



THE HAJJ GUIDE



What is Hajj?

Each year, millions of Muslims from all across the world conduct Hajj, the sacrosanct pilgrimage and the fifth pillar of Islam.

The Hajj pilgrimage occurs at Makkah, which is located in present-day Saudi Arabia, specifically during the sacred month of Dhul Hijjah, the twelfth month in the Islamic calendar.

Since the hajj is a pillar of Islam and a spiritual obligation, every Muslim, if they are able to do so financially, physically, and emotionally, must make the journey at least once in their lives. While honestly seeking Allah's (SWT) pleasure, you are allowed to go more than once in your lifetime.

The Hajj is an intellectual, emotional, and physical endurance test. Still, it provides Muslims with the chance to reenergize spiritually, purge themselves of transgressions, and become closer to Allah (SWT).

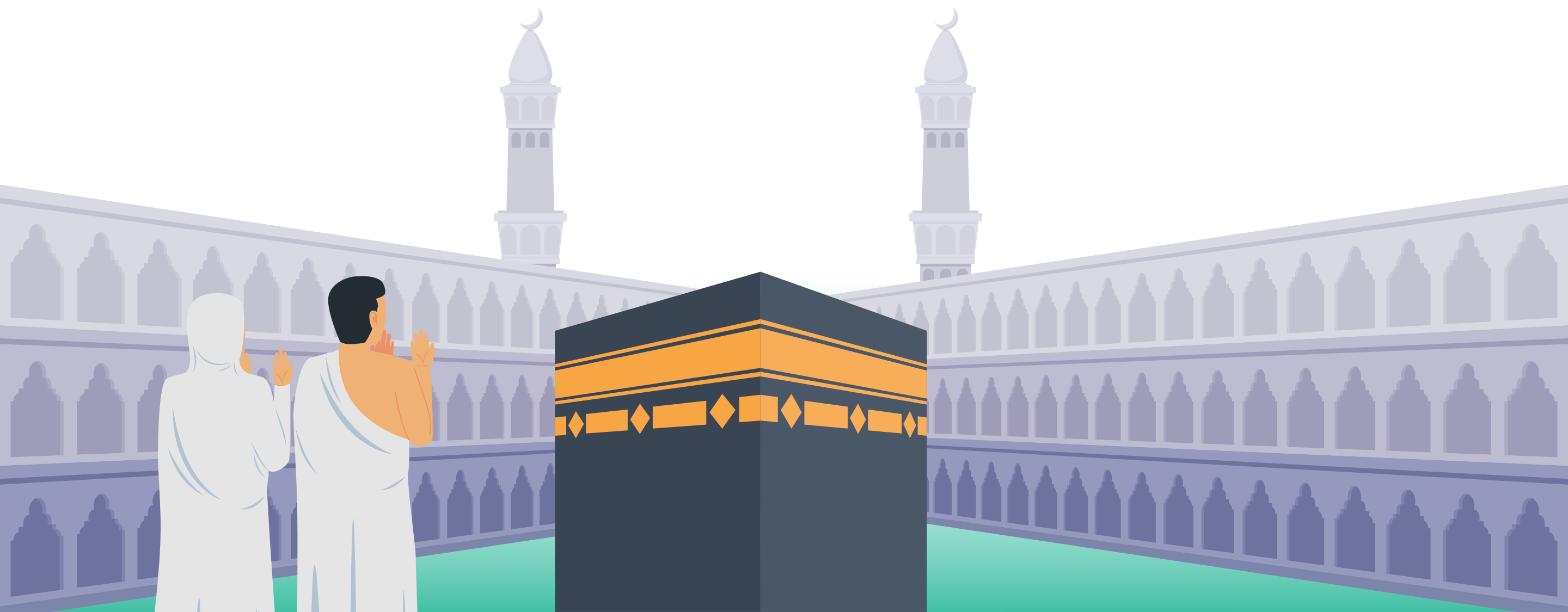
The Hijri calendar places Hajj between the eighth and twelfth of Dhul Hijjah every year

Allah (SWT) says in the Qur'an:

“And [due] to Allah from the people is a pilgrimage to the House - for whoever is able to find there to a way. But whoever disbelieves - then indeed, Allah is free from need of the worlds. ” - Surah Al Imran | 3:97

Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him) said:

“Whoever performs Hajj for the sake of Allah and does not utter any obscene speech or do any evil deed, will go back (free of sin) as his mother bore him.” Hadith | Bukhari and Muslim



➤ How long is the Hajj?

The Hajj is completed over five or six days, from the eighth to the twelfth or thirteenth day of Dhul Hijjah.

Eid al-Adha, which spans four days, starts when the new crescent moon is visible. Several ceremonies and rites make up the pilgrimage, some of which have to be carried out in sequence.

➤ Where is Hajj performed?

Hajj is carried out at Saudi Arabia's modern-day Makkah. Five to six days are spent on a variety of rites and ceremonies that take place in different places close to Makkah.

These sites consist of:

1. Makkah, the city
2. A tent encampment in Mina
3. The Arafah mountain
4. Muzdalifa





► For Whom Is the Hajj Permitted?

The Hajj is one of Islam's five pillars. As such, every Muslim has to do the Hajj at least once in their lives.

Still, in order to do the Hajj, a few requirements must be fulfilled:

First off, Hajj is only obligatory for Muslim adults, male or female. This implies that although kids are free to do the Hajj, they are not compelled to.

Secondly, the really ill, old, frail, or otherwise physically unable Muslims are spared from making the journey.

