

# Information about the Badí' calendar

The Badí' calendar, like the Gregorian calendar commonly used in most western countries, is a solar calendar tied to the sun's position relative to Earth. The length of a year is based upon the amount of time it takes the Earth to orbit around the sun (365.256363004 days). The name Badí' means Wondrous.

## Key Facts:

- The first year of the Badí' Calendar is the year in which the Declaration of the Báb took place (1844).
- The Bahá'í year consists of 19 months of 19 days, each day starts and ends at sunset.
- The first day of the Bahá'í year, Naw-Rúz, is the day when the sun's position crosses Earth's equator from south to north, on the Gregorian calendar this falls around 21 March.
- The last month of the Bahá'í year ('Alá') is the month of fasting and ends immediately before the following years' Naw-Rúz.

## Weekday Names

Name	Translation	Equivalent*
Jalál	Glory	Saturday
Jamál	Beauty	Sunday
Kamál	Perfection	Monday
Fidál	Grace	Tuesday
'Idál	Justice	Wednesday
Istijlál	Majesty	Thursday
Istiqlál	Independence	Friday

\*day that mainly falls on the Bahá'í day (after midnight)

- 19 months of 19 days contribute 361 days to the year, the remaining four or five days form the festival of Ayyám-i-Há which is placed before the last month of the year, between Mulk and 'Alá'.
- The months are named after attributes of God and each day of the month is also named using the same pattern. Each day also has a weekday name.
- The week is 7 days long and the first day (Jalál) falls mainly on the western calendar's Saturday. Istiqlál (mainly on Friday) is the day of rest.
- Every 19 years are collectively called a Váḥid (meaning unity), each year of a Váḥid has an individual name too (see right). This year is called Alif.

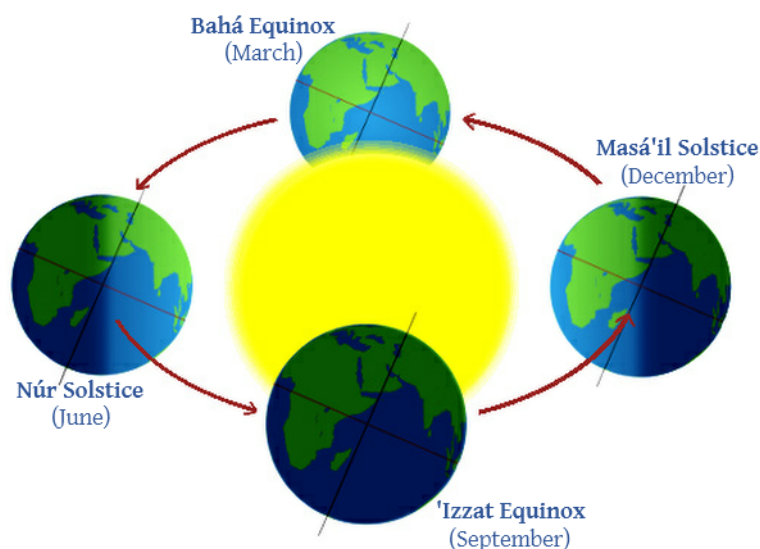
## Month Names

No	Month / Day	Translation	Year	Translation
1	Bahá	Splendour	Alif	A
2	Jalál	Glory	Bá'	B
3	Jamál	Beauty	Ab	Father
4	'Azamat	Grandeur	Dál	D
5	Núr	Light	Báb	Gate
6	Raḥmat	Mercy	Váv	V
7	Kalimát	Words	Abad	Eternity
8	Kamál	Perfection	Jád	Generosity
9	Asmá'	Names	Bahá'	Splendour
10	'Izzat	Might	Ḥubb	Love
11	Mashíyyat	Will	Bahháj	Delightful
12	'Ilm	Knowledge	Javáb	Answer
13	Qudrat	Power	Aḥad	Single
14	Qawl	Speech	Vahháb	Bountiful
15	Masá'il	Questions	Vidád	Affection
16	Sharaf	Honour	Badí'	Beginning
17	Sulṭán	Sovereignty	Bahí	Luminous
18	Mulk	Dominion	Abhá	Most Luminous
19	'Alá'	Loftiness	Váḥid	Unity

