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# Bahá'í calendar

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The **Bahá'í calendar**, also called the **Badí' calendar** (*badí'* means *wondrous* or *unique*<sup>[1]</sup>), used by the Bahá'í Faith, is a **solar calendar** with regular years of 365 days, and **leap years** of 366 days. Years are composed of 19 months of 19 days each, (361 days) plus an extra period of "**Intercalary Days**" (4 in regular and 5 in leap years). Years in the calendar begin at the **vernal equinox**, and are counted with the **date notation** of BE (Bahá'í Era), with 21 March **1844 CE** being the first day of the first year.<sup>[2]</sup> The period from 21 March 2011 to 20 March 2012 is the year 168 BE. At present, the Bahá'í calendar is synchronized to the **Gregorian calendar**, meaning that the extra day of a leap year occurs simultaneously in both calendars.

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## History

[edit]

The Bahá'í calendar started from the original Badí' calendar, created by the Báb.<sup>[3]</sup> Bahá'u'lláh confirmed and adopted this calendar and made **Naw-Rúz** the first day of the year, and also clarified the intercalary days.<sup>[3][4]</sup>

Bahá'u'lláh set **Naw-Rúz** to the day on which the sun passes into the constellation Aries. Bahá'ís interpret this formula as a specification of the vernal equinox.<sup>[4]</sup>

Although the vernal equinox can occur on March 20, 21 or 22, **Shoghi Effendi** declared that, for the time being, the Badí' calendar is 'locked' to the Gregorian calendar with the new year *always* starting at sunset on 20 March.<sup>[5]</sup> Without this, the calendar could vary by a day or two when compared to the **Gregorian calendar**. The implementation of the variable calendar with respect to the beginning of Naw-Rúz will require the **Universal House of Justice** selecting a single location for the fixing of the date of the equinox, such as the **Qiblih**.<sup>[4]</sup> The 'locked' calendar is the one described in this article.

Years in the Bahá'í calendar are counted from Thursday, 21 March 1844, the beginning of the Bahá'í **Era** or Badí' Era (abbreviated *BE* or *B.E.*).<sup>[2]</sup> Year 1 BE thus began at sundown 20 March 1844. Using the Bahá'í names for the weekday and month, day one of the Bahá'í Era was *Istijlál* (Majesty), 1 *Bahá* (Splendour) 1 BE. As detailed below, the names of the Bahá'í months and days reflect attributes of God.<sup>[6]</sup>

## Months

[edit]

The Bahá'í calendar is composed of 19 months, each with 19 days.<sup>[7]</sup> The **Nineteen Day Fast** is held during the final month of 'Alá' (2 March – 20 March), and is preceded by the intercalary days, known as **Ayyám-i-Há**. There are four intercalary days in a regular year, and five in a leap year.<sup>[7]</sup> The introduction of **intercalation** marked an important break from **Islam**, as under the **Islamic calendar** the practice of intercalation had been specifically prohibited in the **Qur'an**.<sup>[3]</sup> The month of fasting is followed by **Naw-Rúz**, the new year. Because the calendar is currently synchronized with the Gregorian calendar, the Bahá'í leap years happen on **common era** leap years. In addition, the intercalary days include 28 February and 1 March, causing precise synchronization of the 19 months with the Gregorian calendar.

The names of the months were taken by the Báb from the **Du'ay-i-Sahar**, a Ramadan dawn prayer by **Imam Muhammad al-Baqir**, the fifth Imam of **Twelver Shi'ah Islam**.<sup>[8][9]</sup> These month names are described as describing attributes of God.