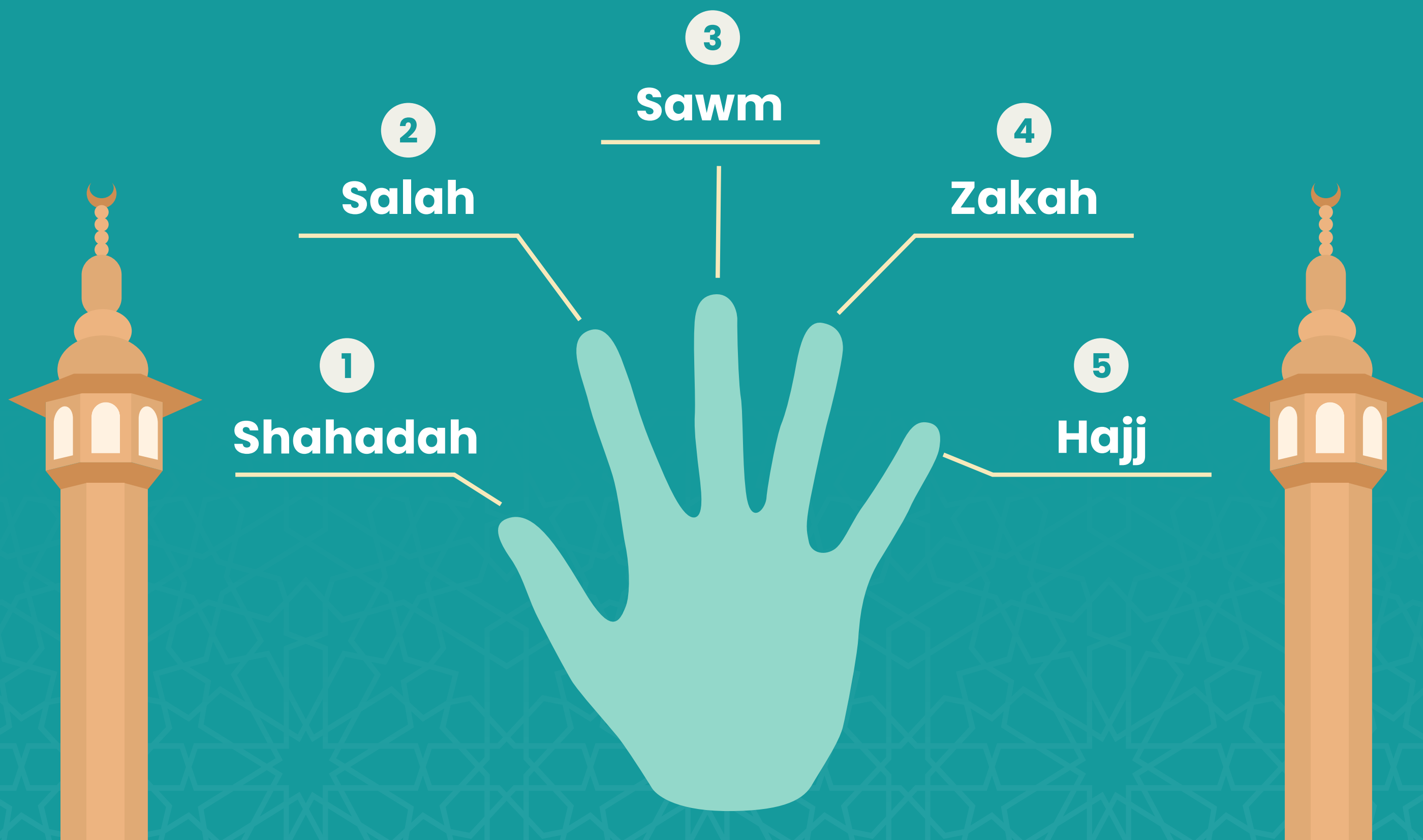
Thirdly, the Muslim has to be able to afford to do the Hajj. In other words, a debtor need only want to make the Hajj as a top priority and is not required to do so until he has paid off his obligation. If one is in debt, they may still go the Hajj, nonetheless, provided that:

- ◆ The creditor approves it.
- ◆ Debtor has time to settle the obligation.
- ◆ Their capacity to repay the obligation is unaffected by their Hajj.





The Five Pillars of Islam:





➤ Dhul Hijjah's first ten days

Don't give up on us who can't go and do the Hajj! Because Allah (SWT) loves the first 10 days of Dhul Hijjah the most, they are regarded as the finest ten days in the Islamic calendar.

The Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) said:

“There are no days that are greater before Allah or in which good deeds are more beloved to Him, than these ten days, so recite a great deal of Tahleel (saying of la illaaha illa Allah), Takbeer (saying of Allahu Akbar) and Tahmeed (Alhamdulillah) during them.” - Hadith | Ahmad

The wonderful chance to do good actions during these fortunate days of Dhul Hijjah is to get Allah's (SWT) pardon and kindness after Ramadan. These could be anything from donating to charity to maintaining family relationships, enjoining good deeds and prohibiting bad.

Enhancing our required acts of worship also means paying our Zakat on time and paying our prayers with awareness. This is also a great moment for those of us who have not yet finished the Hajj to make Du'a that Allah (SWT) gives us the chance to perform it when He sees fit.



► The Steps of Hajj in Detail

1-Preparation and Intention

Make your intention (niyyah) in your heart before you travel to Makkah to start the Hajj. The goal of the Hajj must be to do it for Allah alone, hoping for blessings in the hereafter. It shouldn't be done with the hope of being noticed by others or for material benefit.

