Preparing For Hajj

Islamically

The following conditions must be satisfied for Hajj to be acceptable to Allah:

1. A Pilgrim must be a **sane adult person**. A Pilgrim must pay off all debt. **Pilgrim must not be a debtor before departing.** He or she must be completely **debt-free**.

2. A Pilgrim must leave **sufficient money** for his family's expenses while he is away on Hajj.

3. A Pilgrim must **have sufficient funds to meet his or her own Hajj expenses**. A Pilgrim must **ask permission of his or her parents**, particularly when they are sick or old and should also seek their pardon.

4. A Pilgrim must complete a regular **"Will" ("waseeyyat")** before departing.

**Spiritually**

A person must spend time **learning about Islam**, the background of Hajj, the special requirements, **"Masnoon Dua"** for the **"Manasik"** of Hajj (the **"Fardh"** and the **"sunnah"** of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ) **prior to leaving**.

It is recommended to familiarize oneself with the details pertaining to the rites of Hajj. The ceremony of Hajj must be according to the **sunnah of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ** and must conform to one's **"fiqh madhab"** (Islamic school of thought).

The complex rituals are performed differently by Hujjaj following the Hanafi, Shâfi, Malaki and Hambali doctrines. Furthermore, shia have their own beliefs. As such toleration and moderation must be cultivated.

Remember, for **"Hajj-e-Mabrur ", acceptance of your efforts for Hajj is solely Allah's prerogative and thus a mercy from Him.**

We pray that your and Hajj of all be accepted by Allah. Ameen!
Physically

Hajj require lots of strenuous physical activity. Although, all of it is amply rewarded by Allah, the intense exertion coupled with harsh desert climate can take a serious toll on the body.

The aged, women, patients suffering from heart, breathing & other ailments and the physically challenged Muslims planning on this blessed trip MUST be accompanied by able bodied & healthy caretakers. It is the responsibility of the person to ensure that he or she is sufficiently prepared to undertake the physical challenge. An individual should not unnecessarily burden strangers. People are eager to assist fellow Hujjaj but one must be aware of potential health problems and take adequate precautions to avoid problems. The rest is up to Gracious Allah.

Mentally

The journey to Arabia for Hajj requires mental conditioning since we will be given lessons in becoming sincere "Abdullah" (Allah slaves). We have to learn to control our tongues, egos and arrogance. Hujjaj dress alike in Ihram during Hajj, regardless, of who they might be in this world. Royalty, corporate executives, normal people or poor people are all slaves in front of Allah: begging for His mercy and forgiveness. Our goal must be to do our very best that we may get the highest rewards from Allah.

Furthermore, the Saudi society and culture today is very different from our own and our expectations. The entire trip is an eye-opening experience. We must pray to Allah to make Hajj easy for us, prepare us for the difficulties and Graciously accept our Hajj out of His Mercy.

The great differences in language, food, social and religious habits, attitudes of police folks and bureaucrats can cause major stress. Furthermore, the concept of politeness and courtesy is unfortunately absent from the local people providing various services to Hujjaj. These include the Mutawwifs and their agents, salesmen, bank tellers, taxi and bus drivers and operators, tour managers, restaurant and hotel staff, janitors, caretakers, guards, etc. The abruptness and purely commercial motives may shock the Hujjaj. These raw attitudes are in sharp contrast to Hujjaj own state of Islamic awareness.

In general, Hujjaj in Makka are under stress thus the entire atmosphere is tense. This is partly because the Hujjaj want to fulfill their religious obligations properly. And partly because of the severe physical rigors. Also, Satan, is ever more intent to cause mischief amongst Hujjaj. We must acknowledge these conditions and prepare ourselves likewise. Praying to Allah to guide and help us is the only solution.

The vast number of people from various corners of the world, the round-the-clock close proximity to strangers, the queues for food, water, transportation, restrooms and other physical inconveniences does have an impact on the mental well being. We must be prepared to detach ourselves from the outside world and its earthly comforts and focus solely on completion of the blessed responsibility to the best of our ability.
We must refrain from our usual modus operandi and channel all our energies to complete Hajj with piety. All this requires mental discipline and will power. Only the blessings and mercies of Allah can help us. We must remain thankful and be hopeful of the abundant reward waiting for us.

**Financially**

Going for Hajj involves certain amount of investment. This can vary from US$2000 to US$6000 for the entire journey.

It is a requirement that a Haaji must be completely debt-free and must provide adequately (out of Allah bounty) for his loved ones before departing on Hajj. As such, the person must completely pay off any and all outstanding loans (mortgages, auto loans, college loans, credit card debt, store credit cards, charge cards, etc.) before departing.

**HAJJ BADAL**

**WILL FOR HAJJ**

- If Hajj is incumbent upon someone, he should try to perform it as soon as possible. But if he is unable to do so due to a disability, etc., he should, while he is alive, send somebody for Hajj on his behalf. This is called Hajj Badal which will be discussed in detail later.
- Or at least, he should leave a will for his heirs that they should arrange for Hajj on his behalf using money out of his inheritance.
- It may be mentioned that the will is valid for only one third of the estate of the deceased and the rest goes to the heirs who may or may not like to part with their share.
- Therefore, the best course of action is to perform Hajj yourself or send somebody on your behalf if unable to do it yourself. Otherwise, if someone did not perform Hajj or get it performed, or did not leave any will at death, then an imperative duty (Fard) will stay due which is a great sin.

**HAJJ BADAL**

Hajj Badal means getting Hajj performed on one’s own behalf and expense by another person, provided that Hajj is incumbent and one cannot perform Hajj due to illness or some other disability.

