

The 1st Day

In 1863, exactly 31 days after the celebration of New Year (Naw-Ruz), Baha'u'llah set forth on the first stage of what would be a four-month journey from Baghdad to Constantinople after being exiled by the governing officials of the city. Baha'u'llah left His house and was ferried across the Tigris River before reaching the Najibiyyih Garden, where He would spend the next 12 days farewelling friends and followers before His final departure from Baghdad. Although the occasion of Baha'u'llah's departure was one of sorrow, He foretellingly declared it the inauguration of a festival of supreme felicity and joy.