspend work on all but the last two of these holy days.

* The Bahá'í Holy Days are set and move according to a solar calendar commencing with the Spring Equinox. However, the Holy Days marking the birth of the Báb and Bahá'u'lláh are set and move according to a lunar calculation.

Other special days in 2020:

26 – 29 February **Ayyám-i-Há** (also known as the Intercalary Days), a period of celebration devoted to charity, gift-giving and festivities prior to the annual period of fasting.

1 – 19 March **The month of fasting** during which Bahá'ís from the age of 15 abstain from food and drink between sunrise and sunset. There are exemptions, including for those who are ill, elderly, traveling, pregnant or breastfeeding.