**CONDITIONS FOR THE DISABLED PERSON**

1. Hajj should be incumbent upon the disabled person under the Shari’ah rules. If not, there is no need for sending somebody for Hajj Badal and if he later becomes incumbent he needs Hajj Badal performed again.
2. The disabled person should be unfit to perform Hajj himself. If the disability is temporary, he has to perform Hajj himself when he is fit.
even if he has got Hajj Badal performed earlier. But in case of permanent disability, such as weakness due to old age or blindness, Hajj Badal is enough even if this disability does not exist anymore.

3. The disability should be before sending somebody for Hajj Badal otherwise it will not be valid.

4. The disabled person himself should ask someone to perform Hajj Badal on his behalf. Leaving a will before death is the same as asking somebody. However, it is okay if a heir performs Hajj Badal or gets it performed for a deceased person.

5. The disabled person should bear all types of expenses concerning Hajj Badal.

**CONDITIONS FOR THE PERSON PERFORMING HAJJ BADAL**

1. The person appointed to perform Hajj Badal must be a Muslim.

2. He should be sensible and sane even though immature.

3. While entering into Ihram, he should make ni‘yah (intention) on behalf of the person who is sending him for Hajj Badal.

4. A woman can also perform Hajj Badal on behalf of another woman or man. Traveling with a mahram male is not a condition for Hajj Badal which is valid even without mahram, but she will be a sinner.

5. Hajj Badal should be performed by the appointed person only unless he has been authorized to get it done by another person. In that case, it is okay to send somebody else on his behalf.

6. The appointed person should perform the kind of Hajj, such as Tamatt‘u or Qiran, according to the desire of the person who sent him.

7. He should put on Ihram only on behalf of the person sending him. He is not allowed to have the intention of performing Hajj for himself or on behalf of two persons.

8. The appointed person should go for Hajj Badal by conveyance and not on foot.

9. He should start his Hajj journey from the place where the person sending him lives. However, if the Hajj Badal is being arranged out of one-third of the deceased’s property, it can be started from anywhere depending on the money available.

10. He should not miss the Hajj or any imperative (Fard) part of it as no type of compensation renders Hajj Badal validly performed.

11. According to the Hanafites, it is not necessary that Hajj Badal should be performed by a person who has performed his own Hajj first. But per Ahl-e-Hadith, the appointed person must have performed his own Hajj as first. Considering these views, it is safer to send somebody who has already performed his own Hajj.
Note: For more information or clarification on these conditions or if some other question comes in mind, it is advised to consult a religious scholar.

ABSTRACT: Boarding the airplane, Ihram, Talbiyah, at the Jeddah Airport and Arrival in Makkah.

1. If you plan to go to Makkah first for Umrah

Enter into Ihram at your residence or at the airport before boarding the airplane and it will sure fly over whatever miqat (station of Ihram) falls on the way. It is allowed to do so before miqat but not after that point. This is advisable because the crew members don’t announce when miqat comes. You may enter into Ihram inside the plane when it is flying high up in the sky but it is not convenient to change your clothes and put on Ihram sheets and there is no proper place to offer prayers. By the way, these instructions are for independent pilgrims. If you travel with a group, follow the instructions given by the group leader. The main thing is that you should be in the state of Ihram at or before meqat.

2. 

3. 

4. If you want to visit Madinah before Umrah

Some people will like to visit Madinah first before going to Makkah for Umrah. This is more convenient than the first choice because you are not involved with Ihram or the restrictions that go with it. Ihram is not required for the visitation of the Prophet (PBUH)’s mosque or his sacred tomb. Then, when you are ready for Umrah, you go to Masjid Meeqat in Madinah, enter into Ihram and proceed to Makkah.

5. 

6. Umrah alone or along with Hajj?

Umrah is performed alone or as part of Hajj al-Qiran or Hajj al-Tamatt’u. For those people who do not take sacrificial animals with them, Hajj al-Tamatt’u is preferable which is performed by almost all
people who travel to Makkah from outside. In Hajj al-Tamatt’u, first you perform Umrah, then come out of Ihram and when the Hajj time comes, you enter into Ihram again in Makkah.

7. Procedure to Enter into Ihram
So, the Ihram you are entering into now is for Umrah only.

Preparation: You should have your hair cut (if needed), unnecessary body hair removed, mustache trimmed and nails pared. Then take a bath with the intention of Ihram or do vudu (ablutions) if bath is not possible.

Ihram: After this, put on two seamless garments of Ihram preferably of white color.

Two Nafls: If it is not zawaal, offer two rak’ahs of nafil prayers by covering your head.

Intention (Niyyah): Now remove the head cover and make the intention to perform Umrah by saying:

- Labbayka Umrah, or
- O Allah, I intend to perform Umrah to please you, so accept it from me and make it easy for me.

You may make intention of Umrah in your own language.

Talbiyah: After the intention, recite Talbiyah three times. Pronouncing Talbiyah once is imperative (Fard) and pronouncing it more than once is Sunnah.

The following are the words of Talbiyah which you should memorize before leaving for this sacred journey because you have to pronounce them frequently:

**TALBIYAH**

"Labbayk, Allahumma Labbayk. Labbayk. La shareeka laka. Labbayk."

(Here we come, O Allah, here we come! Here we come. No partner have You. Here we come! Praise indeed, and blessings, are Yours---the Kingdom too!)
As soon as Talbiyah is pronounced, you are entered into the state of Ihram and all the obligations of Ihram start which are the same in Umrah or Hajj.

One should continue reciting Talbiyah in a loud voice and it should be pronounced thrice each time. Women have to recite Talbiyah in subdued voice if men other than her immediate relatives are around.

