Arba‘ein is a Shiite observance marking the martyrdom of Prophet Muhammed’s [peace be upon him] grandson, Al-Husayn ibn Ali. Arba‘ein [may God be pleased with him] means “forty” in Arabic and the observance is held forty days after the Day of Ashura, on which Husayn is said to have been martyred in battle.

Arba‘ein is traditionally observed as a pilgrimage to the Iraqi city of Karbala. This is one of the largest annual public gatherings in the world.

Date
- Arba‘ein is observed forty days after the Day of Ashura, which is the 10th Day of Muharram on the Islamic Calendar and can vary from year to year on the Gregorian (Western) calendar.
- Check the Calendar Index for Religious Holidays during the current academic year for the exact date.

Greetings
- No common greeting.

Common Practices and Celebrations
- Shiite followers take a pilgrimage to the city of Karbala in Iraq to recite the Ziyarat of Arba‘ein, a prayer affirming devotion to Al-Husayn ibn Ali’s ideals.

Common Dietary Restrictions
- Vegetarian meals prepared without alcohol meet halal standards.

Impact to U-M Community
- Shiite colleagues and students may request to take time off for the pilgrimage.
- Link to U-M Guidance Regarding Conflicts.

U-M Campus Resources
- Maize Pages - Muslim, U-M
- Association of Religious Counselors, U-M

Information Sources
- Wikipedia
- "What is Arbaeen?", middleeasteye.net

Photo credit: "File:Imam ali's shrine, Arbaeen 2015.JPG" by Mhossein is marked with CC BY-SA 4.0.

Edited 12/16/2022