

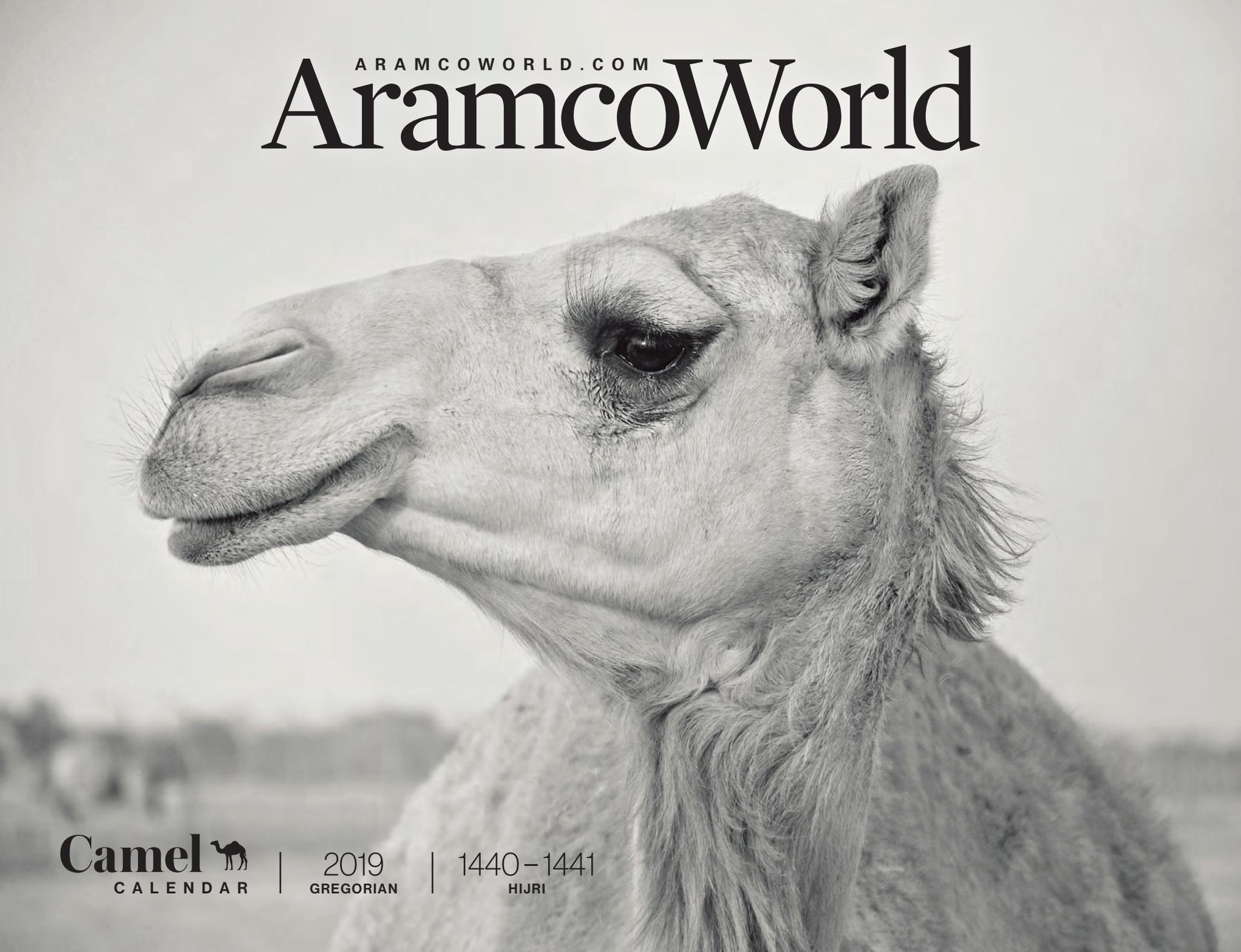
ARAMCOWORLD.COM

# AramcoWorld

**Camel**   
CALENDAR

2019  
GREGORIAN

1440-1441  
HIJRI



# Camels and Culture



WRITTEN BY  
PETER HARRIGAN

Ever since camels gradually fell into the service of people in the arid lands of Arabia, Africa and Asia about 4,000 years ago, they have evoked wonderment. Their domestication, late compared with other species, had a profound influence on the societies of these vast territories through the exchange of ideas and the interaction of languages as well as culture both intangible and material. They provided, for the first time, an effective means for long-distance overland travel for merchants and the seasonal migrations of tribes. By the coming of Islam in the seventh century CE, a complex network of trade and pilgrimage routes had developed that connected the far reaches of the known world.

The consequences were as significant then as those experienced more recently with the advent of the telegraph, the internal combustion engine and, most recently, the Internet.

DO THEY NOT LOOK AT THE CAMELS,  
HOW THEY ARE MADE?  
AND AT THE SKY, HOW IT IS RAISED?

—QUR'AN 88:17  
(ENGLISH BY YUSUF ALI)

There are two domesticated camel species, and they can be identified with ease. The one-humped species numbers some 27 million worldwide, making it by far the most populous. It has also the greatest variety of breeds, numbering at least 90. Known as the dromedary (*Camelus dromedarius*), it inhabits the hot desert lands of the Arabian Peninsula, Levant, North Africa and the Horn of Africa. The two-humped species, the Bactrian (*Camelus bactrianus*), numbers around three million. It populates the colder deserts and steppes of Central Asia with 14 recognized breeds.