Prohibitions of Ihram

All pilgrims, in the state of Ihram, are forbidden to cover their heads (for men), hunt, argue, cut their hair or nails, kill flies, mosquitoes and lice, use perfume, or engage in sexual relations. A woman may wear any dress for Ihram as long as it does not show her adornments, or cause temptation to men. She is forbidden to wear gloves, apply mehndi or to cover her face, but if male strangers are around her, she should conceal her face with her head-covering or something similar making sure it does not touch her face.

At the Jeddah Airport

When you arrive at Jeddah airport, you go through custom’s formalities and then move to a waiting area until you are boarded in the buses headed for Mecca. Here you can expect a long delay because the authorities have to make arrangement for a large number of people.

On the way to Mecca

While moving to Mecca, which is about 72 kilometers away, you should be in the prescribed state of Ihram and should continue proclaiming Talbiyah as often as you can. When Mecca is about 23 kilometers far, there is a big overhead sign reading "Makkah------Muslims Only". Here the boundaries of Mecca start and non-Muslims are not allowed to go beyond this point.

Arrival in Mecca

When you enter Mecca, you should be reciting Talbiyah with great enthusiasm and fondness. Here you may rent a suitable room in a building for yourself and your companions, if any, and shift there along with your luggage.

Accommodation and Shopping

The room you rent is usually shared by three or four people unless all the members of your family occupy a room. You also share a bathroom and a kitchen with a stove and a refrigerator. But it is convenient to buy take out food, which is available at reasonable prices, and use most of your time for...
prayers in the House of Allah. If you buy a dish of meat or vegetables, three breads are given free and all this is usually enough for two persons. All the necessities of life and Hajj and Umrah items, such as Haji mats, money belts, thermos, slippers, etc., are available.

Masjid al-Haram and the Holy Ka’bah

Now go to Masjid al-Haram, which encloses the Holy Ka’bah in the middle, to offer prayers (if it is a prayer time) and to perform Umrah which is described later. Here, there is a separate arrangement for men and women to make necessary ablutions (vudu).

UMRAH

What is Umrah? Umrah is a mini Hajj that can be performed at any time of the year. It can be performed along with Hajj and in other days as well. According to Quran:

"---accomplish Hajj and Umrah to please Allah". (Al-Baqrah,1996)

Great Merits of Performing Umrah

The Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) has described the great merits of performing Umrah.

He has said:

"The people who come to perform Hajj or Umrah are the guests of Allah because they visit His House on His Call; therefore, Allah grants them what they ask for".1

He has also said:

"One Umrah becomes an atonement for the sins committed up to the next Umrah".2

He has said again:
"Anyone who leaves his house with the intention of performing Hajj or Umrah and dies on the way will enter paradise without judgement. Allah is proud of those who perform tawaf of Baitullah".

**Umrah in Ramadan**

Performing Umrah during Ramadan is most commendable and equal to Hajj in merit and excellence.

Clarification: It is quite true that an Umrah in Ramadan equals a Hajj and one can get the same rewards that are granted to one who performs a Hajj. But this act does not substitute the performance of Hajj which is Fard (imperative), once in a life time if one is financially and physically capable.

**RULES FOR UMRAH**

1. **Umrah is Sunnat Mu’akidah:** Umrah is neither imperative (Fard) nor obligatory (wajib), but performing Umrah once in a life time is Sunnat Mu’akidah. However, once or more than once, whenever it is performed, it fetches great rewards.

2. **No Fixed Time:** There is no fixed month, day or time for Umrah as it is for Hajj. As said earlier, it can be performed any time one desires.

3. **The Miqat for Umrah:** The station of Ihram (Miqat) for Umrah is Hill for the residents of the Haram of Mecca and the people of Hill. As mentioned later, the area between the five appointed Miqats of Hajj and the bounds of the Haram of Mecca is called Hill. The Afqis (outsiders) who come to Mecca for Hajj and Umrah should already be in Ihram before entering into Mecca. However, for subsequent Umrahs, even they have to go to Hill to put on Ihram. For this purpose, buses outside Bab Abdul Aziz of al-Haram take pilgrims to Masjid Aai’sha which is in Hill on Madinah Road at Tan’eem, not far from Mecca.

4. **The Rites of Umrah:** The only rites of Umrah are:
   - Entering the state of Ihram
   - Tawaf of Ka’bah
   - Sa’yee between the hills of Safa and Marwah
   - Shaving and clipping of the hair

In Umrah, pilgrims do not go to Mina, Arafat and Muzdalifa or throw pebbles on the Jamrahs (stone pillars representing devils) or offer animal sacrifice. These rites are performed during Hajj.

**HOW TO PERFORM UMRAH**

**IHRAM FOR UMRAH AND ENTERING MASJID AL-HARAM**
**Ihram:** You should be already in Ihram for Umrah before entering Mecca or as mentioned earlier, enter the state of Ihram at Masjid Ai’sha in Hill if it is your subsequent Umrah or if you are the resident of the Haram of Mecca or of Hill. If you are entering into Ihram now, the next step is to cover your head and offer two rak’ahs of nafl. Then uncover your head, intend to perform Umrah and proclaim Talbiyah three times and as often afterwards as possible. This starts all the restrictions of Ihram which are listed in the description of Hajj. You may review the complete procedure to enter into Ihram discussed earlier.

