The Islamic Calender is based on a Lunar System while the Calender that we commonly use now (January to December) is based on a Solar System.

The Islamic Calender has twelve months, it starts after sunset, the day when the lunar crescent is visually sighted. The lunar year is approximately 354 days long.

The months in the Islamic Calender are:

**1. Muharram** (“Forbidden” – it is one of the four months during which it is forbidden to wage war or fight)

**2. Safar** (“Empty” or “Yellow”)

**3. Rabi‘ul Awwal** (“First spring”)

**4. Rabi‘u Thani** (“Second spring”)

**5. Jumada al-Ulā or Jumaada Awal** (“First freeze”)

**6. Jumada al-Ukhra or Jumaada Thani** (“Second freeze”)

**7. Rajab** (“To respect” – this is another holy month when fighting is prohibited)

**8. Sha’ban** (“To spread and distribute”)

**9. Ramadhan** (“Parched thirst” – this is the month of daytime fasting)

**10. Shawwal** (“To be light and vigorous”)

**11. Dzu al-Qa’da** (“The month of rest” – another month when no warfare or fighting is allowed)

**12. Dzu al-hijjah** (“The month of Hajj” – this is the month of the annual pilgrimage to Mecca, again when no warfare or fighting is allowed)

<http://www.rahmahmuslimhomeschool.co.uk/index/the-islamic-calender-months-in-islam/>