Month	Arabic Name <sup>[7]</sup>	Arabic Script	English Translation <sup>[7]</sup>	Gregorian Dates <sup>[7]</sup>
1	<b>Bahá</b>	بهاء	Splendour	21 March – 8 April
2	<b>Jalál</b>	جلال	Glory	9 April – 27 April
3	<b>Jamál</b>	جمال	Beauty	28 April – 16 May

### Bahá'í Faith



#### Central figures

Bahá'u'lláh  
The Báb · `Abdu'l-Bahá

#### Key scripture

*Kitáb-i-Aqdas* · *Kitáb-i-Iqán*

*The Hidden Words*  
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#### Institutions

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#### History

Bahá'í history · Timeline  
Bábís · Shaykh Ahmad  
Persecution

#### Notable individuals

Shoghi Effendi  
Martha Root · Táhirih  
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#### See also

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4	' <b>Aẓamat</b>	عظمة	Grandeur	17 May – 4 June
5	<b>Núr</b>	نور	Light	5 June – 23 June
6	<b>Raḥmat</b>	رحمة	Mercy	24 June – 12 July
7	<b>Kalimát</b>	كلمات	Words	13 July – 31 July
8	<b>Kamál</b>	كمال	Perfection	1 August – 19 August
9	<b>Asmá'</b>	اسماء	Names	20 August – 7 September
10	' <b>Izzat</b>	عزة	Might	8 September – 26 September
11	<b>Mashīyyat</b>	مشية	Will	27 September – 15 October
12	' <b>Ilm</b>	علم	Knowledge	16 October – 3 November
13	<b>Qudrat</b>	قدرة	Power	4 November – 22 November
14	<b>Qawl</b>	قول	Speech	23 November – 11 December
15	<b>Masá'il</b>	مسائل	Questions	12 December – 30 December
16	<b>Sharaf</b>	شرف	Honour	31 December – 18 January
17	<b>Sulṭán</b>	سلطان	Sovereignty	19 January – 6 February
18	<b>Mulk</b>	ملك	Dominion	7 February – 25 February
	<b>Ayyám-i-Há</b>	ايام الهاء	The Days of Há	26 February – 1 March
19	' <b>Alá'</b>	علاء	Loftiness	2 March – 20 March (Month of fasting)

## Holy days

[edit]

There are eleven holy days in the Bahá'í calendar on nine of which work is suspended.<sup>[10]</sup> The Festival of **Riḍván**, a twelve day festival that commemorates Bahá'u'lláh's announcement of prophethood, is the most holy Bahá'í festival and is referred to as the "Most Great Festival."<sup>[11]</sup>

On the Islamic lunar calendar, the births of the **Báb** and **Bahá'u'lláh** fall on consecutive days; the first and second day of **Muharram**, respectively.<sup>[12]</sup> The Universal House of Justice has decided to celebrate them on the solar calendar, but has the authority to change the observance to the lunar calendar days, which migrate through the solar calendar by 11 or 12 days each year.

Name <sup>[10]</sup>	Gregorian Dates <sup>[10]</sup>	Work Suspended <sup>[10]</sup>
<b>Naw-Rúz</b> (Bahá'í New Year)	March 21	Yes
First day of <b>Riḍván</b> (Arabic: <b>رضوان</b> )	April 21	Yes
Ninth day of Riḍván	April 29	Yes
Twelfth day of Riḍván	May 2	Yes
Declaration of the <b>Báb</b>	May 23	Yes
Ascension of <b>Bahá'u'lláh</b>	May 29	Yes
<b>Martyrdom of the Báb</b>	July 9	Yes
Birth of the Báb	October 20	Yes
Birth of Bahá'u'lláh	November 12	Yes
<b>Day of the Covenant</b>	November 26	No
Ascension of <b>Abdu'l-Bahá</b>	November 28	No

## Weekdays

[edit]

The Bahá'í week starts on Saturday, and ends on Friday.<sup>[13]</sup> Like **Judaism** and **Islam**, days begin at sunset on the previous **solar day** and end at sunset of the present solar day. Bahá'í writings indicate that Friday is to be kept as a day of rest.<sup>[14][15]</sup> The practice of keeping Friday as a day of rest is not observed by all Bahá'ís, however, for example, in the UK, the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís does not currently keep this practice.<sup>[16]</sup>

Arabic Name <sup>[13]</sup>	Arabic Script	English Translation <sup>[13]</sup>	Day of the Week <sup>[13]</sup>
Jalál	جلال	Glory	Saturday
Jamál	جمال	Beauty	Sunday
Kamál	كمال	Perfection	Monday
Fiḍál	فضال	Grace	Tuesday
'Idál	عدل	Justice	Wednesday
Istijlál	استجلال	Majesty	Thursday
Istiqlál	استقلال	Independence	Friday

