



Key 2025-2026 Dates

DECEMBER/JANUARY

CHRISTMAS

Thurs, December 25, 2025

Melkite, Roman Catholic, Protestant

Wed, January 7th, 2026

Greek Orthodox

About: Celebrated with church services, parades (notably in Nazareth), and family meals.

Considerations: Muslim Arab citizens may be able to participate in programs on both Christmas commemorations. However, programs involving Christian partners should not be scheduled at this time. Most Christians in Israel are Melkite or Greek Orthodox, but many families have celebrations on both dates.

FEBRUARY/MARCH

RAMADAN

**Evening of Wed, Feb 18 through
the evening of Thurs, Mar 19, 2026.**

Final dates may shift by a day, depending on lunar sightings.

About: A month of fasting, prayer, and reflection observed by Muslims worldwide. During this period, observant Muslims refrain from food and drink from sunrise to sunset. Often, the daily fast is broken with familiar or communal Iftar meals.

Considerations: Ramadan may present unique opportunities for visiting nighttime festivals and participating in Iftar fast-breaking meals. When speaking with potential partners, we encourage you to acknowledge it is Ramadan and consult together about opportunities, limitations, and other considerations.

EID AL-FITR

**Begins evening of Thurs, Mar 19;
celebrations continue through
Sun, Mar 22, 2026.**

Final dates may shift by a day, depending on lunar sightings.

About: A festive holiday marking the end of Ramadan. Many Arab citizens take time off work and school to celebrate with family and community.

Considerations: Programs with Muslim speakers would not be possible at this time.

■ LAND DAY

Mon, March 30, 2026

About: Commemorates the events of March 30, 1976, when six Arab citizens who were participating in a largely nonviolent protest about land expropriation in the Galilee were killed by police. Land Day has become a symbol of Arab identity and civic mobilization. It is marked by demonstrations, public events, and reflection.

Considerations: Programs scheduled on this day may encounter logistical disruptions in Arab communities due to commemorative events. Speakers may also want to discuss the day, its significance, and its relevance to today.

APRIL

■ EASTER

Sun, April 5th, 2026

Roman Catholic, Protestant

Sun, April 12th, 2026

Melkite Catholic, Greek
Orthodox

About: The most significant Christian holiday, commemorating the resurrection of Jesus. It includes church services, family gatherings, and community celebrations.

Considerations: Muslim Arab citizens may be able to participate in programs on both Easter commemorations. However, programs involving Christian partners should not be scheduled at this time.

MAY

■ NAKBA DAY

Fri, May 15

About: Many Arab citizens mark the displacement of Palestinians during the establishment of the State of Israel on this day. The *Nakba*, which means catastrophe in Arabic, is a core part of the Palestinian narrative of the conflict and a part of many families' histories. This day is observed through memorial events, cultural programs, and public demonstrations.

Considerations: Nakba Day can carry emotionally charged narratives that differ starkly from mainstream Jewish-Israeli narratives and identities. Planning for programs on or near this date requires thoughtful preparation, including context-setting for participants. Unless you intentionally want to explore Palestinian narratives about 1948, programs should not be scheduled for this date.

■ EID AL-ADHA

Evening of Monday, May
25 through the evening of
Friday, May 29, 2026

About: Known as the Festival of Sacrifice, this major holiday includes special prayers, meals, and acts of charity. Observed by both secular and religious Muslims and by Druze citizens.

Considerations: Programs with Muslim and Druze speakers would not be possible at this time.

About this Calendar

Arab citizens of Israel are a diverse community that includes Muslim, Christians and Druze people with a variety of cultural and religious practices that shape how and when they mark holidays.

Like Jewish Israelis commemorate days for their national identity, many Arab citizens also mark days significant to their narratives and identities. Awareness of these days is important because they relate to painful experiences and narratives that differ from Jewish Israelis.

For educational travel organizers, knowledge and sensitivity of these holidays dates can support developing itineraries and more respectful and inclusive programming. Rather than cover all holidays, we highlight the most universally commemorated dates that impact scheduling programs.

See [the Task Force Program Catalog](#) for 9 impactful and accessible programs with Arab citizens of Israel ready to host groups and [contact us](#) to learn more or plan experiences.