

The Hajj

Muslim Pilgrimage to Mecca



What is the pilgrimage?

- A special journey to special holy places.
- The **Hajj** is a pilgrimage that Muslims make.
- They make the trip once in their lifetime as it is one of the **five pillars**.
- They follow the first pilgrimage made by Prophet **Abraham** (pbuh) 4000 years ago and later by Prophet **Muhammad**(pbuh).
- The pilgrimage is a journey to God.



Where do the Muslim pilgrims go?

The route of the pilgrim:



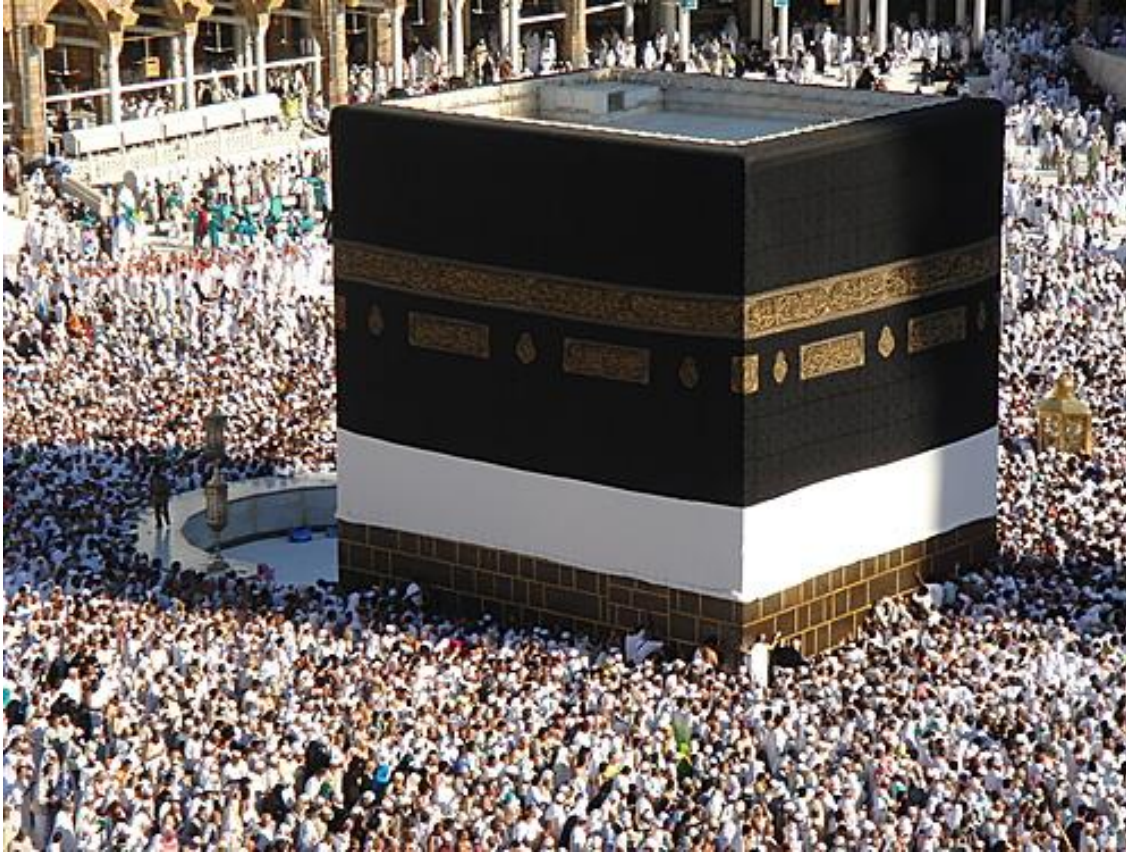
The kabah inside the Sacred Mosque in Mecca

What do they wear?



The cloth of the pilgrim is known as 'ihram'. White cloth is worn so all people are equal, whether rich or poor.

