

CALENDAR

Every new religion has its own calendar and the Bahá'í Faith is no different. The year is based on the solar year of 365 days, five hours and some fifty minutes. Each year is divided into nineteen months of nineteen days each with four Intercalary Days (five in a leap year), called Ayyám-i-Há, which Bahá'u'lláh specified should precede the nineteenth month called 'Alá' (the month of fasting). Ayyám-i-Há is devoted to spiritual preparation for the fast, hospitality, feasting, charity and gift giving. New Year's Day (Naw Rúz) falls on the Spring Equinox in the Northern Hemisphere. The Bahá'í day of rest is Istiqlál (Friday) and the Bahá'í day begins and ends at sunset.

The Báb divided the years following the date of His Revelation into cycles of nineteen years each. Each cycle of nineteen years is called a Váhid. Nineteen cycles constitute a period called Kull-i-Shay. The names of the months in the Bahá'í (Badí) calendar were given by the Báb, who drew them from the nineteen names of God invoked in a prayer said during the month of fasting in Shí'ih Islam.

	The Holy Days			
1	Naw Rúz	New Year	March 21	
2	First Day of Ridván	Declaration of Bahá'u'lláh	April 21	at about 3 p.m. on 21 st April
3	Ninth Day of Ridván	Declaration of Bahá'u'lláh	April 29	
4	Twelfth Day of Ridván	Declaration of Bahá'u'lláh	May 2	
5	Declaration of the Báb		May 23	at about two hours after sunset on 22 nd May
6	Ascension of Bahá'u'lláh		May 29	at 3 a.m. on 29 th May
7	Martyrdom of the Báb		July 9	at about noon on 9 th July
8	Birth of the Báb		October 20	
9	Birth of Bahá'u'lláh		November 12	
	Work does not have to cease on these Holy Days			
10	Day of the Covenant		November 26	
11	Ascension of 'Abdu'l-Bahá		November 28	at 1 a.m. on 28 th November

	Weekdays		
1	Jalál	Glory	Saturday
2	Jamál	Beauty	Sunday
3	Kamál	Perfection	Monday
4	Fidál	Grace	Tuesday
5	'Idál	Justice	Wednesday
6	Istijlál	Majesty	Thursday
7	Istiqlál	Independence	Friday

	Days and Months		
1	Bahá	Splendour	21 March - 8 April
2	Jalál	Glory	9 April - 27 April
3	Jamál	Beauty	28 April - 16 May
4	'Azamat	Grandeur	17 May - 4 June
5	Núr	Light	5 June - 23 June
6	Rahmat	Mercy	24 June - 12 July
7	Kalimát	Words	13 July - 31 July
8	Kamál	Perfection	1 August - 19 August
9	Asmá'	Names	20 August - 7 September
10	'Izzat	Might	8 September - 26 September
11	Mashíyyat	Will	27 September - 15 October
12	'Ilm	Knowledge	16 October - 3 November
13	Qudrat	Power	4 November - 22 November
14	Qawl	Speech	23 November - 11 December
15	Masá'il	Questions	12 December - 30 December
16	Sharaf	Honour	31 December - 18 January
17	Sultán	Sovereignty	19 January - 6 February
18	Mulk	Dominion	7 February - 25 February
	Ayyám-i-Há		26 February - 1 March
19	'Alá	Loftiness	2 March - 20 March

	Years and Váhids	
1	Alif	The Letter "A"
2	Bá	The letter "B"
3	Ab	Father
4	Dál	The letter "D"
5	Báb	Gate
6	Váv	The letter "V"
7	Abad	Eternity
8	Jád	Generosity
9	Bahá	Splendour
10	Hubb	Love
11	Bahháj	Delightful
12	Javáb	Answer
13	Ahad	Single
14	Vahháb	Bountiful
15	Vidád	Affection
16	Badí	Beginning
17	Bahí	Luminous
18	Abhá	Most Luminous
19	Váhid	Unity

Examples:

	Weekday	Day	Month	Year	Year of the Váhid	Váhid*	Kull-i-Shay**
Monday, 21 st April 1930 (before sunset)	3 rd (Kamál)	13 th (Qudrat)	2 nd (Jalál)	87	11 th (Bahháj)	5 th (Báb)	1 st
Sunday, 5 th April 1987 (after sunset)	3 rd (Kamál)	17 th (Sultán)	1 st (Bahá)	144	11 th (Bahháj)	8 th (Jád)	1 st
Wednesday, 27 th January 1988 (before sunset)	5 th ('Idál)	9 th (Asmá'í)	17 th (Sultán)	144	11 th (Bahháj)	8 th (Jád)	1 st
Sunday, 14 th August 1988 (after sunset)	3 rd (Kamál)	15 th (Masá'il)	8 th (Kamál)	145	12 th (Javáb)	8 th (Jád)	1 st
Sunday, 20 th November 1988 (before sunset)	2 nd (Jamál)	17 th (Sultán)	13 th (Qudrat)	145	12 th (Javáb)	8 th (Jád)	1 st
Wednesday, 26 th April 1989 (before sunset)	5 th ('Idál)	18 th (Mulk)	2 nd (Jalál)	146	13 th (Ahad)	8 th (Jád)	1 st
Saturday, 27 th December 1997 (after sunset)	2 nd (Jamál)	17 th (Sultán)	15 th (Masá'il)	154	2 nd (Bá)	9 th (Bahá)	1 st
Saturday, 18 th July 1998 (after sunset)	2 nd (Jamál)	7 th (Kalimát)	7 th (Kalimát)	155	3 rd (Ab)	9 th (Bahá)	1 st
Wednesday, 21 st March 2001 (before sunset)	5 th ('Idál)	1 st (Bahá)	1 st (Bahá)	158	6 th (Váv)	9 th (Bahá)	1 st

* A Váhid consists of 19 years each

** A Kull-i-Shay consists of 361 years each