



1280 Finch Ave. West | Suite 307
Toronto, ON M3J 3K6
Tel: (416) 873-8918
Fax: (416) 667-0304
info@sacredtours.ca

April 26, 2011

TROID – FIVE PILLAR UMRA & DAWRA
Masjid Furqan
Toronto, ON

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Bismillah. Assalamu Alaykum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakatuh. Alhamdulillah Rabil Alameen, was Salatu wa Salamu ala Rasulillah.

Inshallah in just a few days you will be departing to make Umra, and to participate in the FIVE PILLAR DAWRA program. Sacred Tours is honored to be able to assist in putting together this historic journey and milestone in your life. May Allah (SWT) accept your Umra and allow you to benefit from the lessons that you will be attending at the feet of some of the great living Shuyukh of our time.

We thank you for your continued patience and we apologize for not sending this out to you earlier. The information presented here is meant to answer some of the questions that are common to everyone. Should you have any questions of a specific nature please forward them to me.

TORONTO GROUP FLIGHT DETAILS:

Departure:	Turkish Airlines Flt # TK 18	May 2	Toronto – Istanbul	DEP2350pm	ARR 1640pm
	Turkish Airlines Flt# TK 98	May 3	Istanbul – Madinah	DEP2305pm	ARR 0225am
Return:	Turkish Airlines Flt# TK 97	May 16	Jeddah – Istanbul	DEP0450am	ARR 0835am
	Turkish Airlines Flt # TK 17	May 16	Istanbul – Toronto	DEP1130am	ARR 1540pm

TORONTO GROUP:

Please note that your flight is going to land in Madinah where you will clear customs, be processed and then bused to Makkah. You will stop at the MIQAT to put on your Ihram, and proceed by Bus to Makkah.

NEW YORK GROUP FLIGHT DETAILS:

Departure:	Luhftansa Flt #LH405	May 2	New York – Frankfurt	DEP2140pm	ARR 1120am
	Luhftansa Flt #LH652	May 3	Frankfurt – Jeddah	DEP1235pm	ARR 1905pm
Return:	Luhftansa Flt #LH653	May 16	Jeddah – Frankfurt	DEP0230am	ARR 0715am
	Luhftansa Flt #LH400	May 16	Frankfurt – New York	DEP1025am	ARR 1245pm

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ETICKETS:

Your individual e-ticket will be sent to your personal email address.

BAGGAGE ALLOWANCE:

Passengers are allowed two (2) pieces of luggage, not more than 22kg each. You are also allowed one Carry-on luggage at 8kg each. Please check your respective Airline website to verify what you may and may not pack in your bags, and what is allowed to be packed on your carry-on.

Please print your name and home address clearly on all pieces of luggage. We also advise that you check your luggage to your final destination. Travel Light.

CARRY-ON LUGGAGE:

In your carry on you should pack all of your medicine, Ihram (for men), Slippers, and a change of clothes in the event that your luggage gets delayed or lost. Please remember all liquids, creams and gels must be less than 100ml, and be in clear zip-locked bags. Only large baby safety pins are allowed to keep your Ihram garments (subject to airport security approval), otherwise no razors or nail clippers allowed.

VISA UPDATE:

Alhamdulillah all of the passports endorsed with Umra Visas were returned to all of the US citizens already. In Canada the passports were submitted to the Saudi Consulate in Ottawa a little over three weeks ago. Today we were advised that they will be ready on April 27, 2011 for pick-up InshaAllah. Those living in Ottawa will be contacted by our Ottawa agent Mr. Shiraz Yakub to arrange a time for pick-up. In Toronto you will be contacted by Myself or one of the administrators from TROID to inform you of the pick-up times. Passports for those outside of Toronto will be sent via FedEx.

Please make three copies of your passport, visa, and ticket. Leave one at home or with relative or friend, and travel with the other two in your carry-on luggage.

PASSPORT HANDLING:

Upon arrival in Makkah your passports will be collected by the group leaders from TROID and our Saudi Agents. Please cooperate by giving them your passport when they ask you for it. It will be kept safely for you and returned to you prior to departure by the leaders from TROID or our Saudi Agent.

