



Pilgrimage is one of the five pillars upon which the structure of Islam is built on. Its steps are clearly mentioned in Quran and it must fulfill certain rites in particular places and times in order to be complete.

The Pilgrimage (i.e. hajj)

The Arabic word hajj, i.e. the pilgrimage, originally means 'to go for a definite aim'. In Islamic contexts it means 'an act of worship through the fulfilment of certain rites in particular places during a specified period of time, in accordance with Allah's messenger's practice.

Importance: The pilgrimage is one of the five pillars upon which the structure of Islam is built.

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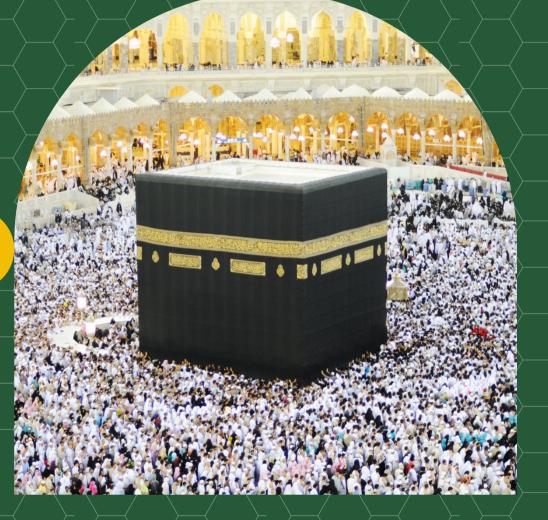


PEGRIMAGE



Conditions: Five conditions need to be met to make the pilgrimage obligatory:

- Islam
- Sanity
- Puberty
- Freedom
- Ability







The pilgrimage includes four essential requirements, i.e. rukns:

- 1. I h r a m, i.e. consecration, is a state where an individual commits himself to be in before setting off to perform either the major or minor (umrah).
- 2. Attendance at Arafat on 9 Dhul-Hijjah.
- 3. The taw a f after Arafat.
- 4. Walking between the two hills of al-Safa and al-Marwah.

Duties

1-Entering into the state of consecration, i.e. ihram, at the designated point (Meeqat) on one's route.

2-Staying at Arafat until sunsetThe Prophet (peace be upon him) permitted women, children and the weak to leave Muzdalifah after midnight.

3-Staying at Muzdalifah until the break of dawn, after proceeding from Arafat.

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4-Spending the next two or three nights at Mina.

5-Stoning the Jamrahs in the right order.

6-Shaving one's head for men, or cutting one's hair.

7- The tawaf of farewell at the end, except for women who are in the period or having postnatal bleeding.



Recommended practices

1-Taking a bath, wearing perfume (for men only) and putting on two white ihram garments.

2-Clipping one's nails, removing pubic and armpit hair and trimming one's moustache.

3-Performing the tawaf of arrival for those doing the pilgrimage in the ifrad or qiran methods.

4-Jogging in the first three rounds of the tawaf of arrival.

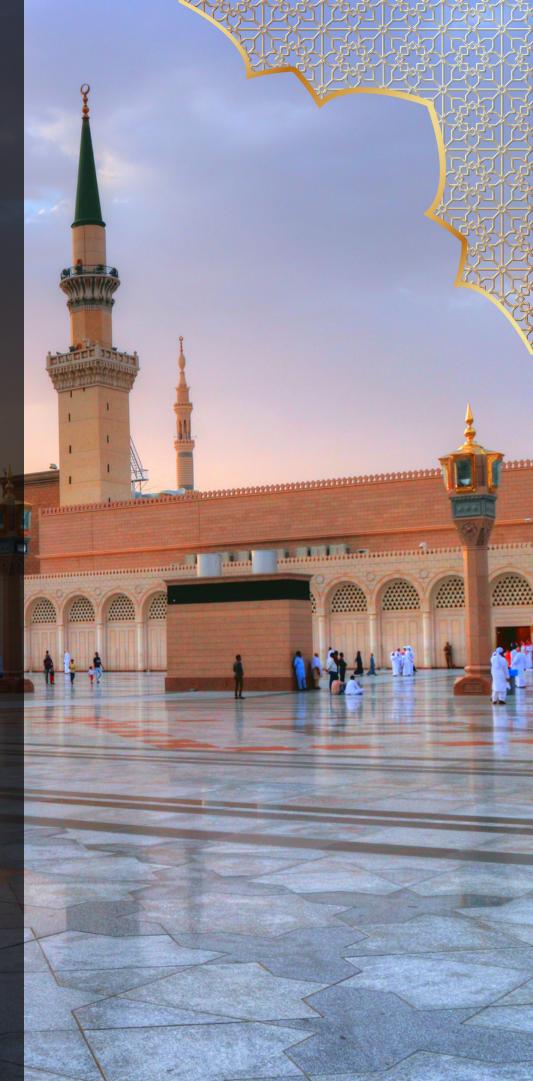
5-Baring one's right shoulder when doing the tawaf of arrival.

