

ISLAMIC STUDY CIRCLE

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Hajj A Pillar of Islam

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Hajj - A Pillar of Islam Definition

Hajj = Setting out, Tending towards (Lit.)

- Hajj =
1. An elaborate series of rites
 2. Requiring several days for their accomplishment
 3. Performed at the Grand Mosque of Makkah and its immediate environs
 4. At a particular time of the year i.e. 8-13 Zul Hijjah
 5. Once a lifetime (obligatory)
 6. By those Muslims whose health and means permit it

Hajj - A Pillar of Islam Rituals

Hajj has a number of important rituals associated with it, including:

1. Putting on Ihram
2. Going round Ka'bah seven times (Tawaf)
3. Drinking the water of Zamzam
4. A fast walk of seven courses between Safa and Marwah (Sayee)
5. Visiting and staying in Mina, Arafat and Muzdalifah
6. Throwing pebbles at three fixed symbolic pillars that represent the temptations of Satan
7. Shaving or trimming the hair
8. Sacrifice of an animal (Sheep, Goat, Cow or Camel)

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Important Terms Explained

Ka'bah Also known as *Baitullah* (House of Allah) is a cube-like one-storey building, covered with a black cloth which stands in the centre of the Grand Mosque of Makkah. In the south-east corner the Ka'bah contains the Black Stone. Muslims orient themselves towards the Ka'bah in prayer. Neither the Stone nor the Ka'bah are objects of worship. In fact it is a spiritual centre, a support for the concentration of consciousness upon the Divine Presence.

The Dimensions of the present day Ka'bah are:

The north-east wall = 12.63 Metres

The eastern wall = 11.22 Metres

The western wall = 13.10 Metres

The north-west wall = 11.03 Metres

Height = 13.00 Metres

The Door on the Northern side is 2 Metres from the ground and 1.7 Metres wide.

Ka'bah was built originally by the Prophet Adam and later rebuilt by the Prophet Ibrahim and his son Ismail. It was rebuilt again when the Prophet Muhammed (peace be upon him) was 35 years old. Hazrat Umar first built a Mosque round the Ka'bah. It is the first house ever built for the sole purpose of the worship of Allah.

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Important Terms Explained

- Ihram** For men, Ihram consists of two sheets of unsewn white cloth. For a woman Ihram is her ordinary dress. While approaching Makkah, a pilgrim must put on Ihram before reaching a point called Miqat (Station)
- Miqat** Appointed places on the traditional overland approaches to Makkah at which pilgrims assume Ihram. Pilgrims approaching Makkah by way of the Red Sea would put on Ihram when the ship passes the latitude of one of the Miqat. Pilgrims coming to Jeddah by Air put on Ihram either at the point of embarkation or while the aircraft passes the altitude of one of the Miqat. These Miqats are:
1. Zat-i-Irq = 50 miles north-east of Makkah (from Iraq)
 2. Zul Hulayfah = 155 miles north of Makkah and 1 mile from Madinah
 3. Juhfa = 110 miles north-west of Makkah (from Syria)
 4. Qarn al-Manazil = 31 miles east of Makkah (from Najd)
 5. Yalamlam = 37 miles south-east of Makkah (from Yemen)

Hajj - A Pillar of Islam Important Terms Explained

Safa & Marwah Two small Hills, now enclosed within the Grand Mosque (al-Masjid al-Haram). These are separated by a distance of 1247 Feet. This distance is walked, and in part run, seven times by those performing Hajj (or Umrah). This ritual is called Sayee. The origin of the rite of Sayee is the casting to and fro of Hazrat Hajrah (Hagar) looking for water for her son.

Mina The small town of Mina, 3 miles from Makkah is the site of Hazrat Ibrahim's sacrifice of the ram in place of his son Ismail.
The Khayf Mosque stands in Mina where pilgrims pray during the Hajj.
Here also stand the three pillars (Jamarat) which are stoned by the pilgrims. They represent the three occasions on the way to the sacrifice when Satan appeared to Ismail to warn him of Ibrahim's intention to sacrifice him and was three times stoned by Ismail.

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Important Terms Explained

Muzdalifah A place between Arafat and Mina. Here pilgrims spend the night after the "Day of Arafat" during Hajj. They also gather pebbles for the stoning of the pillars of the Devil in Mina.

Arafat A plain 12 miles south-west of Makkah. On the 9th Zul-Hijjah the pilgrims assemble on the plain. Attendance to Arafat is obligatory (Wuquf) for the accomplishment of the rites of Hajj. Pilgrims stay here from noon till sunset.

The name Arafat comes from the root Arifa (to know or recognise) and is referred to Hazrat Adam and Hawwa (Eve) separated from each other by the fall from the Heavens and reunited here recognising one another.

