

FIVE PILLARS 'UMRAH TOURS & ISLAMIC SEMINARS SERIES

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UMRAH GUIDELINES

As-salaamu 'alaikum wa rahmatullaahi wa barakaatuh,

We pray you are well and we ask Allaah to make your forthcoming 'Umrah a success and may Allaah accept it from you. Indeed the Messenger, *salallaahu alaihi wassallaam*, stated: **"One who comes to this House, and avoids all lewdness and sins, he returns as if it was the day his mother gave birth to him (i.e. free from sins)."**

We have your passports and tickets ready NOW. Please arrange collection from us before travel from the Salafi Bookstore in Birmingham. We prefer not to post, but can do so if you wish to cover the cost of postage and package (Special Delivery) of £6.

ITINERARY:

Departure: Sunday 1-May-11: Heathrow Terminal 4. Flight: SV 116W Check-in: 17:45 Depart: 20:45.
Jeddah Arrival: 04:40 2-May-11.

Coach to Madinah: Departs from Makkah Hotel 13:15 on Sunday 8-May.

Coach to Jeddah: Departs from Madinah Hotel 05.00 on Sunday 15-May.

Return: Sun 15-May: Jeddah Flight: SV 115W Check-in: 10am Depart: 13:00 London Arrival: 17:40.

Please refer to Tour Guides 1 day before travel to confirm coach times.

The hotels:

Makkah is Saraya Eiman: Breakfast is included, times to be confirmed on arrival (usually 6am-9am).

Madinah hotels are Anwar Movenpick & Markaz Madinah Residential Towers: Please Note: The 'Lecture Series' will take place at the Anwar Movenpick in the allocated conference room, please ask guides for further information upon arrival.

Your hotel, room and coach allocations are with the Tour Guides, please refer to them and please stick to the allocations.

Please keep with you the room number and a business card of the hotel once you have checked into the hotel. Please make sure that your children always have these details on their person, in Arabic and English, incase they wander off without you noticing!

WE ADVISE YOU WITH THE FOLLOWING IMPORTANT POINTS:

1. Please learn the rites of 'Umrah well before embarking upon this journey. This includes the conditions of Ihraam and its regulations – Remember for men: No socks, no hats, no underwear. Women: Normal clothing but no tied niqaab, no gloves – it is permissible to hang a face cover from the *jilbaab* over the face. Menstruating or women in post-natal bleeding should take the Ihraam as normal but avoid making *tawaaf* until they are pure. If you have any further questions regarding your 'Umrah or Ihraam or other related issues please do not hesitate to ask one of our guides who are well-versed with the *Fatawa* of the Scholars. Please

know that it IS NOT from the 'Umrah to visit Madeenah. It is also an innovation to make a journey to visit the grave of the Prophet, *salallaahu alaihi wassallam*.

2. Please make sure that you have all the documentation you need for your journey: Valid passports and e-tickets. Please keep them safe at all times. This is your responsibility and Five Pillars cannot take responsibility for your documentation or valuables.

3. Please take with you enough money and clothing to last you the whole journey. Food is cheap as is clothing in Saudi so you do not need a great deal of money. We recommend that you do not carry large amounts of money on your person in case of loss or theft – if you need more money whilst you are in Makkah or Madeenah, there are numerous ATM Cash Machines which dispense money for almost all cash-point cards. If you are traveling in a family group then spread the cash amongst the adults of your group. Please keep your valuables secure at all times, to avoid loss, even whilst you are in the hotels.

4. Travel light. You do not need to 'over-pack' – there are numerous cheap laundries and dry cleaners that are within reach of the hotels. You weight limit is strictly 30kg. Do not exceed this weight limit as the airline will issue financial penalties. Hand luggage is 7kg, must not exceed length 56cm (22in), width 45cm (18in) and depth 25cm (10in). Also Saudi Air allows 10 ltr Zam Zam water per person.

5. It is very hot in Saudi this time of year. You may need to consider the following: sun-block creams, sunglasses and moisturizing lotions. **Please, please always keep drinking water, even if you don't feel thirsty – dehydration is real danger in hot countries.** Water will keep your body healthy and mind active. And what is better than the water of Zamzam?! **Watch over the health of any children with you, keep a bottle of water with you at all times for the children, giving them regular sips.** If you take medicine regularly, make sure you take a sufficient supply with you.

6. Please be punctual throughout the whole trip. Any flights, cars or coaches you miss due to lateness or absence are completely your own responsibility and we cannot be held responsible nor can we compensate you for any loss incurred.

7. This tour has been arranged to the best of our ability. Nevertheless, it is possible, as with every human being that we can fall short. We ask, in advance, that you forgive our shortcomings and aid us and cooperate with us as much as you are able.

8. We will be joined by our Salafi brothers and sisters from Singapore, Canada, U.A.E & USA inshaa Allaah. We hope that the opportunity is taken by all of us to get familiar with our Salafi guests from other countries, indeed, this will be a unique opportunity to meet brothers from all over the world inshaa Allaah.

9. Any other questions, please do not hesitate to ask, we are here to help. We also request that you give us your feedback after the trip, as this will help us improve any further trips inshaa Allaah.

Finally our brother, Abdullillaah Lahmami sent us this request:

"Please can you ask Umrah group that's coming to collect from family and friends any unwanted clothes, shoes and household items - clean, washed and in good condition - for the poor people in Madeenah."

*Jazaakallaahu khair.
Wasalaamu alaikum.*