

Background article: Practices, Festivals and commemorations

Shi'a commemorations of the Imams

The Shi'a calendar is punctuated with many commemorations of the births and deaths of Prophet Muhammad and the Ahl al-Bayt, together with other events in early Muslim history. They are all timed according to the Islamic calendar, and so move forward through the solar calendar, appearing approximately eleven days earlier each year. The principal commemorations are noted here according to the Muslim calendar (those marked * may be commemorated on an alternative date):

1st month: Muharram

- 10th Ashura Day
- 25th Martyrdom of Imam Zayn al-Abidin

2nd month: Safar

- 3rd Birth of Imam Muhammad al-Baqir
- 7th Martyrdom on Imam Hasan*
- 7th Birth of Imam Musa al-Kazim
- 20th Arba'in
- 28th Martyrdom of Prophet Muhammad
- 28th Martyrdom of Imam Hasan*
- 29th Martyrdom of Imam al-Rida

3rd month: Rabi ul-Awwal

- 8th Martyrdom of Imam Hasan al-Askari
- 17th Birthday of Prophet Muhammad
- 17th Birthday of Imam Ja'far al-Sadiq

4th month: Rabi ul-Akhtar

- 8th Birth of Imam Hasan al-Askari

5th month: Jamdi ul-Awwal

- 15th Birth of Imam Zayn al-Abidin*

6th month: Jamaadi ul-Aakher

7th month: Rajab

- 3rd Martyrdom of Imam Ali al-Naqi
- 10th Birth of Imam Muhammad al-Taqi
- 13th Birth of Imam Ali
- 15th Martyrdom of Imam Ja'far al-Sadiq*
- 25th Martyrdom of Imam Musa al-Kazim

8th month: Shaban

- 3rd Birth of Imam Husayn
- 5th Birth of Imam Zayn al-Abidin*
- 15th Birth of Imam al-Mahdi

9th month: Ramadan

- 15th Birth of Imam Hasan
- 21st Martyrdom of Imam Ali

10th month: Shawwal

- 26th Martyrdom of Imam Ja'far al-Sadiq*

11th month: Zilqad

- 11th Birth of Imam Ali al-Rida
- 29th Martyrdom of Imam Muhammad Taqi

12th month: Zilhajj

- 7th Martyrdom of Imam Muhammad al-Baqir
- 15th Birth of Imam Ali al-Naqi