The wild predecessors of both the dromedary and the Bactrian camels are extinct. Archeologists and geneticists are now using ever-more-sophisticated technologies to unpick often scant and elusive evidence of the story of its evolutionary migration, domestication and ancestral species extinctions. Today the only surviving wild species of camel is the two-humped *Camelus ferus*, whose critically endangered population of about 1,000 lives mainly in the Gobi Desert.

Studies of all three species continue to reveal wonders of adaptation, characteristics and potential. Wild camels, for example, can drink slush with more salt in it than seawater. (They also appear to have been unaffected by decades of nuclear tests conducted in their now-protected habitat.) Milk from camels contains an insulin-like molecule, and it is replete with antibodies and enzymes. It lowers cholesterol in humans, and it can be consumed by people with allergies to cow's milk. Studies are currently examining camel-milk immunoglobulins for cancer-fighting potential.

The camel's environmental adaptations include blood-temperature range not unlike that of reptiles, and this helps camels endure extreme temperatures. In addition, as dehydration thickens a camel's blood, its red cells elongate, which enables them to flow con-

# PATTERNS OF MOON, PATTERNS OF SUN

WRITTEN BY  
PAUL LUNDE

## THE HIJRI CALENDAR

In 638 CE, six years after the death of the Prophet Muhammad, Islam's second caliph, 'Umar, recognized the necessity of a calendar to govern the affairs of Muslims. This was first of all a practical matter. Correspondence with military and civilian officials in the newly conquered lands had to be dated. But Persia used a different calendar from Syria, where the caliphate was based; Egypt used yet another. Each of these calendars had a different starting point, or epoch. The Sasanids, the ruling dynasty of Persia, used June 16, 632 CE, the date of the accession of the last Sasanid monarch, Yazdagird III. Syria, which until the Muslim conquest was part of the Byzantine Empire, used a form of the Roman "Julian" calendar, with an epoch of October 1, 312 BCE. Egypt used the Coptic calendar, with an epoch of August 29, 284 CE. Although all were solar calendars, and hence geared to the seasons and containing 365 days, each also had a different system for periodically adding days to compensate for the fact that the true length of the solar year is not 365 but 365.2422 days.

In pre-Islamic Arabia, various other systems of measuring time had been used. In South Arabia, some calendars apparently were lunar, while others were lunisolar, using months based on the phases of the moon but intercalating days outside the lunar cycle to synchronize the calendar with the seasons. On the eve of Islam, the Himyarites appear to have used a calendar based on the Julian form, but with an epoch of 110 BCE. In central Arabia, the course of the year was charted by the position of the stars relative to the horizon at sunset or sunrise, dividing the ecliptic into 28 equal parts corresponding to the location of the moon on each successive night of the month. The names of the months in that calendar have continued in the Islamic calendar to this day and would seem to indicate that, before Islam, some sort of lunisolar calendar was in use, though it is not known to have had an epoch other than memorable local events.

There were two other reasons 'Umar rejected existing solar calendars. The Qur'an, in Chapter 10, Verse 5, states that time should be reckoned by the moon. Not only that, calendars used by the Persians, Syrians and Egyptians were identified with other religions and cultures. He therefore decided to create a calendar specifically for the Muslim community. It would be lunar, and it would have 12 months, each with 29 or 30 days.

This gives the lunar year 354 days, 11 days fewer than the solar year. 'Umar chose as the epoch for the new Muslim calendar *Hijra*, the emigration of the Prophet Muhammad and 70 Muslims from Makkah to Madinah, where Muslims first attained religious and political autonomy. *Hijra* thus occurred on 1 Muharram of the year 1 according to the Islamic calendar, which was named *hijri* after its epoch. (This date corresponds to July 16, 622 CE,

IT IS HE WHO MADE THE SUN  
TO BE A SHINING GLORY, AND  
THE MOON TO BE A LIGHT (OF  
BEAUTY), AND MEASURED  
OUT STAGES FOR HER, THAT  
YE MIGHT KNOW THE NUMBER  
OF YEARS AND THE COUNT  
(OF TIME).

—QUR'AN 10:5  
(ENGLISH BY YUSUF ALI)

tinuously. To help the camel hold water, the cells can expand to more than three times their original volume—far more than those of any other mammal. (This is what allows a camel to drink up to 120 liters in 10 minutes—more capacity than the fuel tank of a large utility vehicle, and not much more time in “refueling.”) As for its range capabilities, a watered camel can travel, with time for grazing, up to a week or more without water, and it can cover more than 600 kilometers.

The rider’s experience is also unique. Explorer and writer Eldon Rutter traveled on camelback in western and northern Arabia in 1926. During hot months, desert travel was often best during the cooler hours of darkness, and Rutter describes the mesmerizing experience with the patient camels pacing forward until dawn. “It seems to the rider borne at such a height aloft, that he is silently gliding or swimming over a yielding unstable surface,” he wrote in his acclaimed book, *The Holy Cities of Arabia*.

