

Hajj Assistance Services Inc.
22 Mobray Place
Brampton Ont
L6W 4M5
905 454 0555
647 444 5550

Hajj Assistance Services Inc. is an affiliate of Hajj Assistance Committee, a worldwide organization which has served pilgrims for Hajj since the early 1980s. This year, for the Hajj of 2019/1440AH, Hajj Assistance Committee has made arrangements to cater for 240 pilgrims from the United Kingdom, Canada, and the United States of America.

Itinerary

Our dates are confirmed from July 27th – August 17th. The flight details are as follows:

July 27th – Toronto to Frankfurt departure on Lufthansa LH471 at 6:20PM

July 28th – Arrive in Frankfurt at 8AM, Layover, Depart to Jeddah at 2:10PM

July 28th – Arrive in Jeddah at 8:40PM, **Proceed to Madinah via Bus after Immigration**

August 17th – Jeddah to Frankfurt departure on Lufthansa at 1:10AM

August 17th – Arrive in Frankfurt at 5:55AM, Layover, Depart to Toronto at 1:50PM

August 17th – Arrive in Toronto at 4:20PM

There is a special discount add-on fare for those who need to fly to/from Toronto from other cities in Canada to join the group for the Lufthansa Hajj flights. Please contact me for more information if this will apply to you.

Hotels

Madina: Movenpick (Southside) located at 5 minutes' walk from Haram.

Makkah: Ajwad Al Ajyaad (Al Rawdha Hotel) located 7-10 Minute walk from Al Masjid Al Haram

Movenpick is at least a 4-star hotel and we will be staying here for the duration of our stay in Madina. Arrangements have been made for 2 meals a day and we will have 4 people per room. The hotel in Makkah is a modest accommodation where the maximum number of

people per room will be 4. We have been using this hotel for many years. Its closeness to the Holy Mosque and our ability to rent out the entire hotel for our group has made this a great choice to suit the needs of our pilgrims. Gents and Ladies will be separated by floors where possible.

Tentative Itinerary in Saudi Arabia.

Our plan is to spend four-five days in Madina. Based on the Islamic Calendar the Saudis follow, we will depart for the plains of Arafat on the evening of the 8th Dhul-Hijjah (approx. 9th August), and will complete the Hajj (InshAllah) on the 13th of August after Dhuhr Adhaan.

Visitations (Ziarat) of the surrounding areas in Makkah and Madina will be scheduled during our stay, as well as hajj preparatory lectures.

Arafat and Mina tents.

We anticipate that our tent locations will be in camps reserved and occupied by North American or UK pilgrims.

The distance from our camp in Mina to Jamaraat (where we strike pebbles on the Shaitan as part of Hajj rituals), is always a subject of great interest. Our camp will probably be located a one-hour walk to the Jamaraat. In comparison to what is usually referred to as VIP tents, which is located 15-20-minute walk from Jamaraat, the cost differential is one which all volunteers of HAC find unjustifiable. If a pilgrim is prepared to walk 7 times between the mountains of Saffa and Marwa or perform the Tawaf of the Holy Ka'aba in very crowded conditions, the walk from our camp in Mina to the Jamaraat should be easily manageable, especially since the Saudis have created one-way walking lanes. It is certainly advisable for pilgrims who are not used to walking, to get their sneakers out and start walking every day. There is going to be a lot of walking. Besides benefitting your health, you will be in good shape to complete all rituals of Hajj in a very satisfying way.

Registration and liability issues.

All pilgrims who decide to join us for Hajj are required to fill out a registration form and send it to us with a deposit of \$4500 CDN. **If you can pay the full amount, we will appreciate.** We have already invested a substantial amount of money to secure the most important venues for our journey. Loans from HAC well wishers and personal resources have financed these reservations, and your deposits will allow us to start taking care of some of these obligations, as well as replenish our cash reserves for paying future installments. Our credibility is an extremely important asset without which we would not be able to organize this trip. Your timely payment is helping us to maintain the integrity of our organization for future Hajj.

The liability limitation is an important issue, and standard procedure for all groups who organize the Hajj from Canada. While our organization operates for reasons other than financial profits, we cannot operate by exposing ourselves to financial losses on aspects of this trip that are completely out of our control. At the same time, we do not want to penalize or profit from pilgrims who have to cancel their journey due to extenuating circumstances. In the unlikely event of a cancellation, we will do what we can to minimize losses. All of you should know that the airfares are non-refundable, and the agencies who we have engaged to process our visas, will not refund any money once the visas are issued. Similarly, hotel cancellations are also subject to rules governed by the Saudi rules and hotel management, which can result in minimal or no refund at all. We encourage you to purchase travel insurance if you feel that it will provide you with a sense of comfort.