At one end of Arafat is the Mount of Mercy (Jabal al-Rahmah) which is the place of choice to pass the day of Hajj.

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Important Terms Explained

Zamzam The name of the well near Ka'bah (100 ft deep). It is located 60 ft south-east of the Black Stone corner of the Ka'bah, within the Grand Mosque of Makkah. The spring of Zam Zam (meaning "stay stay") appeared when Hajrah and her son Ismail, abandoned in the desert, had exhausted the water. Then Hajrah cast herself to and fro in desperation but Allah the Merciful showed mercy and the water gushed forth.

To drink of the water of Zam Zam is a rite of Hajj and Umrah. The water of Zam Zam is carried by Pilgrims back to all parts of the world where it is drunk as holy water filled with blessings and given to the sick.

Today the well is not open to the surface instead the water is supplied through pipes.

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Important Terms Explained

Talbiyah

"Labbayk Allahumma Labbayk
Labbayk Lasharika Laka Labbayk
Innal Hamda wan ni'mata Laka wal mulk
La Sharika Laka Labbayk"

Here I am O Lord, here I am.
Here I am, You have no partner, here I am.
Surely praise, blessings and the kingdom are for You.
You have no partner, here I am.

This is the central ritual recitation of Hajj (and Umrah) recited from the moment of assuming Ihram until the time of stoning the Devil's pillars in Mina.

Hajj - A Pillar of Islam

Important Terms Explained

Umrah

The "Lesser Pilgrimage" or visit to Makkah, which can be performed at any time; its ceremonies take place entirely within the boundaries of the Grand Mosque of Makkah and require a little over an hour to accomplish. Umrah is one of the constituent elements of Hajj as well. The Umrah comprises:

1. Assuming Ihram
2. Tawaf (Going seven times round the Ka'bah)
3. Observing two Raka'at Nafil prayer facing the station of Ibrahim (Maqam Ibrahim)
4. Drinking the water of Zam Zam
5. Ritual walking between the hills of Safa and Marwah seven times
6. Shaving or trimming the hair.

Mqam Ibrahim Standing place of the Prophet Ibrahim (peace be upon him). At a spot of a few metres from the Door of the Ka'bah there is a small kiosk which contains a stone with a footprint of Hazrat Ibrahim which was impressed into the rock during the building of Ka'bah by him. Offering two Raka'at prayers in its vicinity is one of the rites of Hajj and Umrah

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Important Terms Explained

Az-Ziyarah

Visiting the tomb of the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) in Madinah.

This is not a rite of Hajj but is highly encouraged and is an act of enormous reward. Such visits have been carried out by the Ummah for the last 1400 years. Pilgrims to Makkah always proceed before or after Hajj to Madinah to visit the Prophet's shrine to offer their respect to him by reciting Darood and Salam at his tomb, and to stay in the city of the Prophet for about 8 days enabling them to observe 40 prayers in the Prophet's Mosque (the second most sacred Mosque in the World) so that they may claim the intercession (Shafa'ah) of the Prophet on the Day of Judgement.

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Restrictions while in the state of Ihram

A Pilgrim (he or she) must not:

1. Use Perfume.....To help forget enjoyment of ordinary daily life
2. Kill or harm animals, even insects...To feel that everything belongs to Allah
3. Break or uproot plantsTo kill one's urge for aggression
4. HuntTo develop mercy
5. Marry or take part in a wedding.....To forget normal life and think of the Creator
6. Do anything dishonest or arrogant..To behave like a servant of Allah
7. Carry armsTo give up violent attitudes
8. Cover the head (males).....To express humility
Cover the face (females)To express chastity and feel purity
9. Wear shoes covering the anklesTo express simplicity
10. Cut hair or clip nailsTo express non-interference with Nature
11. Have conjugal relationsTo forget worldly pleasure

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Types of Hajj

Hajj may be performed in three ways:

Ifrad - Hajj alone

The Pilgrim puts on the Ihram with the intention of performing the Hajj alone. With the completion of the Hajj, this form of Ihram comes to an end. The pilgrim then may assume a fresh second state of Ihram at one of the points situated on the periphery of the Haram (Sacred Area). One such nearest point is the Mosque of Aisha. Then the pilgrim may perform the Umrah after the Hajj season

Qiran - Hajj and Umrah with one Ihram, during the Hajj season

Ihram is worn with the intention of performing both the Hajj and the Umrah together and it is not put off until both are accomplished. The pilgrim performs Umrah first.