In contrast, much other Western literature has stereotyped dromedaries as either whimsical or aggressive and ill-tempered, whereas anyone who has come to know and work with them invariably regards them as intelligent, sociable and gentle.

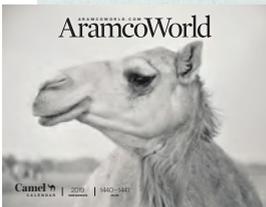
These characteristics and qualities of the dromedary have been deeply known in Arab lands for thousands of years, where camels have been a major motif in Arabic poetry, stories, vocabulary, metaphors, proverbs and humor. Camels literally enabled the transmission of an oral tradition. Traditional poems often include a description and elaborate panegyric that describes the fine mount that brings the poet or storyteller to audiences far and wide.

Today the dromedary is increasingly celebrated throughout the region for this cultural legacy, and for providing such a rich, productive and symbiotic relationship with its herders, breeders and keepers.

Globally, the camel population today accounts for fewer than one percent of domesticated herbivores. (Cows and cattle number two *billion*.) It is in the arid lands of Africa—and particularly in the Horn of Africa—that camel populations are highest and rising, as they are bred and tended as valuable, sustainable sources of food and materials: Estimates cite as many as 20 million, or roughly 80 percent of the dromedary population worldwide. The Arabian Peninsula has a dromedary population of around 1.5 million, and scientists in Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates are spearheading a growing field of research.

With its adaptability highly suited to face today’s emerging challenges of climate change, says Bernard Faye, a camel expert with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, camels “represent a fabulous biological model for scientists from different disciplines.” He argues that the camel’s place in the world deserves to be re-evaluated in light of trends and potential, including the qualities of their milk and meat, as well the promise of new derivative products. Little wonder, Faye contends, that no other domesticated animal has offered humans so much utility, pleasure and value. 🌐

**Peter Harrigan** is a contributing editor and senior writer for *AramcoWorld* as well as founder and editorial director of Medina Publishing.



*On the cover:* “I like how the expression of the camel suggests pride and a hint of a smile,” says photographer Marin Tomic, who came eye to eye with this dromedary during a jeep tour in Dubai.

EDITOR: RICHARD DOUGHTY; PHOTO EDITOR: JOHNNY HANSON; DATENOTES: ALVA ROBINSON; DESIGN: GRAPHIC ENGINE DESIGN STUDIO; PRINTING: RR DONNELLEY / WETMORE.

on the Gregorian calendar.) Today in the West, it is customary, when writing hijri dates, to use the abbreviation AH, which stands for the Latin *anno hegirae*, “year of the hijra.”

Because the Islamic lunar calendar is 11 days shorter than the solar, it is therefore not synchronized to the seasons. Its festivals, which fall on the same days of the same lunar months each year, make the round of the seasons every 33 solar years. This 11-day difference between the lunar and the solar year accounts for the difficulty of converting dates from one system to the other.

## THE GREGORIAN CALENDAR

The early calendar of the Roman Empire was lunisolar, containing 355 days divided into 12 months beginning on January 1. To keep it more or less in accord with the actual solar year, a month was added every two years. The system for doing so was complex, and cumulative errors gradually misaligned it with the seasons. By 46 BCE, it was some three months out of alignment, and Julius Caesar oversaw its reform. Consulting Greek astronomers in Alexandria, he created a solar calendar in which one day was added to February every fourth year, effectively compensating for the solar year’s length of 365.2422 days. This Julian calendar was used throughout Europe until 1582 CE.

In the Middle Ages, the Christian liturgical calendar was grafted onto the Julian one, and the computation of lunar festivals like Easter, which falls on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the spring equinox, exercised some of the best minds in Christendom. The use of the epoch 1 CE dates from the sixth century, but did not become common until the 10th.

The Julian year was nonetheless 11 minutes and 14 seconds too long. By the early 16th century, due to the accumulated error, the spring equinox was falling on March 11 rather than where it should, on March 21. Copernicus, Christophorus Clavius and the physician Aloysius Lilius provided the calculations, and in 1582 Pope Gregory XIII ordered that Thursday, October 4, 1582, would be followed by Friday, October 15, 1582. Most Catholic countries accepted the new “Gregorian” calendar, but it was not adopted in England and the Americas until the 18th century. Its use is now almost universal worldwide. The Gregorian year is nonetheless 25.96 seconds ahead of the solar year, which by the year 4909 will add up to an extra day. 🌐

The late **Paul Lunde** was a senior research associate with the Civilizations in Contact Project at Cambridge University and author of more than 70 articles for *AramcoWorld*.

## CONVERTING YEARS AND DATES

The following equations convert roughly from Gregorian to hijri and vice versa. However, the results can be slightly misleading: They tell you only the year in which the other calendar’s year *begins*. For example, 2019 Gregorian begins in Rabi` II, the fourth month of hijri 1440, and ends in Jumada I, the fifth month of hijri 1441.

**Gregorian year =**  

$$[(32 \times \text{Hijri year}) \div 33] + 622$$

**Hijri year =**  

$$[(\text{Gregorian year} - 622) \times 33] \div 32$$

Online calculators can be found by searching “Gregorian-hijri calendar calculator” or similar terms.



