

Cultural News

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What is Arafat Day?

Arafat Day is the second day of the Hajj pilgrimage and is the day before the first day of the major Islamic Holiday of Eid ul-Adha.

As the exact day is based on lunar sightings, the date may vary between countries. The date shown on this page is based on the date of Arafat Day in United Arab Emirates.

At dawn on Arafat Day, Muslim pilgrims will make their way from Mina to a nearby hillside and plain called Mount Arafat and the Plain of Arafah. It was here that Muhammad gave his Farewell Sermon in 632 CE.

The Hajj is the annual Islamic pilgrimage to Mecca. This pilgrimage is a mandatory religious duty for Muslims that must be carried out at least once in their lifetime by all who are physically and financially capable of undertaking the journey. The Hajj is considered the largest annual gathering of people in the world.

Eid al-Adha concludes the Pilgrimage to Mecca. Eid al-Adha lasts for three days and commemorates Ibrahim's (Abraham) willingness to obey God by sacrificing his son.

When is it?

Arafat day falls on the ninth day of Dhu Al Hijja according to the hijri calendar. This year, as far as the Gregorian calendar is concerned, it falls on Thursday, August 31.

What does it mark?

Taking place roughly 70 days after the end of Ramadan, Arafat Day marks the second day of haj – or pilgrimage.

The occasion marks the day when a verse of the Quran revealed that Islam was perfected, and when Allah's blessings were completed.

"This day have I perfected for you your religion and completed My favour to you and chosen for you Islam as a religion." (Surah Al Maidah - Verse 3)

Mount Arafat is the site where Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) spoke his Farewell Sermon.

Arafat day occurs the day before the start of Eid Al Adha.

What is done?

At dawn on Arafat Day, Muslims travel from Mina to Mount Arafat, which is just outside of Makkah. They will remain on Mount Arafat until Maghrib prayers. The distance between Mina and Mount Arafat is about 20km.

To complete the haj, Muslims must stand on Mount Arafat, or the pilgrimage becomes invalid. Muslims who have completed the haj have their sins expiated.

Those who are unable to travel to Makkah for haj may fast instead.

When are the public holidays

Public and private sector employees will be off work between Thursday, August 31 and Saturday, September 2, returning to work on Sunday, September 3, unless an extra day is granted by the UAE government. This will be confirmed closer to the date.

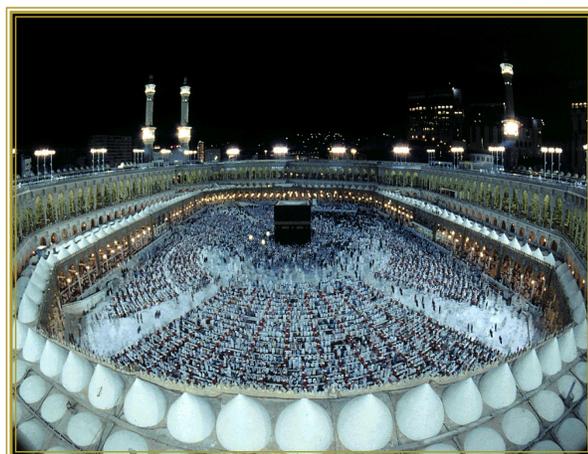
These holiday dates include Eid Al Adha.

When is Arafat (Haj) Day?

Year	Weekday	Date
2018	Tuesday	21 August
2017	Thursday	31 August
2016	Sunday	11 September
2015	Wednesday	23 September
2014	Friday	03 October
2013	Monday	14 October

Who observes Arafat Day?

Country	Known as	Date
Kuwait	Arafat Day	31 Aug
Libya	Arafat Day	31 Aug
Maldives	Hajj Day	31 Aug
Saudi Arabia	Eid Al Adha Holiday	31 Aug
United Arab Emirates	Arafat (Haj) Day	31 Aug



AUGUST 2017 CALENDAR

AMERICAN INDIAN HERITAGE MONTH

NATIONAL BREASTFEEDING MONTH

BLACK BUSINESS MONTH

- 1- Tish'a B'av (Jewish)
- 2- International Albarino Day
- 4- Coast Guard Day (US)
- 6- American Family Day (US)
- 6-12- National Health Center Week (US)
- 7- Raksha Bandhan (Hindu)
- 10- Smithsonian Day (US)
- 11-19- Elvis Week (US)
- 12- World Elephant Day
- 13-19- Feeding Pets of the Homeless Week (US)
- 16- National Airborne Day (US)
- 18- National Fajita Day (US)
- 21- Senior Citizen's Day (US)
- 26- Paryushana Parva (Jain)
- 27- 09/01- World Water Week
- 31- Waqf al Arafa - Hajj Day (Islam)



On June 30, 2016 Medical Interpreting Services wrapped up the annual forty hour training for staff and community interpreters. The training curriculum included professional ethics, standards of practice, code of conduct, and medical terminology.