6-Staying at Mina the night that proceeds the day of Arafat.

7-Repeating the phrases of talbiyah from the time of entering into the state of consecration (Ihram) until one has done the stoning at the Grand Jamrah, on the Day of Eid, i.e. 10th of the month.

8-Offering the Maghrib and 'Isha' prayers together at Muzdalifah.

9-Stopping close to al-Mash'ar al-Haram at Muzdalifah from Fajr until sunrise, shortly before sunrise, if possible. If not, at any place at Muzdalifah.



Practices prohibited during consecration (i.e. ihram)

1- Men may not wear anything that is tailored to take the shape of the body or any part of it, whether it is a robe or trousers or anything similar. They wear two pieces of cloth, one is wrapped around the body, covering them from the waist to well below the knees, and the other thrown over their shoulders and covering the top part of the body. If one cannot find a garment to wrap himself with, i.e. izar, he may wear trousers. Women may wear whatever they wish except veils and gloves. They have to leave their faces and hands uncovered.

2- Wearing perfume after entering the state of Ihram, on body or clothes, and deliberately taking a smell of perfume. He may, however, smell plants and use kohl that has no smell.

3- Removing hair and clipping nails. This applies to both men and women. One may wash one's head gently. If one's nail is broken, one may get rid of it.

4- A man may not use a head cover, but he may be in the shade of something like a tree, a tent, etc., or he may use an umbrella when needed. Women may not cover their faces with something like a veil, whether showing their eyes or not.

If a person wears perfume, covers his head, or wears something tailored out of ignorance, forgetfulness, or because he is forced to do so, his mistake is overlooked. However, when the reason is removed, as when the person concerned learns of the prohibition or remembers or the compulsion is ended, he should stop this immediately.



5- Proposing or marrying for oneself or someone else.

6- Sexual intercourse with one's wife. This renders the pilgrimage invalid if done before the initial release from consecration, even after the attendance at Arafat is over.

7- Sexual foreplay including kissing, touching and gazing with desire, but this does not invalidate the pilgrimage.

8- Hunting and killing game. He may kill the types of harmful animals that the Prophet (peace be upon him) allowed to kill in the Haram and elsewhere. These are ravens, rats, scorpions, kites, snakes and vicious dogs. He may not help in hunting or killing game, not even by pointing at game. If someone hunts an animal while not in the state of Ihram and was not assisted by someone in Ihram, it is permissible to eat from it. Otherwise, this is prohibited.

9- No one, whether in consecration or not, may cut the trees of the Haram area, or its green plants that are not harmful. Branches that stretch into people's way and cause inconvenience may be cut. Excepted is a type of shrub tree called al-idhkhar, and what people themselves grow.

COMPENSATIONS

When a person commits an offence and cuts one's hair, clips one's nails, wears tailored clothes or perfume, covers one's head, ejaculates as a result of gazing at women, or indulges in foreplay without ejaculation, a compensation is due which may be any of three things:
1) fasting three days; 2) feeding six poor people; or 3) sacrificing a sheep.

How to conduct the pilgrimage

The pilgrimage starts on 8 Dhul-Hijjah and ends at sunset on 13 Dhul-Hijjah. Before this, the pilgrim does the following:

1-A pilgrim choosing the tamattu' method starts his i h r a m , i.e. consecration, at the point of m i q a t and declares: labbayka Allahumma ' umrah , (which means: I am responding to you, my Lord, intending to perform the ' umrah).