# January

RABI` II 1440 —  
JUMADA I



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Camel Wrestling Festival begins in Selçuk, Turkey			Seattle-Tashkent Sister City Association formed 1973			Austro-Ottoman War ends 1699																																																																																															
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	C. R. Ali coins "Pakistan" 1933			Freya Stark, British explorer of the Mideast, born 1893																																																																																																	

**Photo by**  
FERDINANDO  
SCIANNA/MAGNUM  
PHOTOS

Desert travelers outside of Douz, Tunisia, 1969. While camels have been in use in the Arabian Peninsula for several thousand years, they did not come into systematic use in North Africa until the early centuries CE. The great network of trans-Saharan camel-caravan routes flourished from the early Islamic era, in the seventh and eighth centuries, through Ottoman times, until the 19th century.

**NOTES:** \_\_\_\_\_  
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# February

JUMADA I –  
JUMADA II



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28 <b>3</b> Geographer Ibn Jubayr departs Granada for Makkah 1183	29 <b>4</b>	30 <b>5</b> Azeri composer Gara Garayev born 1918	1 <b>6</b>	2 <b>7</b> International Zaafrane Festival opens in Tunisia	3 <b>8</b>	4 <b>9</b> Chagatai poet Ali-Shir Nava'i born in Herat 1441																																																																																			
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12 <b>17</b> Jaisalmer Desert Festival opens in India	13 <b>18</b> First air crossing over the Sahara 1920	14 <b>19</b>	15 <b>20</b>	16 <b>21</b> Indian scholar Shah Waliullah Dehlawi born 1703	17 <b>22</b>	18 <b>23</b>																																																																																			
19 <b>24</b> Travel writer Ibn Battuta born 1304	20 <b>25</b>	21 <b>26</b>	22 <b>27</b> Franciscus Raphelengius, Europe's first printer of Arabic outside of Rome, born 1539	23 <b>28</b> English rock band Camel releases its first album 1973																																																																																					

Photo by  
MATTHIEU PALEY

Alongside a Bactrian camel, girls wrap themselves against winter's cold in the Afghan Pamir mountains. Among nomadic and semi-nomadic people in high regions of Central Asia, yaks are often used as well as camels for carrying. These girls are using their camel to carry drinking water for their family. More than one-humped dromedaries, two-humped Bactrian camels can endure extremes of both heat and cold.