Tamattu - Hajj and Umrah with two Ihrams during the Hajj season

Ihram is put on with the intention of performing Umrah. On completion of the rites the state of Ihram is forgone until 8th Zul-Hijjah, when Ihram is again assumed in Makkah (without going to the periphery of the sacred zone) and the Hajj is performed.

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5 Days of Hajj (part 1)

8th Zul-Hijjah

1. For Qiran and Ifrad already in Ihram
2. For Tamattu put on Ihram again in Makkah
3. Leave Makkah for Mina reaching there preferably at the time of Zuhr
4. Offer four prayers from Zuhr to Eisha in Mina

9th Zul-Hijjah

1. Offer Fajr prayer in Mina
2. Leave for Arafat after Sunrise (distance 5 miles) for Wuquf which is a cardinal element of Hajj
3. Offer Zuhr and Asr prayer
4. This is the main day of Hajj
5. Spend the time in Zikr, Dua and Devotion
6. Leave Arafat after Sunset, without offering Maghrib prayer, for Muzdalifah
7. Offer combined Maghrib and Eisha prayer in Muzdalifah at the time of Eisha
8. Spend the night partly in rest and partly in prayer and devotion
9. Collect approximately 70 pebbles for Rami. Exact requirement is 49 (7 + 21 + 21)

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5 Days of Hajj (part 2)

- 10th Zul-Hijjah
1. Offer Fajr prayer in Muzdalifah
 2. Leave for Mina just before Sunrise
 3. Perform Rami i.e. stoning to the last pillar of Satan (7 pebbles)
 4. Stop Talbiyah with the throwing of the first pebble
 5. Offer sacrifice (Qurbani)
 6. Shave or trim your hair (women should cut about an inch)
 7. Put off Ihram use your normal dress
 8. Go to Makkah for Tawaf and Sayee
 9. Come back to Mina.
 10. Remember Pilgrims do not offer Eid-ul-Adaha prayer. They have to perform only 5 daily prayers.

- 11th Zul-Hijjah
1. Stay in Mina, spend the time in prayers and dua.
 2. Perform Rami of all the three pillars of Satan (Jama'rat) (27 pebbles)

- 12th Zul-Hijjah
1. Stay in Mina, spending the time in regular and optional prayers and dua.
 2. Perform Rami of the three Pillars of Satan
 3. Return to Makkah before Sunset.

Note:- Before leaving for your home you are required to perform the "Farewell Tawaf"

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Aims and Objectives of Hajj

1. The occasion may rightly be called the "Annual International Muslim Assembly"
2. "Islamic Brotherhood" and the concept of "Global Ummah Community" becomes particularly evident
3. We learn that we "belong to Allah" and we shall "return to Him"
4. Hajj is a "remarkable means of spiritual renewal" for distant communities brought closer to the centre of Islam
5. A means of "social cohesion". No other event on earth can be compared with it
6. A "journey of learning" and "interchanging of ideas"
7. For many Hajj has been the "turning point" of their intellectual career or social behaviour
8. It has "economic importance" as well

Hajj - A Pillar of Islam Hajj and Eid-ul-Adaha

Hajj and Eid-ul-Adaha, are celebrated in the same month and have the same background i.e. historical and religious events related to Hazrat Ibrahim and his family (peace be upon them all). Many people, due to this closeness and similarity think that these two important Islamic events are dependent on or complementary to each other. But as a matter of fact this popular public opinion is not wholly correct. According to Shariah, these two events have different applications. The following chart demonstrates this fact clearly.

Hajj	Eid-ul-Adaha
1. Is a pillar of Islam	1. Is not a pillar of Islam
2. Performing Hajj is a Fardh on those who can afford it	2. Performing Salat of Eid-ul-Adaha is Wajib on each and every Muslim adult generally
3. Hajj is performed only in Makkah and its environs	3. Eid-ul-Adaha is celebrated all over the world
4. Hajj was decreed as an obligation (Fardh) in the 9th year after Hijrah	4. The Festival of Eid-ul-Adaha was introduced to the community by the Prophet (PBUH) in the 2nd year after Hijrah
5. Those performing Hajj do not offer Eid-ul-Adaha prayer	5. Those observing Eid-ul-Adaha prayer do not perform Hajj

Hajj - A Pillar of Islam Hajj and Eid-ul-Adaha

Remember that Eid-ul-Adaha is celebrated in Saudi Arabia on the next day after Hajj.

But there is no such direct or indirect reference present in the Qur'an, Hadith or Fiqh that may suggest that Eid-ul-Adaha should be celebrated the next day after Hajj all over the world.

The date of Eid-ul-Adaha, according to the Shariah, has to be determined on the basis of the appearance of the new moon (Ruyat-e-Hilal) locally, and not on the basis of the Hajj being performed in Makkah al-Mukarramah.