2-Entering the State of Ihram

You will next come into Ihram, or ritual cleanliness. This means, for men, donning the specified white cloth, one piece around the waist and one around the shoulder. Although women are free to dress anyway they like, they must make sure they follow the hijab laws. Still, face coverings are not allowed. Furthermore forbidden are shoes that cover the entire foot. Both men and women have to wear sandals as their footwear.





••• *The Steps of Hajj in Detail*



Ihram explains the spiritual state you reach after deciding to go the Hajj. When more than 2.5 million pilgrims arrive in Makkah, there ought to be no visible differences between them. Before Allah (SWT) everyone is equal; income, race, culture, and position are all meaningless. There are few, very clear guidelines for Ihram dress, yet they must be followed. We should also be especially watchful of our words and actions during these holy days and when in the condition of Ihram. Smoking, having sex, swearing, shaving our hair, and trimming our nails are all bad habits. Furthermore forbidden are scented soaps and perfumes.

With these things in mind, you're prepared to begin the greatest spiritual adventure of your life as soon as you get to the hallowed Masjid al-Haram in Makkah.

Advice



If you can, bring extra Ihram clothes. With regard to footwear, we advise making an investment in a good pair of hiking sandals. As you will be walking great miles on both dirt and tarmac, these are usually the most practical and comfortable. To avoid blisters or pain once in Saudi Arabia, try on and wear in your sandals before you leave. You have to complete your Umrah—that is, your Tawaf and Saa'i—as soon as you get to Makkah, as explained in the following procedures.

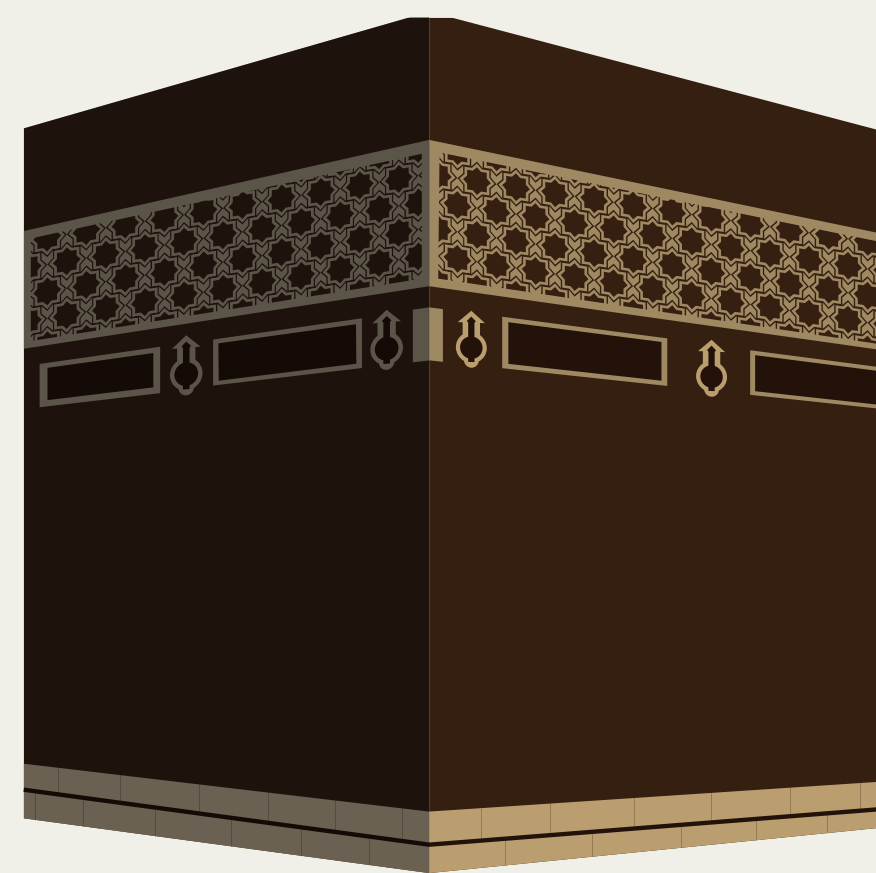


••• *The Steps of Hajj in Detail*

3-Tawaf 7x

One of the key pilgrimage rituals, tawaf, is circling the Kaa'bah counterclockwise. The seven whole circles that make up a Tawaf begin and terminate at the black stone located inside the Kaa'bah.

You can also offer voluntary prayers to thank Allah (SWT) for coming safely and to commemorate the beginning of this very unique spiritual journey in addition to your Tawaf.



4-Safa and Marwa

You will next do what is called Sa'i, which is walking and running between the two hills of Safa and Marwa, once you have finished your Tawaf.

Starting on the hill of Safa, you will stroll towards the hill of Marwa. After eventually seeing the green marker, you will run till the next one and then walk until you get to Marwa. This finishes one lap. To finish your second lap, you will then go back to Safa. When you have completed seven loops between the hills of Safa and Marwa, your Sa'i is over.

This ceremony honors Prophet Ibrahim's (AS) wife Hajar and her desert journey to find her son Prophet Isma'il (AS) water. As Hajar herself experienced, Saa'i represents the constant battle we all face in life.