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# March

JUMADA II —  
RAJAB

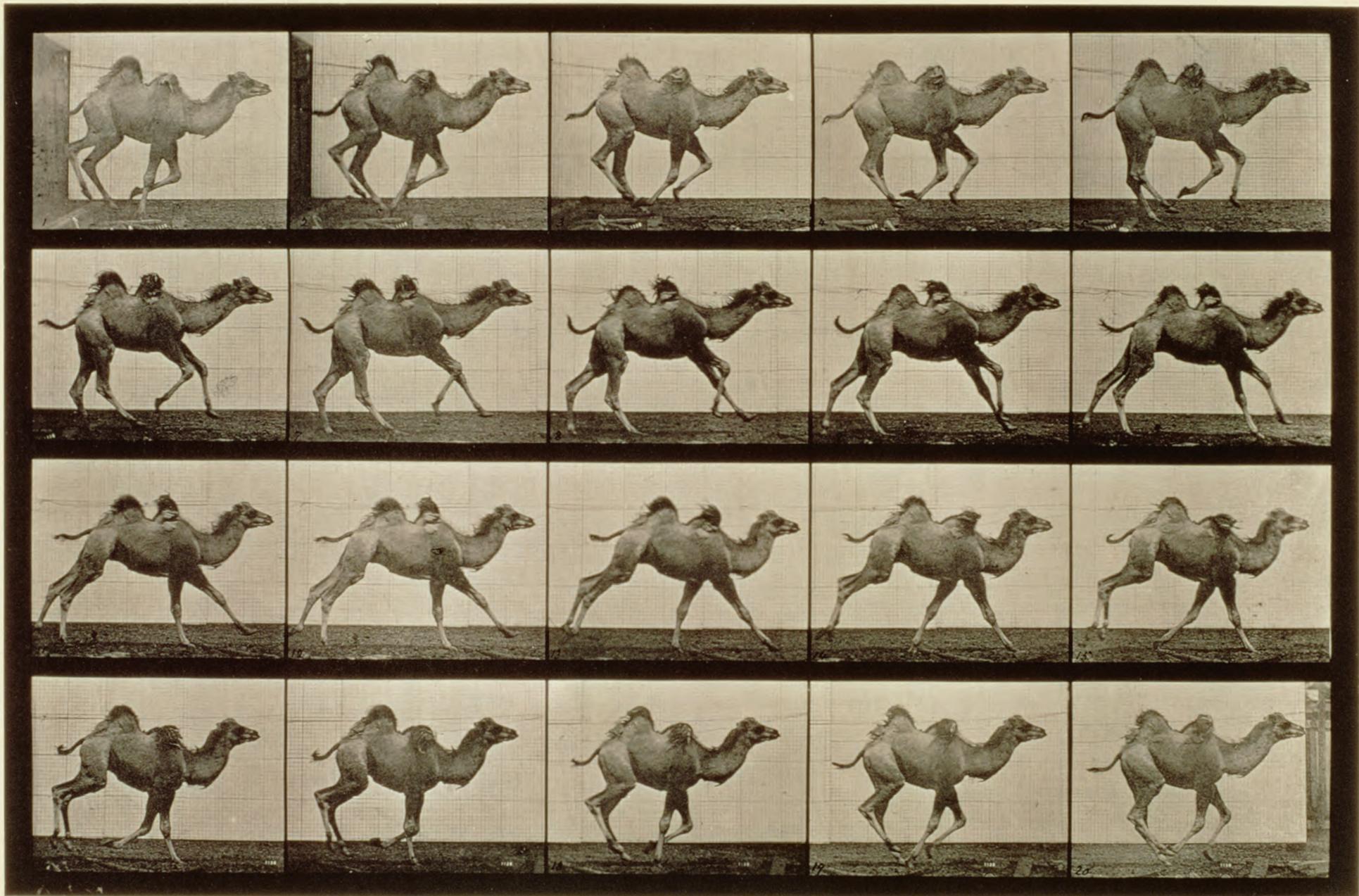


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Treaty of San Stefano ends Russo-Turkish War 1878		Thousand Camel Festival opens in Dalanzadgad, Mongolia				Traveler George Sandys born 1577																																																																							
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Children's singer Tom Chapin releases "Cameling" song 1992	Facebook launches Arabic version 2009				uk recognizes Egyptian independence 1922																																																																								
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Egyptian musician Sayed Darwish born 1892		1st King Abdulaziz Camel Festival opens 2017		Alykul Osmonov, Kyrgyz poet, born 1915		Janadriyah, annual Saudi cultural festival, inaugurated 1985																																																																							
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Photo by  
LARS BJURSTRÖM

Mamduah Ibrahim al-Rasheedi stands before one of the scores of petroglyph-covered stone faces in the remote desert near Shuwaymas, in the Ha'il region of Saudi Arabia. This wall shows camels large and small, pecked, chiseled and scraped into the rock by Neolithic artisans. Other friezes depict other animals as well as people. Al-Rasheedi, a school superintendent in the region, learned about the friezes from Bedouin in 2001 and helped bring their existence to the attention of antiquities authorities.

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1254-89.

# April

RAJAB —  
SHA`BAN



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	25 <b>1</b>	26 <b>2</b>	27 <b>3</b>	28 <b>4</b> <i>Arabian Nights</i> translator Antoine Galland born 1646	29 <b>5</b>	1 <b>6</b> Edward E. Salisbury, Yale's first professor of Arabic and Sanskrit, born 1814																																																																												
2 <b>7</b>	3 <b>8</b>	4 <b>9</b> Heinrich Schliemann begins to dig for ancient Troy 1870	5 <b>10</b>	6 <b>11</b>	7 <b>12</b>	8 <b>13</b>																																																																												
9 <b>14</b> BBC recording of the trumpet of King Tut 1939	10 <b>15</b>	11 <b>16</b>	12 <b>17</b>	13 <b>18</b> First Ouarzazate (Morocco) International Film Festival opens 2016	14 <b>19</b>	15 <b>20</b> Historian and scholar Ibn Wasil born in Hamat, Syria 1208																																																																												
16 <b>21</b>	17 <b>22</b>	18 <b>23</b> Kareem Abdul-Jabbar plays his last LA Lakers game 1989	19 <b>24</b>	20 <b>25</b>	21 <b>26</b> Tatar literary figure Ğabdulla Tuqay born 1886	22 <b>27</b>																																																																												
23 <b>28</b>	24 <b>29</b>	25 <b>30</b>	MARCH 2019 <table border="1"> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td></tr> <tr><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td></tr> <tr><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td></tr> <tr><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>						1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31							MAY 2019 <table border="1"> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td></tr> <tr><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td></tr> <tr><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td></tr> </table>				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31		
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**Photos by**  
EADWEARD MUYBRIDGE  
/ PRIVATE COLLECTION /  
STAPLETON COLLECTION /  
BRIDGEMAN IMAGES

For his pioneering photographic study "Animal Locomotion," shot between 1884 and 1887, British photographer, cinematographer and inventor Eadweard Muybridge used tripwires and multiple cameras to capture phases of motion. Camels were among the many animals—and humans—he documented. His work advanced studies of physiology and biomechanics.

**NOTES:** \_\_\_\_\_  
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# May

SHA`BAN —  
RAMADAN



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		Pope John Paul II visits Damascus Mosque 2001				Egyptian composer and singer Sayyid Mekawy born 1927							Sinai Trail, Egypt's first long-distance hiking trail, opens 2017																																																																										
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				34 camels from the Middle East disembark in, Texas 1856								West Frontier Days' Texas Camel Corps reenactment opens, Sheffield, Texas																																																																											
14	19	15	20	16	21	17	22	18	23	19	24	20	25																																																																										
		Turkmen poet-hero Magtymguly Pyragy born 1724										Ibn Sina claims to see solar transit of Venus 1032																																																																											
21	26	22	27	23	28	24	29	25	30	26	31																																																																												
		Azerbaijan's first legislative body formed 1918				Sultan Mehmed II takes Constantinople 1453																																																																																	

**Image courtesy**  
SUSAN MELLER  
Reprinted from *Silk and  
Cotton: Textiles from the  
Central Asia that Was*, by  
Susan Meller (Abrams, 2013)

Made by Turkmen seamstresses to caparison the lead camel in a bridal procession, this *düye başlyk* uses bright patchwork sewn in patterns and ribbons that, according to folk beliefs, help bring good luck and ward off the evil eye.