**Entering Masjid al-Haram:** While reciting Talbiyah, enter Masjid al-Haram preferably through Babas-Salam with right foot first. Supplicate to Allah and proceed towards Ka’bah. You may recite the following supplication which is usually used before entering a mosque:

Allah huma aftah li abwabe rahmate ka

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**First Sight:** At the first sight of Ka’bah, keep your eyes fixed at Baitullah and standing at one side, it is suggested that you do the following:

- Say Allahu Akbar three times
- Say La Ilaha Illallah three times
- Proclaim Darud on our beloved Prophet (peace be upon him) and very humbly and with tears in your eyes supplicate to Allah for whatever you wish. This is a special time for the acceptance of prayers.

The idea is to praise and glorify your Creator before proclaiming Darud and supplications. Therefore, in lieu of Allahu Akbar and La Ilaha Illallah, you may recite some other similar holy verses if you so desire.

After this, while uttering Talbiyah, move forward to perform Tawaf of Ka’bah.

**TAWAF OF UMRAH**

Tawaf means circling around something. Here it means moving around Ka’bah seven times with extreme love and devotion.

1. **Preparation:** Pass the upper sheet of Ihram from underneath the right arm and put it on the left shoulder. This act bares the right shoulder and is known as Iztaba. Ablutions (vudu) is essential for tawaf. Reciting of Talbiyah is stopped when you reach Hajar-e-Aswad, the starting point of tawaf.

2. **Niyyah (Intention):** Stand in front of Ka’bah facing Hajar-e-Aswad (the Black Stone) in such a way that the whole Hajre-e-Aswad is on your right side.
To achieve this end, you may get help from the black stripe on the floor. This stripe should be on your right side. Then without raising your hands make Niyyah (intention) for Umrah:

"O Allah, I perform Tawaf of Umrah to please You. Make it easy for me and accept it from me.

3. **Istilam:** Now moving towards right, come in front of Hajar-e-Aswad and kiss it if possible, or touch it with a stick and kiss the stick; if that also is not possible, raise your hands to your ears keeping your open palms towards Hajre-e-Aswad and say:

   "Bismillahi Allahu Akbar Wa Lilla Hil Hamd"

   and drop your hands down. Now point the palms of your hands again towards Hajar-e-Aswad and kiss them. This act of kissing Hajar-e-Aswad or pointing towards it is called Istilam.

4. **Tawaf Starts:** After Istilam, turn right and start tawaf counter clockwise.

   **WARNING**
   - The authorities often apply perfume to Hajar-e-Aswad, Rukn Yamani and Multazam. If so, do not touch them while in the state of Ihram, otherwise a dum will be required as a penalty.
   - During tawaf, it is not permissible to face or turn your back towards Ka'bah except when you are kissing or pointing towards Hajar-e-Aswad.

5. **Ramal:** For the first three circuits of Tawaf of Umrah and Tawaf of Arrival, men are required to move their shoulders and walk with quick short steps. This act is called Ramal and is Sunnah. They walk normally during the remaining four circuits.

6. **Supplications of Tawaf:** There are no fixed supplications for tawaf but there are several recommended supplications listed in the books of Hajj and Umrah out of which the following supplication is easy to memorize:

   "Subhan-Allah wal-hamdu-lillahi wa la ilaha ill-Allah wa-Allahu Akbar wa la
haul wa la quwwata illa-billah."

If you don't remember these words, you may glorify Allah by repeatedly uttering:

Subhan Allah, Al-Hamdu lilla, Allahu Akbar, La Ilaha Illallah, etc.

The Prophet of Islam (peace be upon him) has said that there are two kalimahs that are light on tongue and (on the day of judgment) they weigh heavy on the scale (Mizan) and are liked by Allah. These kalimahs are:

Subhan Allah Wabe Hamde hi Subhan Allah Hil Azeem (Bukhari, Muslim, Tirmizi)

You may also use supplications used in the daily Salah or you may seek forgiveness of Allah and ask Him whatever you wish in your own language.

7. **Hatim**: Hatim is a semi-circular half-built portion which was originally a part of the Ka'bah but which could not be included in the main structure when the Ka'bah was rebuilt. It is obligatory to go around Hatim also while performing tawaf.

8. **Rukn Yamani and its Supplications**: After passing the three corners of the Ka'bah you reach the fourth corner known as Rukn Yamani. Touch it with both hands or with right hand. There is a beautiful supplication to be used while walking between Rukn Yamani and Hajar-e-Aswad:

"Rabbana atina fid-dunya hasanatan wa fil-akhirati hasanatan wa qina azabin-nar."

Our beloved Prophet (peace be upon him) has repeatedly recited this supplication. The first circuit is complete when you reach Hajar-e-Aswad.

9. **Seven Circuits**: At Hajar-e-Aswad, start the second circuit by kissing it or pointing towards it as you started the first circuit, i.e., come in front of Hajar-e-Aswad, raise both hands to your ears with open palms towards it and say:

"Bismillahi Allahu Akbar Wa Lillah Hil Hamd"

Now kiss both palms and drop your hands. After this go around Ka’bah as you did before and similarly complete the seven circuits.

10. **The End of Tawaf**: At the end of seven circuits, do Istilam of Hajar-e-Aswad or point towards it eighth time which is Sunnat Mu’akidah. Also say:

"Bismillahi Allahu Akbar Wa Lillah Hil Hamd"

11. **Iztaba Finished**: Now Iztaba is finished, therefore, you cover your both shoulders with upper portion of the Ihram sheet. This does not apply to women.

12. **Multazam**: Now, come to Multazam which is a place five or six feet in length between Hajar-e-Aswad and the door of Ka’bah. This is a highly sacred place where prayers are accepted. Among a large crowd of people, if it is
possible to reach Multazam, cling to it pressing your chest and cheeks, and while trembling and crying with devotion and with all humility seek Allah’s mercy, His blessings and ask Him whatever you wish. If you are unable to come close to Multazam, just face towards it and supplicate from a distance.