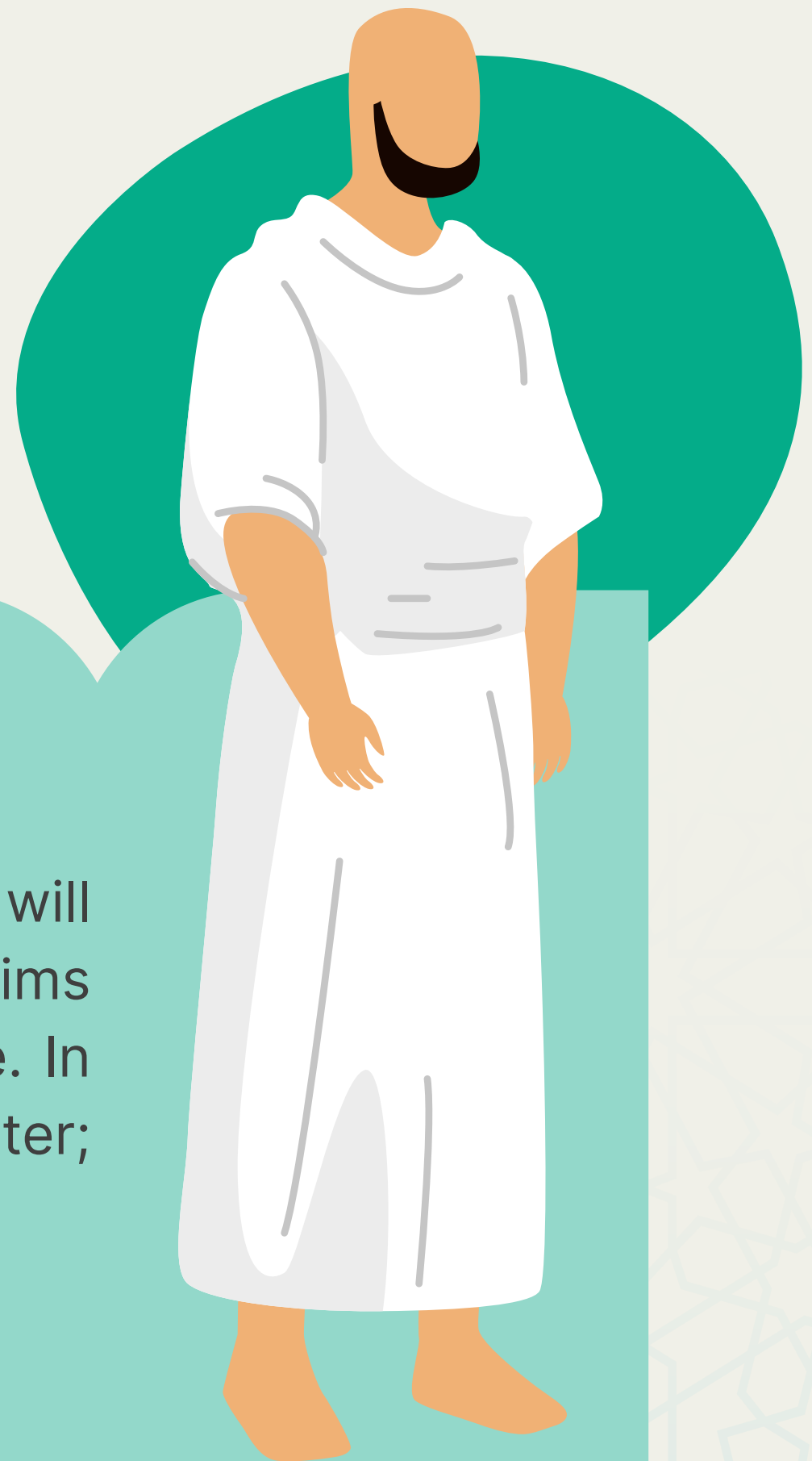
••• *The Steps of Hajj in Detail*

5-Shave Hair (Umrah Ends)

After Saa'i is over, women clip their hair to the length of their fingertips, and men get their hair shaved or clipped. After this, your umrah is over and you can leave Ihram till the eighth of Dhul Hijjah.

Advice

This calls for a great deal of patience. Tawaf will have worn you out, and you may see other pilgrims rushing to finish the Saa'i. Just take your time. In between Safa and Marwa, there is Zamzam water; take frequent stops.



••• *The Steps of Hajj in Detail*

6-Resting and Praying

After completing your Umrah, you will spend the remainder of this wonderful month in Makkah finishing your Hajj, accompanied by your fellow Muslim sisters and brothers, SubhanAllah! Get enough sleep and maximize your time by engaging in genuine acts of worship. Eighth Dhul Hijjah is when your Hajj will start.



7-Re-entering the State of Ihram

After completing your Umrah, you will spend the remainder of this wonderful month in Makkah finishing your Hajj, accompanied by your fellow Muslim sisters and brothers, SubhanAllah! Get enough sleep and maximize your time by engaging in genuine acts of worship. Eighth Dhul Hijjah is when your Hajj will start.

(Day 1/8th Dhul Hijjah)

Performing your holy duty of Hajj will, insha'Allah, be the most spiritual time of your life, full of blessings and forgiveness from Allah (SWT)! The Hajj and the next phase of your spiritual path start on the eighth day of Dhul Hijjah. You'll cleanse yourself and revert to Ihram condition.

••• *The Steps of Hajj in Detail*

Rules of Ihram

Importantly, you are not allowed to smoke, curse, shave, cut your nails, or have any kind of sexual relationship while you are in a state of ihram. Additionally forbidden are hunting, killing, and unjustifiably breaking anything, as do disagreements and fighting. Perfumes, moisturizers, cosmetics, and soaps are among fragrant items you should stay away from. They can be replaced, nevertheless, with legal unscented toiletries.