**NOTES:** \_\_\_\_\_  
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# June

RAMADAN —  
SHAWWAL



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Mamluk Sultanate founded in Egypt 1250						Turkish novelist Orhan Pamuk born 1952																																																																																					
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First Muslim Cameleers arrive in Port Melbourne, Australia 1860		Turkish American surgeon and tv host Mehmet Oz born 1960																																																																																									
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							Gardoum and Berrada become Morocco's first female surfers to compete abroad 2017		World Camel Day																																																																																		
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	Al-Azhar University building completed in Cairo 972	Khalil Gibran immigrates to America 1895							Bengali mathematician Sir Ashutosh Mukherjee born 1864																																																																																		

Photo by  
EUGENE TAN/  
AQUABUMPS

A camel ride along the beach at sunset is a daily tourism event in Broome, Australia. Camels were first brought to Australia in the 19th century to support construction in the central and western part of the country. Replaced by motor vehicles in the early 20th century, the camels were set loose in the Outback, where they proliferated. Now they number about 300,000.

NOTES: \_\_\_\_\_  
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# July

SHAWWAL —  
DHU-AL-QA`DAH

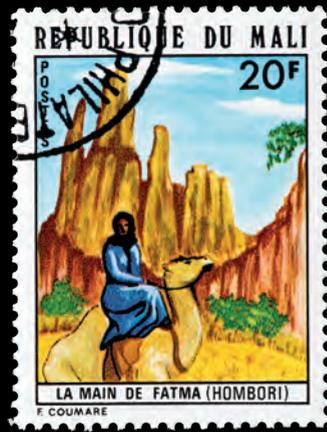
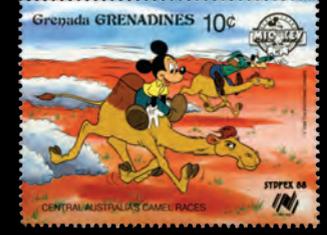


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	28 <b>1</b>  Optics pioneer Ibn al-Haytham born 965	29 <b>2</b>	30 <b>3</b>	1 <b>4</b>	2 <b>5</b>  Algerian independence 1962	3 <b>6</b>																																																																													
4 <b>7</b>	5 <b>8</b>	6 <b>9</b>	7 <b>10</b>  Erden Eruç begins human-powered global circumnavigation 2007	8 <b>11</b>	9 <b>12</b>	10 <b>13</b>  Camel Cup opens in Alice Springs, Australia																																																																													
11 <b>14</b>  Abbas II, last khedive of Egypt and Sudan, born 1874	12 <b>15</b>	13 <b>16</b>	14 <b>17</b>	15 <b>18</b>	16 <b>19</b>  al-Andalus established by Arab Berbers 711	17 <b>20</b>																																																																													
18 <b>21</b>	19 <b>22</b>	20 <b>23</b>	21 <b>24</b>  Investor and philanthropist Azim Premji born in Bombay 1945	22 <b>25</b>	23 <b>26</b>	24 <b>27</b>  Denis Davydov, inventor of hussar poetry, born 1784																																																																													
25 <b>28</b>	26 <b>29</b>	27 <b>30</b>  Amir Timur writes French King Charles VI seeking trade 1402	28 <b>31</b>	<p>JUN 2019</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td></tr> <tr><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td></tr> <tr><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td></tr> <tr><td>30</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> <p>AUG 2019</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td></tr> <tr><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td></tr> <tr><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td></tr> <tr><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td></tr> </table>								1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30											1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	
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Photo by  
LORRAINE  
CHITTOCK

Ten days into their 30-day, 1,250-kilometer journey from Daraw, in northwest Sudan, to Dongola, Egypt, herders move their stock along the 600-year-old *darb al-arba'in*, or Forty Days' Road, one of the most historic trade routes in Africa. Today the herds are smaller, the route is shorter and, rather than bearing the commodities of trade on their backs, the camels themselves are the commodity. But the herder's lot has not much changed: hot days, cold nights and an unforgiving desert.

NOTES: \_\_\_\_\_  
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# August

DHU-AL-QA`DAH –  
DHU-AL-HIJJAH – MUHARRAM 1441



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Republic of Upper Volta renamed Burkina Faso 1984		Druze Prince Fakhr al-Din Ma'n born on Mount Lebanon 1572			Egyptian poet and lyricist Ahmad Rami born 1892																																																																								
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				'Abd al-Rahman I lands in Iberia 755		Indonesia proclaims independence 1945																																																																							
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		Senegal declares independence 1960			Caliph Omar begins reign 634																																																																								
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	Michael Eidson invents CamelBak hydration 1989		Sitar virtuoso Vilayat Khan born 1928				Premiere of <i>Wadja</i> , first commercial feature film by a Saudi woman, 2012																																																																						

Images courtesy  
UNIVERSAL  
POSTAL UNION  
AND ALAMY

Around the world, countries have used postage-stamp designs to highlight history and culture. The stamps here represent a sample of all those that have—in as many different ways as there are countries to produce them—depicted camels.