2017 “Connecting Worlds” Healthcare Interpreter Training

“Connecting Worlds” is an introductory course for healthcare interpreters in California. It incorporates lecture, interpreting practices, terminology review, interpreter roles and ethical standards developed by the California Healthcare Interpreters Association (CHIA).

The training was conducted by Adriana Mortenson, MIS AA III-Supervisor. She tailored the existing training module and incorporated many videos, slides, games and exercises to make the learning process more engaging. Participants enjoyed the training. Many wished that the training was eighty hours instead of only forty hours.

One of the training participants was a graduate student from the Middlebury Institute of International Studies (MIIS), Sitong Anna Liu. She studies interpreting and written translation in the Master’s of Arts program at MIIS, and was accepted into the summer externship at Medical

Interpreting Services. Anna was very excited about her experience as an extern at UCDH, and she provided us with an essay, reflecting on the five weeks of her externship & training.

Reflection on the Externship Program at UCDH

By Sitong Anna Liu

Communication is essential to human engagement because it encourages knowledge transfer and strengthens understanding. Though many see interpreters as information-facilitating instruments to smooth out interpersonal exchanges, interpreters fulfill a much bigger role by adding a human touch to the interactions. The stimulating internship experience at UC Davis Medical Interpreting Services proves that machines can never replace humans.

Real life medical interpreting is, to some extent, textbook procedures, not so different from the practice sessions I underwent in the classroom. I prepare, I go in, I take notes, I interpret. It took no time to establish a basic sense of professionalism and interpreter’s confidence in these uncharted waters of practical interpreting.

However, real interactions with patients provided me with the “context” that’s not usually included in the lab practice sessions. For the first time, I was not interpreting for a flat, collected, and faceless voice in my headphones. Instead, I could not-mistakenly recognize and even resonate with the fear, desperation, anger, hopelessness, or gratefulness when I looked in the patients’ eyes. It felt more than anything to get to tell the patients that everything looks good or that a condition is treatable. This tremendous sense of vocation is something one can only get outside of schools.

At school, I worked hard and in the meantime enjoyed the sense of accomplishment from a fine test grade or an upbeat comment from my mentors.

At UC Davis Health, I don’t generally receive a grade for every assignment. But when the session came to an end where both sides began to shake my hands, nod to me and say thank you, the same sense of accomplishment washed through my body.

Yet challenging situations did come along the way, which propelled me to do more research and learn from the seasoned in-house interpreters who accompanied me to every assignment and offered well-founded opinions to help me grow. It turns out that reality isn’t a glasshouse, and sometimes I had to work with the tension and gravity in the room, remain unflappable when given no recognition nor respect, and find a way around when words failed to register in a panicking mind.



World Elephant Day

On August 12, 2012, the inaugural World Elephant Day was launched to bring attention to the urgent plight of Asian and African elephants. The elephant is loved, revered and respected by people and cultures around the world, yet we balance on the brink of seeing the last of this magnificent creature.

The escalation of poaching, habitat loss, human-elephant conflict and mistreatment in captivity are just some of the threats to both African and Asian elephants. Working towards better protection for wild

elephants, improving enforcement policies to prevent the illegal poaching and trade of ivory, conserving elephant habitats, better treatment for captive elephants and, when appropriate, reintroducing captive elephants into natural, protected sanctuaries are the goals that numerous elephant conservation organizations are focusing on around the world.

World Elephant Day asks you to experience elephants in non-exploitive and sustainable environments where elephants can thrive under care and protection. On World Elephant Day, August 12, express your concern, share your knowledge and support solutions for the better care of captive and wild elephants alike.

<http://worldelephantday.org/about>