Once you're all set to enter the Ihram, you'll begin reciting the following invocation called the Talbiyah:

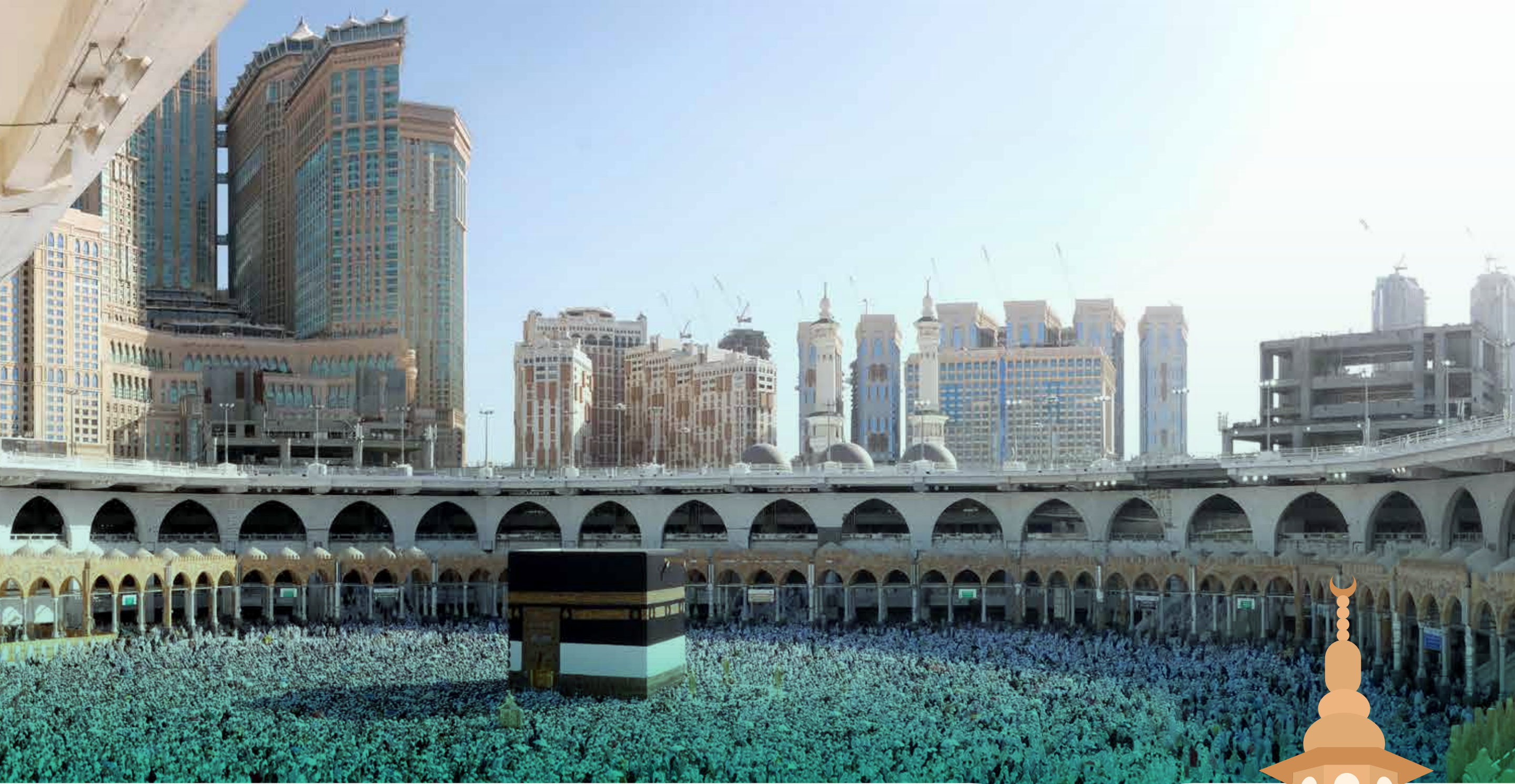
لَبَّيْكَ اللَّهُمَّ لَبَّيْكَ، لَبَّيْكَ لَا شَرِيكَ لَكَ لَبَّيْكَ، إِنَّ الْحَمْدَ، وَالنُّعْمَةَ، لَكَ وَالْمُلْكَ، لَا شَرِيكَ لَكَ

Transliteration:

Labbayka Allahumma labbayk. Labbayk la shareeka laka labbayk. Inna al-hamda, wa n-imata, Laka wal mulk. La shareeka lak.

Translation:

“Here I am, O Allah, here I am, here I am. You have no partner, here I am. Verily all praise and blessings are Yours, and all sovereignty. You have no partner.”



••• *The Steps of Hajj in Detail*

Then, you and your Hajj group will go to Makkah's Mina area, which is some eight kilometers from the city's center.

Advice



Carrying some basics like moisturiser, Vaseline, soap, and unscented sun cream is strongly advised. It is not acceptable for men to cover their head or face while in ihram, hence sun cream is especially helpful if you have no hair. Both sexes should use Vaseline especially to avoid uncomfortable sores that could develop from walking a lot. These are all easily obtained in Saudi Arabia.



••• *The Steps of Hajj in Detail*

8-Arrive at Mina

Once at Mina's tent city (neighbourhood), you'll put up your assigned tent. Here you will perform Salah, or mandatory prayers, which include Dhuhr, Asr, Maghrib, 'Isha, and Fajr. The Qu'ran states that you should reduce your four-unit prayers to two units apiece, not combine them. You will read the Qur'an, pray to Allah (SWT), and get ready for day two throughout the night. Make the most of this unique evening since it is a crucial time for spiritual contemplation and devotion.