ARRIVAL PROCEDURES:

1. Listen to your group leader and follow his instructions.
2. Complete the Umra Landing card given to you by the Flight Attendant.
3. Collect all belongings from the plane and head to the bus going to the terminal. Be patient.
4. At the terminal regroup and wait for the group leader to take you to the immigration line for processing. Be patient.
5. Men will be processed in one line, women taken to a room. They will ask you for your passport and landing card. Be polite. Be patient. Men are subject to finger printing and Iris scans. Be patient.
6. After being processed by immigration, you will go to another gate where he will verify that his friend did his job right. Be patient.
7. You will now get your luggage. When you get your luggage wait until the group leader signals everyone to leave together. (If any item of your luggage is lost please report it immediately)
8. Your luggage may then be scanned. You will have to show your passports again to another agent who only wishes to make sure that the previous two agents did their job right. Be patient.
9. When you are let out into the terminal stay together with the group.
10. The group leader will collect you passports and go to the Tasheel Office (this is usually immediately on the left when you exit into the general terminal) to register you with our agents. This can take approximately 45 minutes to 1hr. At this time you can use the washroom, grab a snack, and wait for the Airport authorities to allow the bus to pick you up.
11. You will then board and head to Makkah inshallah.

HOTELS:

Makkah: The Makkah hotel has been upgraded to the Dar al-Ghufran Tower, part of the Safwa Royal Orchid Hotel group. This hotel is directly in front of the King Abdul Aziz gate. This is a five star hotel. Your stay includes Bed N' Breakfast. Breakfast is served after Fajr to 10:00am.
<http://www.alhijaztours.com/hajj-a-umra/hotels/makka/89-al-safwa-royal-orchid-makka>

Madinah: The Madinah hotel is the Elaf al-Huda. Being only one year old this hotel is just beside the Anwar al-Madina Movenpic, and a 4 minute walk to the Haram. Recently upgraded to a four star hotel. Your stay includes Bed N' Breakfast. Breakfast is served after Fajr to 10:00am.
<http://www.elafgroup.com/elafgroup/Default.aspx?PID=65&LANG=EN>

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Please note that the rating guide is as per the Ministry of Hajj, not International rating standards.

SPENDING MONEY:

The Saudi currency is called the Saudi Riyal (SR). Travel with US or Canadian Dollars. You can find money changers (Saraf) all over. In Makkah there is one on the street outside the hotel, in Madinah there are two that are at the main gates of the Haram. Just ask for the Saraf, and you'll be directed there. Larger bills get a better exchange. Do not take travelers checks. Do not expect shop owners to have Credit or Debit Card machines. It is predominantly a cash society when it comes to shopping and food.

Never pack your money in your luggage, it could get lost.

FOOD:

Your package includes breakfast buffet at both hotels. The breakfasts carry the general staple of breads, cereals, eggs, breakfast meats, salads, juice and tea. Food from the hotel buffets are usually prepared fresh and generally safe to eat.

There are many restaurants, fast food outlets, and hotel buffets that you can choose to eat from for Lunch and Dinner. If you choose to buy from street vendors don't buy food that has been left sitting in the heat, buy food that is freshly cooked.

The average meal costs about 15SR (\$5).

MEDICINE:

We recommend that you carry some cold and flu medicine, as well as some Ibuprofen for headaches and pains. In addition we also recommend stomach medicine for diarrhea, vomiting, gas, and acid. Depending on your immunity, we also sometimes suggest that you see your physician to get a prescription for an anti-biotic. It is advisable that you consult your physician prior to travel always.

CELL PHONES:

You can buy a simply unlocked cell phone and SIM card for about \$45US. Incoming calls are free, so you can call home once, give them the number and have them call you when they need to. Otherwise you can take an unlocked phone and try your luck with a SIM card purchased. Roaming fees are enormous. If you need to be in contact with people back home we suggest buying a SIM card and phone. One past client had \$1200.00CAD phone bill when they returned home due to all of the roaming charges.

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PACKING LIST:

Travel light. Take the bare essentials. Underwear; undershirts; deodorant (when not in Ihram); comfortable sandals or running shoes; sunglasses; prescription eye glasses; two to three changes of clothes. A small bag to keep your footwear with you in the Haram. Toothbrush and toothpaste. Extra clothes for children. It is very hot so cotton is your best choice.

Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,
Arif Assim
Tour Administrator
Sacred Tours - GT Tours
Toronto, ON