- Each Váḥid starts with Earth, the moon and the Sun in alignment, which only happens at the time of the equinox once every nineteen years. In astronomy 19 years is called a "Metonic cycle", representing the time it takes for the solar and lunar cycles to coincide with each other.
- 19 Váḥids are called a Kull-i-Shay' (meaning "All Things"). 172 B.E. started the tenth Váḥid of the first Kull-i-Shay'.
- The full description of a day can be given in the form "The day of [weekday name], the day of [monthday name], of the month of [month name], of the year [year name], of the [Váḥid number]st/nd/th Váḥid of the [Kull-i-Shay number]st/nd/th Kull-i-Shay"
- There are 11 Holy Days which are obligatory for Bahá'ís to celebrate each year. Work is prohibited on all of them except for the Day of the Covenant and the Ascension of 'Abdu'l-Bahá.
- The Birth of the Báb and The Birth of Bahá'u'lláh are celebrated on the first and second days following the eighth new moon after Naw-Rúz, respectively. These dates move on the calendar and may fall in Mashíyyat, 'Ilm, or Qudrat (October or November).

## The First Day of the Year

Solar calendars are based on the position of the sun relative to Earth, and this is effected by both the rotation of Earth on its own axis (creating day and night) and the planet's orbit around the sun.



Because Earth tilts on its axis the position of the sun relative to the equator (and the height the sun reaches at noon) change throughout the year. For half of the year the sun brings spring and summer to the northern hemisphere before crossing the equator to provide the extra heat to the southern hemisphere for the remainder of the year. The moments when the sun is furthest from the equator are called solstices, these are the longest and shortest days of the year. The moments when the position of the sun crosses the equator are called equinoxes, these mark the starts of spring and autumn.

Bahá'u'lláh stated that *"The Festival of Naw-Rúz falleth on the day that the sun entereth the sign of Aries, even should this occur no more than one minute before sunset."*

Aries is an astrological sign of the zodiac, these signs are based on twelve equal segments of the path that the sun takes relative to Earth, starting with the sign of Aries when the sun is at angle of 0 degrees and rising north, which is the moment of the Bahá equinox.

At any given moment in time, what your clock says and where the sun sits are dependent upon your physical location on Earth. At the moment of the equinox it will be daytime in some of the world's cities and nighttime in others, and on opposite sides of the international date line the day of the month will also be different. In order to fix *"the day that the sun entereth the sun of Aries"*, the last sunset in the city of Tíhrán (Bahá'u'lláh's birthplace) before the Bahá equinox is considered to be the start of the day of Naw-Rúz in that location, and that same day is the Festival of Naw-Rúz around the world, wether the equinox falls on that day, in that location, or not.

## Forthcoming Years

Detailed below are the Gregorian dates for Naw-Rúz over the next five years, the dates for observing the twin Holy Days of The Birth of Bahá'u'lláh and The Birth of the Báb, and the Gregorian dates for Ayyám-i-Há , which is four or five days long depending on the date of the following Naw-Rúz.

Naw-Rúz		The Birth of the Báb and The Birth of Bahá'u'lláh		Ayyám-i-Há, 1 - 4/5
Bahá'í Date	Gregorian Date	Bahá'í Dates	Gregorian Dates	Gregorian Dates
1 Bahá 173	20 March 2016	18 & 19 'Ilm	1 & 2 November	25 - 28 February
1 Bahá 174	20 March 2017	7 & 8 'Ilm	21 & 22 October	25 February - 1 March
1 Bahá 175	21 March 2018	6 & 7 Qudrat	9 & 10 November	26 February - 1 March
1 Bahá 176	21 March 2019	14 & 15 'Ilm	29 & 30 October	26 - 29 February
1 Bahá 177	20 March 2020	4 & 5 'Ilm	18 & 19 October	25 February 2028