Advice



Here, be patient since there can be little room inside the tents and you may find yourself seated very next to other pilgrims. Given the expected intense heat, don't forget to drink enough of water. Check out your surrounds; the Saudi officials have placed cold water stations near every tent. In cooler boxes close to your tent, you could also note that Hajj authority staff routinely replenish complimentary cold drinks. Remember the spiritual reason they are there, even though they are there for you to eat and drink.



••• *The Steps of Hajj in Detail*

9-Day of Arafah

After completing your Umrah, you will spend the remainder of this wonderful month in Makkah finishing your Hajj, accompanied by your fellow Muslim sisters and brothers, SubhanAllah! Get enough sleep and maximize your time by engaging in genuine acts of worship. Eighth Dhul Hijjah is when your Hajj will start.



(Day 2/9th Dhul Hijjah)

You will then travel to the plains of 'Arafah after daybreak in Mina, where you will recite Istaghfar, or the prayer of begging Allah (SWT) for forgiveness for our misdeeds.

Once at the plains of Mount Arafah, pilgrims do combined two-rakat Dhuhr and Asr prayers. But Dhur and Asr can only be combined in the Masjid if one prays behind the Imam, claims Abu Hanifa. As such, one should not combine the two salahs if they were to pray in a tent.

The sermon will be given from Masjid al-Nimra on Mount 'Arafah on this day. If at all feasible, try to hear the Khutbah, or sermon. The English translation of this sermon may potentially be facilitated by your group.

For Muslims everywhere, the Day of Arafah is a significant day since Allah (SWT) describes it in Surah al-Maidah as the day He perfected His religion, finished His favors upon His beloved Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him), and accepted Islam as a way of life!



••• *The Steps of Hajj in Detail*

Thus, make sure to spend a lot of time on the plains of 'Arafah making Du'a (supplication), directing your attention on Allah (SWT) and pleading with Him for blessings and pardon for you and your family. Remember to include in your Du'a on this important day your friends, relatives, neighbors, and the larger Ummah (community).

The Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) also said:

“There is no day on which Allah frees people from the Fire more so than on the day of 'Arafah. He comes close to those (people standing on 'Arafah), and then He reveals before His Angels saying, ‘What are these people seeking.’” - Hadith | Muslim

Advice



On this day, resist the temptation to burn yourself out climbing Mount 'Arafah, sometimes called Jabal al-Rahmah. The Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him) gave his sermon from Jabal al-Rahmah hill. No reliable source offers any advantages for climbing the mountain itself or for doing it as a religious rite. The Plains of 'Arafah, the level area around the hill, is where you ought to be spending your time in prayer and reflection.



••• *The Steps of Hajj in Detail*

10-Arrive in Muzadilfah

You will leave 'Arafah at dusk and travel to Muzdalifah, an expansive plain situated halfway between Mina and 'Arafah. You will do your Maghrib and 'Isha Salah one after the other, reducing the latter to two Rakat, as soon as you get to Muzdalifah.

Then you may either relax or worship all night. Not doing his customary nighttime worship, the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) retired to sleep just before Fajr [Muslim]. You have a full day ahead of you, so resist the want to wear yourself out and instead rest!

During your stay at Muzdalifah, you might also gather stones to use in Rami, the three-day stoning of the demon.



- ✓ **Pebble size should resemble that of date stones or seeds.**
- ✓ **49 stones in all will be required.**

tossing the pebbles at the Jamarat, or the stone pillars. It is so preferable to have more than to be short. You can also gather pebbles wherever in Mina.



••• *The Steps of Hajj in Detail*

As Abdullah ibn Umar (RA) narrates:

“The Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) offered the Maghrib and ‘Isha prayers together at Muzdalifah with a separate Iqamah (second call to prayer) for each of them and did not offer any optional prayer in between them or after each of them.” - [Hadith | Bukhari](#)

Advice



At Muzdalifah, you will spend the night among the stars. There are no lodging options here, not even tents. It is still really dim even with all the lights on. Stay close to your group; among the thousands of pilgrims, it is rather simple to become lost. Muzdalifah offers wudhu and toilet facilities, but they are probably going to be busy, so patience is required. It is strongly advised that you use the restrooms and clean up before leaving "Arafah."



••• *The Steps of Hajj in Detail*

11&12-Rami and Hady

(Day 3 /10th Dhul Hijjah & Start of Eid al-Adha)

Another name for the 10th of Dhul Hijjah is Yawm al-Nahr, or the Day of Sacrifice (Qurbani).

You will leave Muzdalifah and head back towards Mina after doing Fajr Salah. Keep reciting the Talbiyah without stopping.

Pilgrims begin the first of three days' "stoning of the devil" rite, or Rami, on this day and also perform the Hady, or sacrificed animal. At this time, Muslims everywhere also perform Qurbani and start the four-day Eid al-Adha celebration. This verse in the Qur'an tells us as much:

"And when you are safe, then, whoever avails the advantage of the 'Umrah along with the Hajj shall make an offering of whatever animal is available. However, any one who finds none shall fast for three days during Hajj, and for seven days when you return; thus they are ten in all. This is for him whose family folk are not residents of Al-Masjid-ul-Haram." - Qur'an | 2:196



••• *The Steps of Hajj in Detail*

11&12-Rami and Hady

Origin Of Rami (The Stoning of the Devil)



Known by many as the "stoning of the devil," the stoning of the Jamarat is a three-day ceremony in which Hajj pilgrims toss stones at three stone structures in Mina.

The tenth of Dhul Hijjah is when the stoning begins. Muslim also observe Eid al-Adha and offer Qurbani on this day.

