Islam in East Asia

Many people in the West don't associate Islam with East Asia but the region is actually home to millions of Muslims. They come from a diverse range of ethnic backgrounds and practice Islam in many different ways.



How did Islam come to East Asia?



7th Century
Islam began in the 7th century, coming to China through traders on the Silk Road.

627 CE
The earliest Chinese mosque claimed to be built in 627CE in Guangzhou. Other notable early mosques in Hangzhou, Fuzhou and Quanzhou are all on the southeast coast.

634-698 CE
Islam spread to Byzantine cities of Damascus, Jerusalem, Alexandria and Carthage.

629 CE
The first mosque in the Indian subcontinent was built by Muslim traders in Kerala.



14th Century
End of the 14th century, Muslim traders start to dock in the harbours of southwest Mindanao in the Philippines.

1368
Brunei traditions recall that Raja Awang Pateh Berbai converted to Islam to be able to marry the daughter of the king of Temasik in Singapore.

1480
The first mosque on Java in Demak (near Semerang and the new Jakarta airport).

1527
English and Dutch traders make agreements with Muslim rulers in Java to get the better of their Portuguese competitors.

Understanding Islam

THE QUR'AN
Muslims believe that the Qur'an is the word of Allah which was revealed to the Prophet Muhammad. Copies of the Qur'an are treated with great respect and stored so that they are above everything else in a room.

PROPHETS
Muslims believe that Muhammad was the final Prophet and Allah's messenger sent to confirm the teachings of previous prophets including Adam, Abraham, Moses and Jesus.

RAMADAN
During Ramadan, Muslims fast from dawn to sunset. It is seen as a time to focus on spiritual behaviours such as praying and reading the Qur'an. The annual dates for Ramadan are determined using the Islamic lunar calendar.

UMMAH
The global community of Muslims is called the Ummah within which every Muslim is considered a brother or sister regardless of language, culture or location.

GREETING
This Arabic greeting is used by Muslims around the world when meeting or parting. In some countries local language versions are also used.
As-salāmu ʿalaykum = "peace be upon you"
Waʿalaykumu s-salām = "and unto you peace"

PRAY FOR MUSLIMS



Pray that God would bless all Muslims, particularly during the month of Ramadan.

Thank God for the generosity of Muslims. Pray that God would give wisdom to those responsible for distributing funds gathered through tithing.

Pray for God's love & protection over Muslims who are a minority in their country.

Pray for Muslims to have opportunities and the desire to learn more about Jesus and his love for them.

Pray for people who are committed to learning languages, cultures and worldviews of Muslim peoples so that they may be able to build relationships with Muslim communities.



www.omf.org/prayformuslims

Sources: www.pewforum.org/2011/01/27/table-muslim-population-by-country