

MUST THE UK FOLLOW SAUDI ARABIA?

Understanding the 1–2 Day Difference in Moon Sighting



LOCAL MOON SIGHTING MATTERS

Since 2018, the ICOUK has developed a consistent local moon-sighting system, with Islamic months lasting 29 or 30 days. Depending on the moon's visibility from different locations, the UK may begin a month **one day** — and **occasionally two days** — different from Saudi Arabia.



IS A TWO-DAY DIFFERENCE WRONG?

No. A difference of two days does not, by itself, make a local moon-sighting decision contrary to Shariah.

Countries that base their Islamic months on actual crescent visibility may differ from Saudi Arabia's Umm al-Qura calendar. This happens in many countries, including India, which has over 172 million Muslims (14%). [Ref: Rabi-2 1448]



WHAT SHOULD GUIDE UK MUSLIMS?

- ✓ Follow reliable moon-sighting evidence and sound Islamic scholarship guidance.
- ✓ Recognise legitimate differences arising from local visibility and accepted sighting criteria.
- ✓ Do not assume that Saudi Arabia's dates must automatically apply to the UK.
- ✓ Judge the validity of a sighting decision by its evidence and Shariah principles, not merely by the number of days' difference.



ONE UMMAH, DIFFERENT HORIZONS

A difference in dates is not, by itself, proof of a mistake.

Support authentic local moon sightings in the UK.



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