13. **Maqam Ibrahim:** Next offer two rakahs of nafls behind and close to Maqam Ibrahim with out covering your head. If it is zawal time when sajdah is not allowed, you have to wait till this undesirable time is passand then offer prayers.In the niyyah (intention), say that you are offering 2 rakahs of nafls wajib al- tawaf. Recite Qul ya ayya hal kafroon in the first rakah and Qulhu wallah in the second rakah. After this, supplicate to Allah in Arabic or in your own language. Ask Him whatever you wish and invoke His blessings.If it is not possible to offer this obligatory prayer near Maqam Ibrahim, it can be offered anywhere in Mataf, or in Hatim or anywhere in Masjid al-Haram or even at any place in Haram of Makkah.

14. **Zamzam:** Now go to Zamzam well situated in the basement of the Haram about 200 feet from the Ka’bah’s door. There are separate portions for men and women. Zamzam is the best available water in the world. Drink this water to fill while in standing position saying Bismillah. Then supplicate to Allah:

"Allahummah inni as’aluka ilm-an naafi’an wa rizqan waasi’an wa shifa’am min kulli daa’in."

(O Allah! I implore Thee for beneficial knowledge, for vast provisions, and for cure from every disease.)

**RULES FOR TAWAF OF UMRAH**

1. One should be in the state of Ihram before starting Tawaf.
2. There are three conditions essential for Tawaf of Umrah and for all other kinds of Tawaf as well, namely:
   a. To be a Muslim
   b. Niyyah (intention)
   c. To perform Tawaf inside Masjid al-Haram

Without niyyah, Tawaf is not valid. Tawaf can be performed in Mataf or on different floors of Masjid al-Haram or even on its roof.

3. While performing Tawaf, one should not look towards Ka’bah. One has to face Ka’bah only when doing Istimal of Hajar-e-Aswad.

4. After completing the seven circuits of Tawaf, if someone deliberately starts the
eighth circuit, it becomes obligatory (wajib) for him to complete the second Tawaf by doing six more circuits.

5. Undesirable times for prayer are not considered undesirable for performing Tawaf.

6. If someone has to discontinue Tawaf because of time for prescribed prayer or because a dead body is brought for a funeral prayer or need for fresh ablutions arises, he can later resume Tawaf at the point where he discontinued.

**HAJJ**

1. Enter in Haram territory between 1st of Shawwal to 7th day of Zilhij with the intention to perform Hajj and Umrah separately.

2. After performing Umrah as described in Umrah procedure (Ritual of Umrah), pilgrims should shave his head to cut the head hairs. Women cut a little bunch of hairs from the tail and sides of her hair.

3. Pilgrim puts off his / her Ahram and wear normal dress. He/She waits living in Makkah till the morning of 8th Zilhij. The restrictions of Ahram are no more there.

4. In the morning of 8th Zilhij or in between the night of 7th and 8th Zilhij, a pilgrim takes bath as Shara described. Taking water into the softer part of nose and to the dead end of throat is essential. Get the whole body must be washed by water. No even a hair of body remain dried.

5. Put on Ahram:
   a) A man has two white sheets of clothing. One is wrapped on the lower part of the body. Belt may be used to tighten the lower sheet of clothing. Other clothing sheet is taken over the upper body. On this stage head may be covered. The front of the feet must be uncovered, socks and shoes are not allowed in the state of AHRAM.
   b) A lady may wear loosened dress comprising of shirt and trousers. HEAD must be covered under the scarf which is fasten on the head. Face may be uncovered.

6. Offer two Rakat Nafil Prayer covering the head by upper sheet of AHRAM Clothing.

7. After completion of Two Rakat of Nafil, a man must uncover his head. And beg Dua of intention of performing Umrah.

"O Almighty Allah! I intend to perform Hajj. So, Please make it easy
for me,
help me to do so, and accept my this humble effort. Ameen."
Women will also do as a man does in this Point No.7 except uncovering head.

8. Now you must recite the slogan of HAJJ -TALBEEH.

"LAB - BAIK - ALLAH - HUMMA- LAB - BAIK-
LAB - BAIK - LA SHAREEKA - LAKA- LAB - BAIK-
INNAL HAMDA - WAL NAMATA LA KA WAL MULK
LA SHAREEKA- LAK."

9. Now you once again have come under the restrictions of AHRAM.

RESTRICTION OF AHRAM

a) Not to oil in hairs.
b) Not to shave your beard
c) Not to pluck or cut any hair of the body
d) Not to use any perfume / fragrance/ tooth paste (miswak is allowed), cream and oil and other same sort of things.
e) Not to kill any insect /animal.
f) Not to pluck any flower/bunt/leaf/branch of tree.
g) Not to cut nails etc.
h) Not to cover head. (Only for man).
i) Not to make wife husband relationship.

10. After wearing AHRAM it is optional to do Tawaf. If you have time you can, otherwise you may leave it.

11. After Fajr Salat on the 8th of Zilhij, move towards Mina. You will have to live amount for there five days. So, you may keep one pair of fresh AHRAM and necessary money, for sacrificing animal on the 10th Zilhij.

12. In between Makkah and Madina, pilgrims must recite repeatedly Talbeeh.

13. You will stay in a tent which is pitched in Mina.

14. Take rest here and offer the Salat of Zuhar, Asar, Maghrib,
Esha of 8th Zilhij and Fajr of 9th Zilhij, here in Mina.

On the 9th of Zilhij, after Fajr prayer, when sun come out, pilgrim moves towards the Field of ARAFAT. Stay in ARAFAT on the 9th of Zilhij from 11:00 AM to the Sunset is essential.