NOTES: \_\_\_\_\_  
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# September

MUHARRAM —  
SAFAR



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			Mamluks save Cairo from Mongol armies 1260							Algerian Amir Abd el-Kader born 1808			
9	<b>8</b>	10	<b>9</b>	11	<b>10</b>	12	<b>11</b>	13	<b>12</b>	14	<b>13</b>	15	<b>14</b>
								Ibn Battuta reaches the Indus River 1333					
16	<b>15</b>	17	<b>16</b>	18	<b>17</b>	19	<b>18</b>	20	<b>19</b>	21	<b>20</b>	22	<b>21</b>
Turkish novelist Orhan Kemal born								Algerian rock-Rai star Rachid Taha born 1958 (d. 2018)					Syrian American radio talk host Diane Rehm born 1936
23	<b>22</b>	24	<b>23</b>	25	<b>24</b>	26	<b>25</b>	27	<b>26</b>	28	<b>27</b>	29	<b>28</b>
		Kingdom of Saudi Arabia proclaimed 1932								Abbasid Caliph al-Ma'mun begins reign 813			Marrakech International Film Festival opens 2001
30	<b>29</b>	1	<b>30</b>	AUG 2019			OCT 2019						

**Photo courtesy**  
LOOK DIE  
BILDAGENTUR  
DER FOTOGRAFEN  
GMBH / ALAMY

Bedouin men walk camels in Marsa Alam, Egypt, on the coast of the Red Sea, where camels today mainly service tourism, from short rides to desert safaris.

**NOTES:** \_\_\_\_\_  
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# October

SAFAR –  
RABI`I



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		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>																																			
				World's largest falcon hospital opens in Abu Dhabi 1999		Syrian scholar and historian al-Dhahabi born 1348																																			
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Al-Mahdi, third Abbasid caliph, begins reign 775		Jordanian architect Amman Khammash born 1960				Harry, Australia's first camel, arrives in Port Adelaide 1840																																			
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<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>																																			
			Partition of Bengal 1905																																						
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		First Int'l Forum on Snow Leopard Conservation held in Kyrgyzstan 2013		Talal Abu-Ghazaleh inducted into Intellectual Property Hall of Fame 2007	Pirimqul Qodirov, Uzbek writer and historian, born 1928																																				
28	29	1	2	3	SEP 2019 <table border="1"> <tr><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td></tr> <tr><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td></tr> <tr><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td></tr> <tr><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30					
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Sultana Malak of Egypt, second wife of Sultan Hussein Kamel, born 1869																																									

**Photograph**  
SHARMA / ALAMY

Shaved, cut and dyed in designs that can take as long as three years to produce, camels show what some of the world's top camel-fur-cutting artisans can offer at the annual Bikaner Camel Festival in Rajasthan, India, where they are joined by thousands of spectators. Other events of the two-day fair include camel dancing, camel decorating and cultural performances.

**NOTES:** \_\_\_\_\_  
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# November

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RABI' II



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	Pushkar Camel Fair opens in Rajasthan, India			Sultan Suleiman "The Magnificent" born 1494									Ruler Mahmud of Ghazni born 971																																																																
13	<b>10</b>	14	<b>11</b>	15	<b>12</b>	16	<b>13</b>	17	<b>14</b>	18	<b>15</b>	19	<b>16</b>																																																																
Lebanese singer Sabah born 1927		Louvre Abu Dhabi opens 2017		Morocco, Sudan and Tunisia join the United Nations 1956				Poet Rumi meets mentor Shams-e Tabrizi 1244																																																																					
20	<b>17</b>	21	<b>18</b>	22	<b>19</b>	23	<b>20</b>	24	<b>21</b>	25	<b>22</b>	26	<b>23</b>																																																																
		Omani Sultan Qabooz bin Said born 1940									Lebanon declares independence 1943																																																																		
27	<b>24</b>	28	<b>25</b>	29	<b>26</b>	30	<b>27</b>	1	<b>28</b>	2	<b>29</b>	3	<b>30</b>																																																																
Writer Ameen Rihani born on Mount Lebanon 1876				Carter and Carnarvon open King Tut's tomb 1922				Oldest Philippine mosque, c. 1380, declared national shrine 2006					Abdulbasit Abdussamed, Egyptian <i>qari</i> , passes away 1988																																																																

**Image courtesy of**  
"PEACOCK IN  
THE DESERT: THE  
ROYAL ARTS OF  
JODHPUR."

This detail of a large painting produced around 1853 by Ali, an artist in the royal court of Maharaja Takhat Singh of Jodhpur, India, shows the women of the court riding camels for a hunt in the desert countryside.