Tossing stones at the Jamarat is called Rami. The Rami ceremony represents Ibrahim's (AS) deeds when he was put to the test of having to sacrifice his son Isma'il (AS) at Allah's (SWT) order.

Ibrahim (AS) was often tempted by Iblis (Satan) to defy Allah (SWT) on the road to fulfill the mandate. Allah (SWT) sent Angel Jibreel (AS) the order to give Ibrahim (AS) instructions to throw seven stones at Iblis as soon as Ibrahim (AS) arrived to Jamarat al-Aqaba. As he did, Iblis left right away.

The three Jamarat stand for the three locations where Iblis attempted to talk Ibrahim (AS) out of doing as Allah had instructed. But as a lot of people are misled to believe, Iblis is not contained in the pillars.

How to Perform Rami (The Stoning of the Devil)

You shall do Rami (the devil's stoning) on the tenth, eleventh, and twelfth days of Dhul Hijjah. The pebbles have to be around the same size as seeds or dates. 49 pebbles in all are what you will require.

Every one of the three days will require a different quantity of stones. The division is this:



- ✓ **Pebbles for the 10th, 11th, and 12th of Dhul Hijjah: 7; 21; and 21; respectively**
- ✓ **As per the aforementioned breakdown, group the stones using the four pouches.**

Once at the Jamarat, you will proceed to the largest pillar, Jamarat al-Aqaba, where you will toss the first seven pebbles at the concrete pillar. Just this one pillar will be pelted on the first day.

Advice



Slow down when doing the Rami. Your party will probably be given a specific time to go and perform Rami by the Hajj administration. This is what they do to reduce crowding and pilgrim risk.

Try not to lose your temper and hurl your sandals or other priceless items at the pillars. You would just lose your belongings and there is no advantage in doing so because Iblis is not imprisoned inside the pillar!

••• *The Steps of Hajj in Detail*

Qurbani and Eid al-Adha

The Feast of Sacrifice, or Eid al-Adha, falls on the tenth of Dhul Hijjah every year. Muslims who are not making the Hajj journey also commemorate it worldwide. Muslims commemorate Prophet Ibrahim's (AS) readiness to sacrifice his son Isma'il (AS) at Allah's (SWT) command by presenting Qurbani, or sacrifice.

13-Shaving the Head

(Day 4 /11th Dhul Hijjah)

You will proceed to shave or cut your hair if you are a man after offering the Hady. It is better that The Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings upon him) shaved his hair. A woman chops her hair to the length of a fingertip.

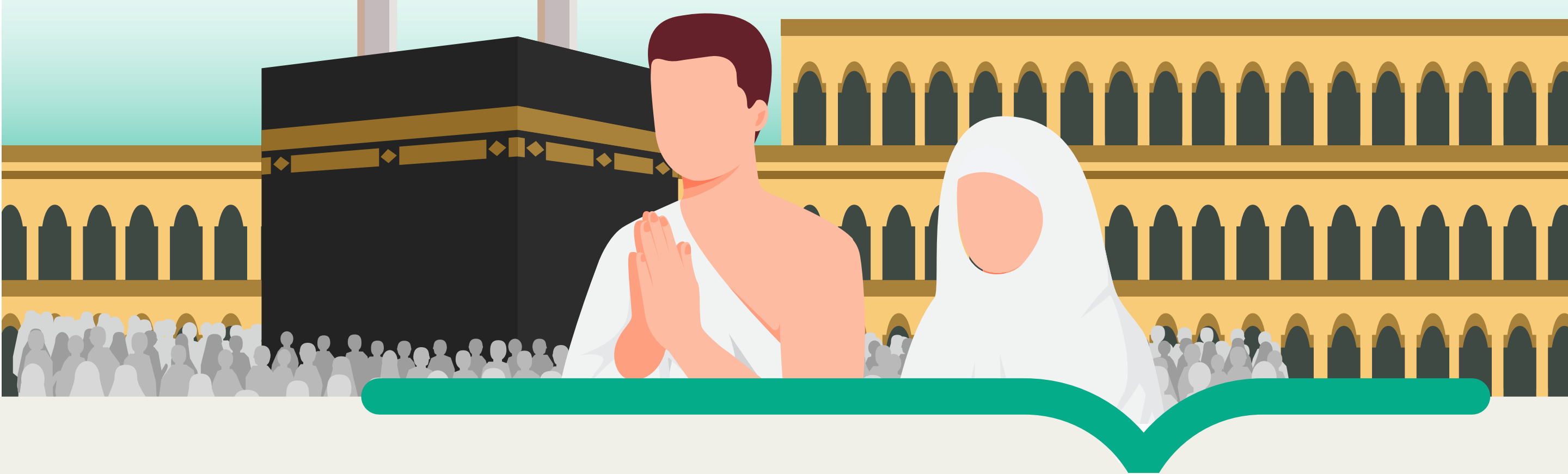
Now that you are free to leave the state of Ihram, dress comfortably. Except from sexual intimacy, you are also free to resume all other Halal activities that were prohibited in the Ihram. The Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him) smelled strongly of musk at this time, hence it is Sunnah (practice of the Prophet PBUH) to use perfume.



Advice



Among your group, shave each other's heads with disposable blades. If that's not an option, Mina has a lot of barbers that will shave your head for a good price. To prevent infection, make sure the barbers use new blades.



••• *The Steps of Hajj in Detail*

14&15-Tawaf al-Ifadha and Saai'

(Day 4 /11th Dhul Hijjah)

As part of your Hajj rituals, you will next travel to Makkah to conduct Tawaf al-Ifadha and then another round of Saai'.