15. This stay of ARAFAT is called "Wuquf". It is the Main Act of HAJJ. If a doesn't pilgrim perform Wuquf, his /her Hajj is not Consider Valid.

16. Here the combined Salat of Zuhar and Asar are offered under the one AZAN.

17. Both the prayers of Zuhar and Asar is consist of only two Rakats each of instead four Rakats. Here all the pilgrims are consider as passenger pilgrim may and to curtail the avail Rakat of Salat from 4 to 2.

18. Till Maghrib (Sunset) beg Duas as it is very precious time. Beg Duas in sitting Standing, and in lying positions.

19. At the time of Sunset DON'T OFFER MAGHRIB PRAYER TODAY. Maghrib Prayer is not allowed in time in ARAFAT. You have to delay it till you reach Muzdalfa.

20. After the sunset without offering Maghrib prayer, you will have to move towards Muzdalfa. It is an open ground of 3 miles. It is in between Mina and ARAFAT.

21. After reaching Muzdalfa in the night, you will have to offer Maghrib and Esha Prayers jointly under one AZAN. Sometimes people reach here in the midnight due to heavy rush. Both the prayer will be offered after settling down in Muzdalfa. may be a mid night It Maghreb and Esha are not allowed to during journey offer between ARAFAT and Muzdalfa. time. Remember no sunset and or Nafil Salat allowed to offer in between is Maghreb and Esha.

22. In Muzdalfa, it is better for a pilgrim to spend whole night begging Duas and recitation of holy Quran, but a little rest and
26. You will have to collect 70 pebbles from Muzdalfa field to throw over the pillars of Satins next day.

27. Fajar prayer will be offered exactly in time in Muzdalfa. Govt. of Saudi Arabia arranges the sound of Bomb Blast for pilgrims to know the Fajar prayer time when it starts.

28. After Fajar Salat when sun rises, you will have to move towards Mina where from you started your journey towards Arafat one day before.

29. Now you are in Mina, back to your tents. Today is 10th Zilhij. Generally, on the 10th of Zilhij all the Muslims celebrate the festival of Eid. They offer prayer of Eid but there is NO EID PRAYER for Pilgrims.

30. Today on the 10th of Zilhij you (pilgrims) have to do following essentials step by step.

   a) Obviously enter in Mina.
   b) Come to biggest Satin pillar before Azan of Zuhar (ZAWAL) to throw 7 pebbles out of 70 which you had collected last night in Muzdalfa.
   c) Before throwing pebbles, you will have to stop the Slogan of HAJJ that is at Talbeeh this stage. Now, do not repeat Talbeeh.
   d) When you throw pebbles, each and every time. **BISMILLAH. ALLAH-O-AKBER.**
   e) It is noted that three pillars of Satins (Serpent) but today you have thrown pebbles over biggest Satin (Jamra-e-Ubqa).
   f) Be careful do not bend yourself here to pick something from ground. Due to heavy rush. You may crushed by the crowd.
   g) Now a days a ground level and a upper level bridge is built for pilgrims to throw pebbles over satin. So that maximum number of pilgrims perform this act might in one time.
   h) Ladies and weaker may do this act after Maghreb. It is allowed as a special case due to heavy rush in morning.
   i) After RAMI that is throwing pebbles over biggest Satin, you have to sacrifice your animal. It is compulsory act for a pilgrim. Sacrify your
animal in slaughter houses.

j) Now, a man shave off his head. A women must cut hair 1/3 of
   index
   finger from the tail, and from all four sides of head.

k) Now you may put off AHRAM and wear normal dress.
   Whatever do you
   like. A woman will keep her head covered.

l) Now you are free from all the restrictions of AHRAM. Except
   the binding
   of wife husband relationship. Wife over husband, husband
   over wife is
   still restricted (HARAM) till tawaf-e-Ziarat is not completed.

m) After all these acts, you will have to come to Makkah
   for Tawaf-e-Ziarat. It is better to perform on 10th Zilhij.
   But you are
   allowed to perform this Tawaf Magrheb of 12th till Zilhij.

n) If somebody does not perform till Maghreb of 12th till
   Zilhij, he will
   have pay fine (DA`M) which is equal to sacrify one goat.
   Despite of
   paying fine of goat, Tawaf-e-Ziarat will have to do.

o) After Tawaf-e-Ziarat, the binding of relationship between
   wife and
   husband be will relaxed.

p) One thing is important, Tawaf-e-Ziarat is generally carried
   out in
   general dress. Ahram is also allowed but not compulsory.

31. After Tawaf-e-Ziarat, Saiee has to do. Come to Safa Mount and
    complete
    rounds Seven of Saiee. This Saiee is done in normal dress NOT
    in AHRAM.

32. After Tawaf-e-Ziarat and Saiee, you must have to come back to
    Mina and
    you have to stay there till Maghreb of 12th Zilhij. IT IS
    IMPORTANT, YOU
    MAY NOT SPEND NIGHT OUT OF MUNA EVEN IN MAKKAH TILL
    END OF 12TH THE ZILHIJA. If you do Tawaf-e-Ziarat in night,
    you have come as soon as it completes in the night.

