



*Happy Ridván!*

# First Day of Ridván

Bahá'í

[RIZ-von](#) 

The Festival of Ridván commemorates the 12 days when Bahá'u'lláh, the prophet-founder lived in a garden called Ridván in Baghdad, Iraq, where he declared that he was the Manifestation of God that the Bab had foretold. It takes place exactly 31 days after the celebration of the New Year (Naw-Ruz). Communities around the world celebrate their most holy festival: Ridván; it is a very joyous day.

First Day of Ridván is one of the nine holy days in the year where work is suspended.

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This collection of information sheets on major holidays and cultural events is a joint partnership of the School of Information staff, the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, and the Office of the Provost. Facts have been vetted by U-M's Association of Religious Counselors (ARC), and other campus groups. Public feedback is welcome; please email [DEIHolidayFacts@umich.edu](mailto:DEIHolidayFacts@umich.edu).



## Date

- The date varies year to year. The Bahá'í day ends and a new one begins at sunset; consequently, the day on which a Feast or Holy Day is observed begins at sunset of the day before the Gregorian calendar dates listed.
- Link to [Bahá'í calendar](#) for year/date lookup.

## Greetings

An appropriate greeting would be "Happy Ridván."

## Common Practices and Celebrations

- Joyous celebrations in songs, prayers and readings take place.
- The Local Spiritual Assembly is elected on the first day of Ridván.
- Ridván is also known as the "Most Great Festival" and the "King of Festivals."

## Common Dietary Restrictions

- Bahá'ís are asked to abstain from alcohol.
- There are no dietary restrictions.

## Impact to U-M Community

- Those observing the Bahá'í Faith suspend work and school on this holiday.
- Link to [U-M Guidance Regarding Conflicts](#).

## U-M Campus Resources

- [Maize Pages - Bahá'í](#), U-M
- [Association of Religious Counselors](#), U-M

## Information Sources

- [Bahá'í Center of Washtenaw County](#), Ann Arbor
- [Bahá'í Teachings](#)
- [Bahá'í of the United States](#)

## Photo credit:

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