By **March 15th** we will be asking for full payments and all necessary documents to begin the preparation for visa processing.

Additional Expenses

Although our package price is comprehensive and includes the Hajj fees and Qurbani, we are frequently asked about the need for additional funds so that pilgrims can estimate how much money to take with them. The following is a brief list of what may be needed depending on individual needs: (Exchange Rate Approximately 1 USD = 3.70 SR

-Laundry costs. There are plenty of laundry facilities near the hotels and most of them will return the laundry within 24 hrs or more during the rush days. Approximately 200 SR should suffice.

-Taxi/Cab fares: Whilst in Mina, pilgrims will have to go to Makkah to refresh themselves at the hotel and to perform the obligatory Tawafs and Sae'e. Since pilgrims will elect to perform these rituals at different times depending on the levels of energy, it is a huge logistical challenge to arrange transportation from Mina to Makkah. On the 12th of Dhulhijjah, when Hajj is completed InshAllah, the journey from Mina to Makkah is one that all pilgrims remember the most. What usually takes a half hour in mediocre traffic may take 8-12 hours, or even more depending on the year. What has worked for us in previous years, is that we were all able to go to Makkah after midnight on the 11th, perform our obligatory rituals, and walk back to the Jamaraat from Makkah, and return back right after Dhuhur. The entire group participated except for the elderly and the infirm. This was well accepted by the pilgrims and is encouraging us to repeat this for this year as well. Details of all this will become clear when the logistics are discussed during the trip.

Personal needs: Pilgrims always forget something or lose an essential item of personal need. Keep some funds aside for these, and the price of most items are usually cheaper or the same as the cost in USA.

Shopping: The amount to be set aside for this is at the discretion of the pilgrim. Please bear in mind the weight limits on airlines.

Documents to have ready for visas.

Saudi visa requirements are as follows:

- Passports with validity of at least 6 months from the Hajj season i.e. should be valid at least past March 2020. Each passport must have 6 blank pages for visas. (At least 2 adjacent blank pages).
- Filled out Saudi Visa application form. This will be provided later.
- Photographs with **white background**. Ladies should NOT wear a light-colored scarf for this picture as the contrast will be needed.
- **Notarized** copy of Marriage certificate for women traveling with their husbands. This must be translated if in other language and has to be a document from the government. The document from the jamaat office will not suffice.
- Copy of Birth certificates for women traveling with their father or brother. (Brother's birth certificate will also be needed and on the birth certificates the names of the parents must be noted)
- Notarized Mahram letter where applicable. (We will provide the sample)
- Copy of Meningitis vaccine certificate.
- Tickets (we will provide this).
- For notarization of all the documents we have a list of lawyers who have been very helpful. In case if you have one you can get it done elsewhere.

For registration, we need your application form, the deposit of \$4500 CDN, and the copy of the passport page with all the information on it.

Religious training for Hajj and scholars accompanying the group.

Our scholars have put together a website in which materials from various sources have been compiled for the benefit of those who will be going to Hajj. Please visit 'hajjguide.org' and download or listen/read online. In addition, there will a series of lectures in Medina and Mecca to refine and get pilgrims ready for the rituals of Hajj. Sheikh Abbas Jaffer, and Sheikh Akil Karim, are the main scholars who have led the team for spiritual guidance for

many years. Almost every year, we are joined by other scholars from Qum who gladly assist the group in this regard.

There will be a Hajj seminar and webinar organized by the group, which we encourage all of you to attend. The interactive nature of these gatherings will provide opportunities for answering specific questions. These sessions will be conducted in ample time before departure inshallah. We will announce the dates and time at a future date. If you will be out of town during this time, please do listen in online.

Despite what pilgrims may feel about the level of preparation before embarking on this great journey, with the help of the Almighty, everyone is able to complete the obligations of Hajj. The 'acceptance' of Hajj is a different story because it requires individual struggle. Who and what do we want to become after performing Hajj? What changes do we desire in ourselves? Have we been honest in acknowledging our vices and weaknesses? Etc. The topics of discussions amongst the pilgrims are intriguing, and many will find the meaning of their personal Hajj during these forums.

And finally....

PRAY, PRAY, PRAY!!!! May Allah SWT include us amongst the Hujjaj this year (Ameen). It is only by His invitation we will be able to go for Hajj.

The intention of Hajj opens the gates of God's mercy. Imam Baqir (AS) was quoted as saying, "When a man intends to go on Hajj, for every step he takes in preparing for his journey Allah will write ten good deeds for him and will write off ten of his wrongdoings and will elevate his scales until he completes his preparatory affairs."