2-A pilgrim choosing the qiran method starts his ihram at the point of miqat and declares: labbayka Allahumma hajjan wa 'umrah, (which means: I am responding to you, my Lord, intending to perform the pilgrimage and the 'umrah).

3-A pilgrim choosing the ifrad method starts his ihram at the point of miqat and declares: labbayka Allahumma hajjan, (which means: I am responding to you, my Lord, intending to perform the pilgrimage).



THE PILGRIMAGE DAYS

Pilgrimage starts by the pilgrim taking a bath, declaring his intention to do pilgrimage, entering in a state of consecration and starting his journey to Mina by midday. This article explains all steps in details.

1. 8 DHUL-HIJJAH, WHICH IS CALLED YAWM AL-TARWIYAH

Pilgrims staying in Makkah or resident in Makkah are recommended to take a bath, wear perfume, and then enter into the state of consecration for the pilgrimage during mid-morning.

2. 9 Dhul-Hijjah

It is a Sunnah for pilgrims to offer the Fajr prayer at Mina and then devote themselves to the glorification of Allah and supplication.

3. 10 Dhul-Hijjah, the grand day of pilgrimage, which is the Eid day

Pilgrims calmly proceed from Muzdalifah to Mina before sunrise, repeating the phrases of talbiyah as they move along.

4. 11 Dhul-Hijjah

The following applies to all three days called the Tashriq days, i.e. 11, 12 and 13 Dhul-Hijjah.

5. 12 Dhul-Hijjah

On this day the pilgrim proceeds to do exactly what he did the previous day, stoning at the three Jamrahs.

6. 13 Dhul-Hijjah

On this day, pilgrims do the stoning at the three Jamrahs, as they did the previous two days. The time for stoning ends at sunset on this day.

If the stoning is delayed

If the stoning is delayed, the pilgrim should go for the 3 jamrahs to stone in order for 3 successive days in order to finish his pilgrimage duties and proceed to do Farwell Tawaf if he is not a Makkah resident.

A pilgrim who has delayed the stoning until the last day starts doing this duty as for the first day, i.e. 11 Dhul-Hijjah, and performs the stoning at the three Jamrahs in the right order, as explained earlier.



On the way back

Whenever the Prophet came home from any expedition or pilgrimage or 'umrah, when he came to a narrow passage he used to declare that there is no deity than Allah and he has no partners. Read the full sentence below.



The Sacrifice and its Rulings



Sacrifice or Hady is slaughtering animals to earn God's reward as a part of Pilgrimage. There are five types; some are compulsory others are voluntary or recommended. Time and place for sacrifice depend on its type.

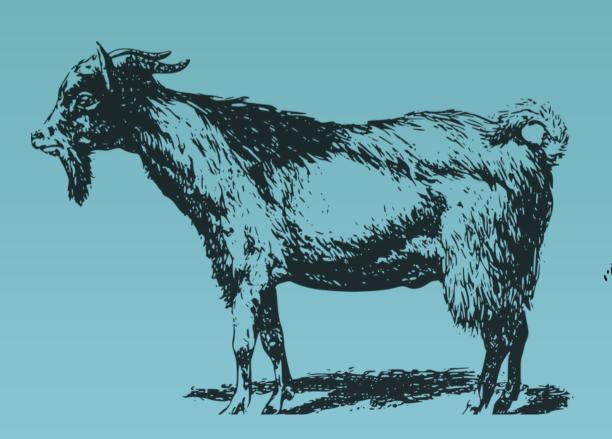
Types of sacrifice

1-Offering a sacrifice by slaughtering a sheep is obligatory for people offering the pilgrimage in the tamattu' or qiran methods.

2-Sacrifice in compensation

3-Voluntary sacrifice

4-Pledged sacrifice



Time

l-The sacrifice for pilgrimage in the tamattu' or the qiran methods may be offered any time between the Eid prayer on Eid day (i.e. an hour after sunrise) until the end of the Tashriq days which is the l3th.

2-The sacrifice for having to break the ihram restrictions, such as having to shave one's head or wear ordinary clothes, has no specific time: its time is when this is done. The same applies to the sacrifice for omitting a duty. However, it should be as soon as possible without delay.

3-The sacrifice for being prevented from continuing with the pilgrimage: its time is when this takes place. What is required is to sacrifice a sheep. Seven people may share a sacrifice of one camel or a cow.