**NOTES:** \_\_\_\_\_  
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# December

RABI`II –  
JUMADA I



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4 <b>1</b>  King Abdulaziz Center for World Culture opens in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia 2017	5 <b>2</b>	6 <b>3</b>	7 <b>4</b>	8 <b>5</b>	9 <b>6</b>  Turkish historian Fuat Köprülü born 1890	10 <b>7</b>																																																																					
11 <b>8</b>  Pakistani poet Nasir Kazmi born 1925	12 <b>9</b>	13 <b>10</b>	14 <b>11</b>	15 <b>12</b>  Kyrgyz author Chingiz Aitmatov born 1928	16 <b>13</b>	17 <b>14</b>																																																																					
18 <b>15</b>  Khedive of Egypt Tewfik Pasha born 1852	19 <b>16</b>	20 <b>17</b>  Amir Timur takes Delhi using camel cavalry 1398	21 <b>18</b>	22 <b>19</b>  Imperial Camel Brigade formed 1916	23 <b>20</b>	24 <b>21</b>																																																																					
25 <b>22</b>  First flight of the Sopwith Camel fighter biplane 1916	26 <b>23</b>  Zaynab (Zenobia), queen of Palmyra, born 245	27 <b>24</b>	28 <b>25</b>	29 <b>26</b>	1 <b>27</b>	2 <b>28</b>  Uzbek National poet and playwright Erkin Vohidov born 1936																																																																					
3 <b>29</b>  Bangladeshi artist Zainul Abedin born 1914	4 <b>30</b>	5 <b>31</b>	NOV 2019 <table border="1"> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td></tr> <tr><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td></tr> <tr><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td></tr> </table>						1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	JAN 2020 <table border="1"> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td></tr> <tr><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td></tr> <tr><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td></tr> </table>				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31		
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Photo by  
AJANSEN / ISTOCK

Not far from where the dromedary was first domesticated 3,000 to 4,000 years ago in the southern Arabian Peninsula, a newborn calf and mother bond in a sandy expanse in Oman. The calf will nurse for 12 to 18 months, and around age seven it will be full grown.

NOTES: \_\_\_\_\_  
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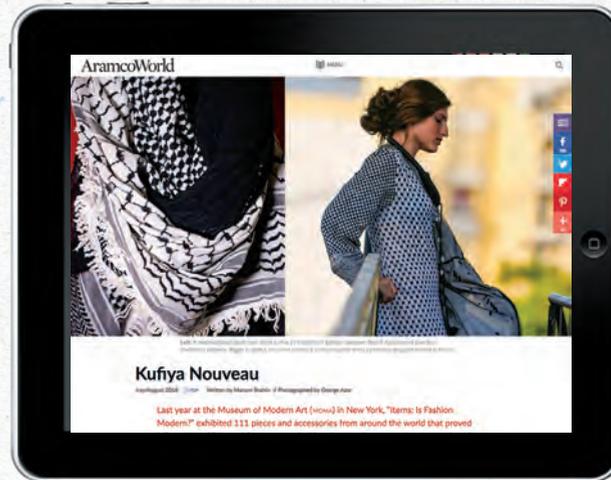
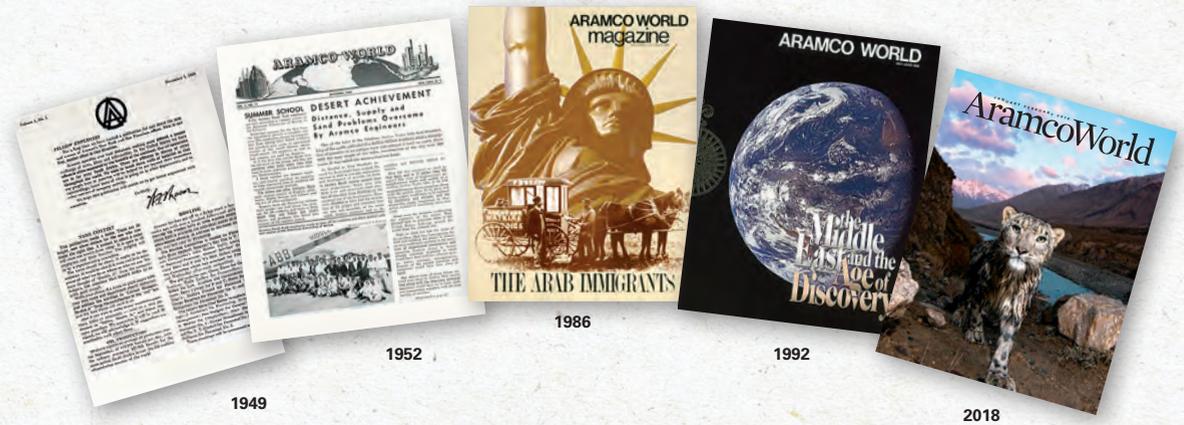


In November 1949 the Arabian American Oil Company (Aramco) published the first issue of an interoffice newsletter named *Aramco World*. Over the decades that followed, as the number of Americans working with Saudi colleagues in Dhahran grew into the tens of thousands, *Aramco World* grew into a bimonthly educational magazine whose historical, geographical and cultural articles helped those employees and their families appreciate an unfamiliar land.

Today *AramcoWorld* continues to be published in digital and print editions by Aramco Services Company in Houston, Texas, on behalf of Saudi Aramco, since 1988 the national energy company of Saudi Arabia.

Our mission remains education, the fostering of cooperation and the building of mutual appreciation among the increasingly interconnected cultures of East and West.

All back issues are searchable and downloadable without charge, and selected photographs from past issues are also available at [photoarchive.saudiaramcoworld.com](http://photoarchive.saudiaramcoworld.com).



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