33. On 11th Zilhij, If you could not sacrify your animal on 10th
    Zilhij and if you
    not go to Makkah for Tawaf-e-Ziarat, you may these acts this
day. If you
    done you both the works to on 10th Zilhij, you have only o
    throw pebbles to to all three Satins (Serpent). But remember
    following steps.
a) Act of throwing pebbles are done after 1200 noon to Fajar of next day that is 12th Zilhij.

b) Pebbles are thrown to all three Satins.
   i) First to Smaller Satin Pillar.
   ii) Second to middle Satin Pillar.
   iii) Third to Biggest Satin Pillar. (Seven Pebbles to Pillars.)

You have to Stay in MINA in the night

IHSAR (OBSTRUCTION)

Ihsar means obstruction. It is a situation in which one is obstructed some way to perform Hajj or Umrah after one has entered the state of Ihram. The person who faces this situation is called a Muhsar. The Qur’an says:

"When you make up your mind to perform Hajj or Umrah, accomplish these to please Allah. But if you are hemmed in somewhere, then offer to Allah whatever sacrifice you can afford. And do not shave your heads until the sacrifice reaches its place."

(Surah al-Baqrah 2:196)

A FEW EXAMPLES OF IHSAR

There can be many situations in which performance of Hajj or Umrah is not possible, a few are mentioned as follows:-

1. The roads are not safe, war is going on, or there is some other kind of danger to life and property.
2. Attack of a disease that may escalate during travel or one is so weak that travel is not possible.
3. After entering into Ihram, a woman is unable to go along with a mahram male. He either gets sick, or dies or refuses to go or somebody stops him to go.
4. There is not enough travel money or the money is stolen.
5. Lost on the way and there is nobody to guide.
6. After entering into Ihram, a woman is divorced or her husband dies and her waiting period (Iddah) starts.
7. A woman enters into Ihram without her husband’s permission and fails to get permission even afterwards.

RULES FOR IHSAR
1. **In case of Ihsar**, send to Mecca a sacrificial animal, such as a camel, a cow or a goat, etc., according to your means or send its price so that a sacrifice can be arranged there on your behalf.

2. **The sacrifice for Ihsar** is obligatory (wajib) and unless the sacrifice is offered in the Haram on behalf of the Muhsar, he cannot put off Ihram. He may fix a date for the sacrifice so that he can come out of Ihram that day.

3. **The Muhsar** has to send one sacrificial animal if obstructed from performing Umrah or Hajj al-Ifrad and he has to send two animals in case of Hajj al-Tamat’u or Hajj al-Qiran.

4. As long as the sacrifice is not offered, the **Muhsar** will remain in the state of Ihram and all the obligations of Ihram will apply.

5. As you are aware that you come out of Ihram when you shave or cut some of your hair after performing Hajj or Umrah, but a **Muhsar** can come out of Ihram only when an animal is sacrificed on his behalf in the Haram.

6. The **Muhsar** is not allowed to eat the flesh of the animal sacrificed on his behalf in the Haram.

7. If the Ihram had to be removed by sending a sacrificial animal, it becomes obligatory (wajib) to perform Hajj or Umrah later for which this Ihram was put on.

8. If after sending the sacrificial animal, the cause of Ihsar (obstruction) is removed and there is still time for the **Muhsar** to perform Hajj and offer the sacrifice himself, he must proceed forthwith. But if the time for Hajj is over, he can perform Umrah and come out of Ihram after shaving or clipping the hair.

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**Misc Information for Hajj and Umrah**

**Communicating in Arabia**

- Arabic is the **sole** language of the people. Very few people communicate in English. If you are not fluent in Arabic you must have a good dictionary or have some native Arabic speakers in your group. Some shop owners and people speak limited amounts of Urdu. Most foreigners (residents and visitors) speak their native tongues.

**Points Of Interest in and around Makka and Madina**
• There are several places you should visit around Makka and Madina that are of significance to Muslims.

**Banking and Currency**

• 1 U.S. Dollar(US$) = 3.74 Saudi Riyals (SR). U.S. Dollars can be exchanged freely. However, local transactions are conducted in Saudi Riyals only.
• When exchanging travelers checks, you are **required** to present your ID card, a copy of **passport** and your **invoice** for the travelers checks. TC US$1=3.70 SR.
• Smaller foreign exchange bureaus provide better exchange rates.
• During the Hajj season, the exchange bureaus and banks are open 24 hours. Certain transactions are restricted to during the day only.
• You can **pay for Nahr (sacrificial animal)** at the **major** banks before Hajj. Costs about 175 SR. Doing this is convenient but there are timing issues. As to when you should shave your head and take off your Ihram and wear everyday clothes.

**Climate and Weather**

• Harsh, dry desert with great extremes of temperature .
• Temperatures average **90 to 95** Degrees Fahrenheit.
• From June through August, midday temperature in the desert can soar to over 100 degrees Fahrenheit. Humidity in the coastal regions may approach 100 percent at times.

**Telecommunications**

• Telex and direct dial to/from most countries.
• Telephone country code for Saudi Arabia is **966**. Codes for major cities with Saudi are:
  1. Riyadh-**1**
  2. Jeddah, Makkah, Taif-**2**
  3. Abqaiq, Dammam, Dhahran, Hofuf, Jubail, Ras Tanurah-**3**
  4. Madinah, Tabuk, Yanbu-**4**
  5. Hail-**6**
  6. Abha-**7**
• Calling home, especially overseas, from Hotels is pretty expensive.
• Coin operated pay phones are conveniently located all over the cities. Most are equipped to take Saudi prepaid calling cards.
• You can purchase pre-paid calling cards from government run booths in 100 SR and 50SR denominations. Avoid buying calling cards from street vendors.
• Makka Telephone Operators:
  1. **International Operator: 900**
  2. **Directory Information: 905**
• Other **IMPORTANT** Saudi and Makka/Jeddah Phone Numbers:
  1. **Emergency Services:**
     • **Fire: 998**
     • **Police: 999**
     • **Emergency Assistance: 997**
     • **Traffic: 993**
  2. Pilgrimage Affairs P:[011 966] (2) 545 1444
  3. Pilgrimage Complaints Committee P:[011 966] (2) 542 3022
  4. Department for Hajj P:[011 966] (2) 558 9586
  5. Jeddah Airport Information P:[011 966] (2) 684 2000
  6. United Agents Office (Makkah) P:[011 966] (02) 545-1444
  7. National Adilla Est. (Medina) P:[011 966] (04) 826-0088