## Váḥid and Kull-i-Shay'

[edit]

Also existing in the Bahá'í calendar system is a 19-year cycle called **Váḥid** and a 361-year (19x19) supercycle called **Kull-i-Shay'** (literally, "All Things").<sup>[13]</sup> Each of the 19 years in a Vahid has been given a name as shown in the table below.<sup>[13]</sup> The 9th Váḥid of the 1st Kull-i-Shay' started on 21 March 1996, and the 10th Váḥid will begin in 2015.<sup>[17]</sup> The current Bahá'í year, year 168 BE (21 March 2011 - 20 March 2012), is year Badí' of the 9th Váḥid of the 1st Kull-i-Shay'.<sup>[17]</sup> The 2nd Kull-i-Shay' will begin in 2205.<sup>[17]</sup>

The concept of a 19-year cycle has existed in some form since the 4th century BC. The **Metonic cycle** represents an invented measure that approximately correlates solar and lunar markings of time and which appears in several calendar systems.

### Years in a Váhid

No.	Persian Name	Arabic Script	English Translation
1	Alif	ألف	A
2	Bá'	باء	B
3	Ab	أب	Father
4	Dál	دال	D
5	Báb	باب	Gate
6	Váv	واو	V
7	Abad	أبد	Eternity
8	Jád	جد	Generosity
9	Bahá'	بهاء	Splendour
10	Hubb	حب	Love
11	Bahháj	بهاج	Delightful
12	Javáb	جواب	Answer
13	Aḥad	احد	Single
14	Vahháb	وهلب	Bountiful
15	Vidád	وداد	Affection
16	Badí'	بديع	Beginning
17	Bahí	بهي	Luminous
18	Abhá	ابهي	Most Luminous
19	Váhid	واحد	Unity

### See also

[edit]

- Calendar
- Bahá'í Faith
- Intercalation
- 19 (number)

### Notes

[edit]

- <sup>^</sup> Bahai library. *Bibliography for the Tablets of Baha'u'llah: List of citations and resources for Tablets revealed 1863-68. Kitáb-i-Badí'* ("The Wondrous Book," "the Unique Book"). Prepared by Jonah Winters for the Wilmette Institute.
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- <sup>^</sup> *Taherzadeh, A* (1976). *The Revelation of Bahá'u'lláh, Volume 1: Baghdad 1853-63*. Oxford, UK: George Ronald. pp. 116–7. ISBN 0853982708.
- <sup>^</sup> Stephen N. Lambden. *The Du'á Sahar or Supplication of Glory-Beauty (al-bahá')*
- <sup>^ a b c d</sup> National Spiritual Assembly of the United States (2006-03-05). "The Badi Calendar". *bahai.us*. Retrieved 2006-09-23.
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- <sup>^ a b c d e f</sup> Effendi, Shoghi (1950). *The Bahá'í Faith: 1844-1950*. Wilmette, Illinois: Bahá'í Publishing Committee.
- <sup>^</sup> "Letter written on behalf of the Guardian to an individual believer". *Bahá'í News* (162, April 1943): 5. 1939-07-10. In Effendi, Shoghi; Bahá'u'llah, 'Abdu'l-Bahá, The Universal House of Justice (1983). Hornby, Helen, ed. *Lights of Guidance: A Bahá'í Reference File*. New Delhi, India: Bahá'í Publishing Trust. p. 109. ISBN 9788185091464. Retrieved 2009-03-15. "III. Bahá'í: E. Miscellaneous Subjects: 372. Friday is Day of Rest in Bahá'í Calendar."
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### Further reading

[edit]

- Keil, Gerald (2008). *Time and the Bahá'í Era*. UK: George Ronald. ISBN 9780853985273.

## External links

[edit]

- The Bahá'í Calendar
- Arithmetic of the Bahá'í Calendar, and Variants
- Bahá'í Calendar, Bahá'í Events and Holy Days (types: Persian, Islamic, Gregorian)

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