1. The pilgrims visit the Kabah in Mecca and walk around it seven times.



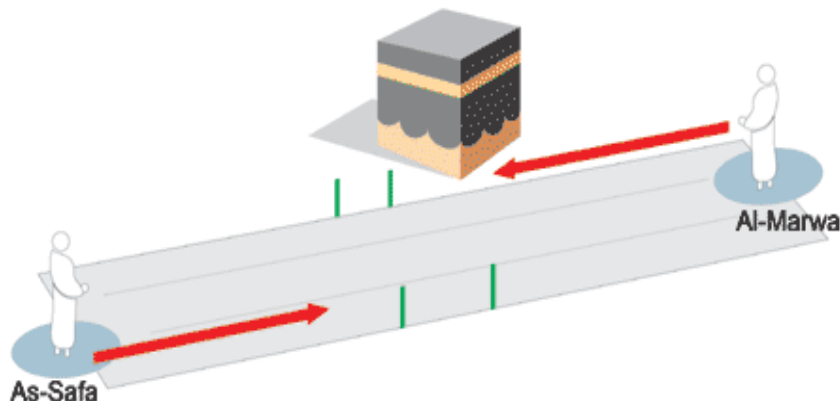
Muslims believe that the Kabah was built by the Prophet Abraham (pbuh) and his son, Ishmail (pbuh) 4000 years ago.

2. They run between two mounts called '**Safa**' and '**Marwa**'.

- This action helps the pilgrims to remember an important person in Muslim history.

Hagar and her son, Ishmail, were left in the desert without water. Hagar was searching for water for her son. The story says that Ishmail dug his heels into the sand and a spring of water gushed forth.

A well still remains here and pilgrims drink from it.



3. They camp in Mina and throw small stones at three stone pillars which symbolise the devil.

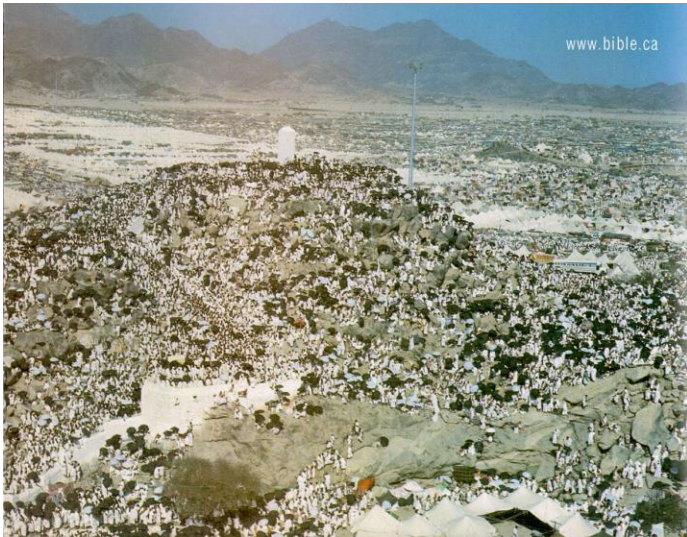


Tents in Mina



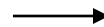
Pilgrims throwing stones at a pillar.

4. All the pilgrims travel to Arafat and after sunset they set off to Muzdalifah.



Plain of Arafat showing the 'Mount of Mercy' on the main Hajj day.

Spending the night in the open at Muzdalifah with all the other pilgrims.



5. The men shave their hair and sacrifice an animal as performed by the prophet Abraham (pbuh).

This day is known as Eid-ul-Adha.

Finally the pilgrims return to Mecca to the kabah and circle it seven times again.



Hajj Glossary

Arafat: A plain in the desert where pilgrims spend the day asking for forgiveness.

Eid-ul-Adha: The festival at the end of the Hajj.

Hajj: The pilgrimage to Mecca and the fifth pillar of Islam.

Hajja: Woman who has completed the Hajj.

Hajji: Man who has completed the Hajj.

Ihram: Clothes worn by pilgrims. The two sheets worn by male pilgrims.

Kabah: The cubic building built by the Prophet Abraham(pbuh) situated at the centre of the Sacred Mosque in Mecca.

Mecca: One of the holy cities of Islam in Saudi Arabia.

Mina: A campsite in the desert 9 miles from Mecca. Pilgrims throw stones at the three pillars here.

Pilgrimage: A special journey to a holy place, for religious purposes

Safa, Marwa: Two mounts between which pilgrims run - situated inside the Sacred Mosque.

Tawaf: ritual circling of the Kabah in an anti clockwise direction.