**Time Zone and Geography**

• The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia occupies four-fifths of the Arabian Peninsula-865,000 square miles. This is an area about the size of the United States east of the Mississippi River. Geography is varied. Forest, grasslands, rugged mountain ranges and vast deserts all characterize the Saudi landscape.
• All of the Kingdom is under one time zone, Eastern Standard Time plus eight hours. During Daylight Savings Time, add seven hours.

**GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION**

**Official Name:** Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

**Capital:** Riyadh

**Area:** Approximately 864,900 square miles

**Location:** Saudi Arabia is separated from Egypt, Sudan, and Ethiopia by the Red Sea to the west; from Iran by the Persian Gulf to the east; and from Bahrain by the Gulf of Bahrain, also to the east. It shares land boundaries with seven other Arab countries: Jordan, Iraq, and
Kuwait to the north; the Republic of Yemen and Oman to the south; and the United Arab Emirates and Qatar to the east.

**NATURAL FEATURES**

**Principal Physical Features:** Plateau regions, deserts, mountains

**Mountain Ranges:** Asir Mountains, Hejaz Mountains, Jebel Tuwayq

**Climate:** Almost all of Saudi Arabia has a desert climate with scant, unreliable rainfall and extremely hot temperatures for many months of the year. The north receives less than 1 inch of rainfall annually and the south has even less rainfalls. Only the mountainous Asir region in the southwest receives appreciable quantities of rainfall from Indian Ocean monsoons.

In summer daytime temperatures are hot everywhere except at the higher elevations. Maximum temperatures in the interior often reach 130 F (54 C). In winter temperatures in the interior are mild during the day (in the 70’s F or 20’s C) but often fall below freezing at night.

Saudi Arabia lacks permanent rivers and lakes and must rely heavily on groundwater. Fortunately, wells and springs are plentiful in the Al Hasa region.

**PEOPLE**

**Population (1996 estimate):** 18,426,000. 21.1 persons per square mile

**Major Cities:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Year of Estimate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Riyadh</td>
<td>1,800,000</td>
<td>1985</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jeddah</td>
<td>1,800,000</td>
<td>1985</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Makkah</td>
<td>550,000</td>
<td>1980</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At-Taif</td>
<td>300,000</td>
<td>1980</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Major Religion:** Islam (official) Most Saudi Arabians also follow the teachings of Muhammad Ibn Abd al-Wahab, an 18th-century Muslim reformer who advocated a strict, puritanical Islam. Not all Saudis, however, belong to the same sect of Islam. A large majority of the population are Sunny Muslims, but there are an estimated 400,000 Shi’ie Muslims, most of whom live in eastern Saudi Arabia in the vicinity of Al Hasa and al Al Qatif oases.

**Foreigners in the Kingdom:** Saudi Arabia has a large foreign population whose number is thought to exceed 4.6 million. Makkah has large Indian and Indonesian communities. Madinah has many
Syrians and Egyptians, and Jeddah has many Persians, Yemenis, and Africans.

Foreign workers outnumber native Saudis in the labor force by nearly two to one. They are vital to the petroleum, construction, commerce, finance, and health sectors. More than 50 per cent of these workers come from neighboring Arab countries, particularly Yemen, but a growing number come from Pakistan, Korea, the Philippines, and other Asian countries. Many Americans also work in the kingdom, especially in the petroleum industry. Saudi Arabia hopes to reduce its reliance on foreign workers and to that end has made the education of its population a high priority.

**Major Language:** Arabic (official)

**Literacy:** 62.8 percent

**Leading Universities:**
- Islamic University, Madinah
- Islamic University of Imam Muhammad Ibn Saud
- King Saud University, Riyadh
- King Abdul Aziz University, Jeddah
- King Faisal University, Damman
- University of Petroleum and Minerals, Dhahran

**TRANSPORTATION**

Until the mid-1960s the only surfaced roads were in the Jeddah-Makkah-Madinah region. The government has made road building a top priority since then, and by the mid-1990s the kingdom had approximately 94,000 miles of roads.

There are principal ports: Jeddah, Yenbo, and Qizan on the red Sea and Damman and Jubail on the gulf. There are 24 airports, with the main international terminals at Jeddah, Dhahran, and Riyadh. Rail transportation is relatively insignificant. The main line connects Damman on the gulf with Riyadh.

**GOVERNMENT**

**Form of Government:** Monarchy
Head of Government: King

Legislature: None

Political Divisions:
(13 administrative regions)

1. Asir          8. Makkah
3. Ha’il         10. Al-Qasim
5. Al-Jawf
6. Jizan
7. Madinah
8. Makkah
9. Najran
10. Al-Qasim
11. Riyadh
12. Ash-Sharqiyah
13. Tabuk

Saudi Arabia is a monarchy in which Islamic law serves as the constitution. The king, in order to rule, must obtain the support of the royal family, which is believed to have several thousand members. Royal princes hold all the key national security positions, though a growing number of technocrats from outside the family operate government departments concerned with economic and social development.