Musts are Saa'i and Tawaf al-Ifada. After the Rami, the Qurbani (sacrifice) and the head shaving (or trimming), you must do the Tawaf al-Ifadha and the Saai'.

After finishing the Tawaf and Saa'i, you are free to unwind and do whatever was legal before entering the Ihram, even having sex.

But you will go back to your tents in Mina and finish the last few Hajj ceremonies.



Advice



The Tawaf area will be incredibly busy at this time. Try using the roof or the higher Haram levels. It's usually quieter around midnight, so you could want to try this then.



••• *The Steps of Hajj in Detail*

16-The Second Day of Rami

You'll start your second day of Rami (the devil's stoning) on the 11th Dhul Hijjah.

This time you pelt the three pillars in turn. The little pillar, Jamarah al-Ula, will be your first stop; the second, or middle, pillar, Jamarah al-Wusta, will come next; and the third, or great, pillar, Jamarah al-Aqaba. You stop to make Du'a facing the qibla after the first and second Jamarat. Seven pebbles in a row, together with the Takbir, should stone each one. Take extra stones with you in case you misplace any!



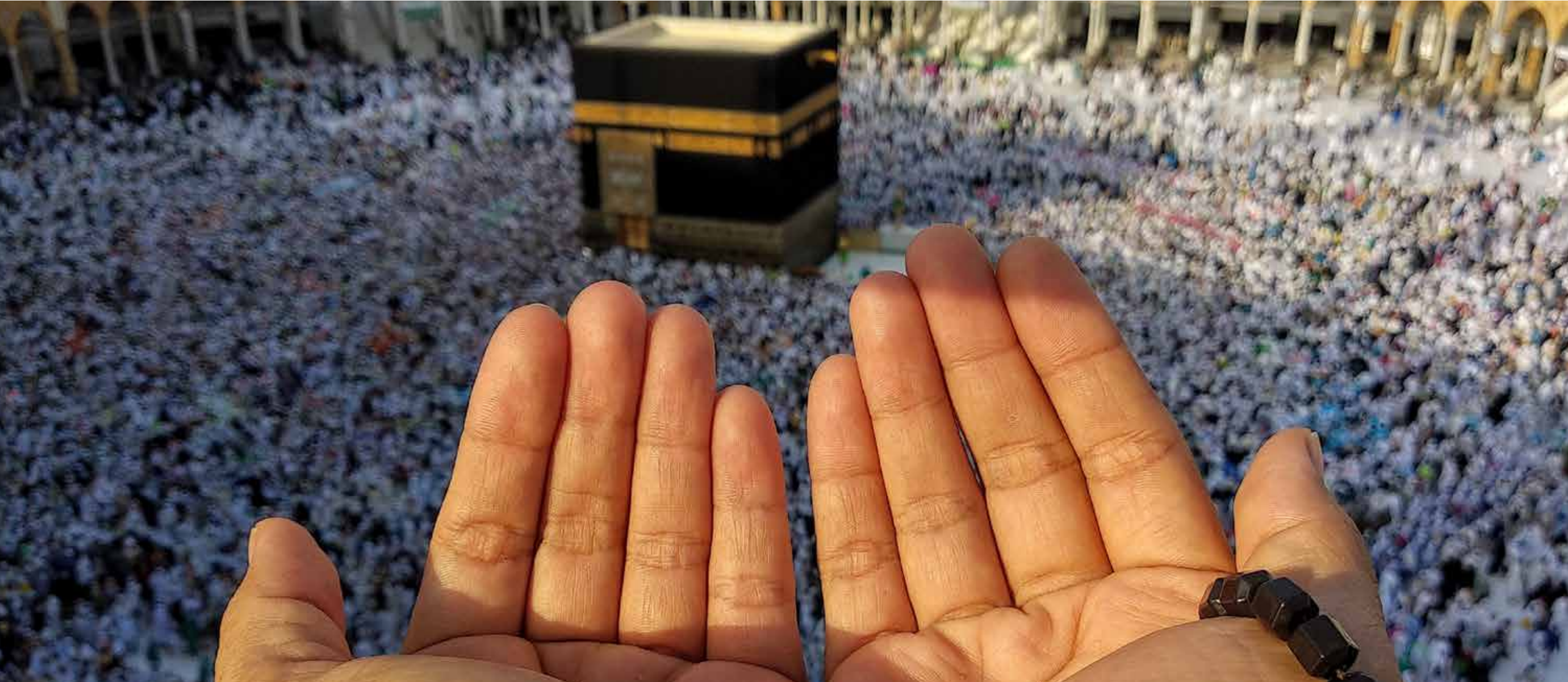
17-The Second Day of Rami

You'll go back to your tent in Mina when your second Rami is over and make the most of the time you have left by worshiping throughout the day and night.

18-The Third Day of Rami

You'll have your last set of pebbles—21—ready to go through the same procedures as the day before on the afternoon of the 12th Dhul Hijjah.





••• *The Steps of Hajj in Detail*

19-Tawf Al- Wada

(The Farewell Tawaf)

You just need to do one more step to do the Hajj and leave Makkah. The final ritual Muslims have to carry out is the goodbye Tawaf.

Before leaving the confines of the Haram, this Tawaf must be performed and is Wajib (required) according to Hanafis, Shafi'is, and Hanbalis but Sunnah according to Malikis. Absence of this Tawaf without a good cause is not considered legal in Islam.

Ibn Abbas (RA) narrated:

“The people were ordered to perform the Tawaf al-Wida as the last thing before leaving (Makkah), except the menstruating women who were excused.

“ - Hadith | Bukhari



Hajj Mabroor!