



Hajj 2019 Supplemental Information



This is a compilation of some helpful information to be used if deemed necessary by each pilgrim. It is by no means comprehensive, but rather, a practical guide to address some of the frequently asked questions before and during the trip.

Supplication books and other spiritual aids.

HAC/HAS will provide 2 Hajj booklets which will contain all relevant supplications in Arabic as well as with English translations. The booklets contain Ziyarats of Madina, Ziyarats of Mecca, and Dua of Arafah.

Additionally, many of these supplications/duas can be downloaded on your smartphones, or tablets, and can be carried into the Holy sites. There are various Apps that are available which are designed specifically for Hajj.

Wi-Fi Accessibility

Both hotels have Wi-Fi services although it is only available in the lobby area and sometimes the signals are weak. If internet is needed, one is better off buying a data package from their phone company or buy the service in Saudi Arabia. Unlocked phone is needed.

Telephone Services

There is NO telephone services in the hotels. Generally, most people will purchase a local Saudi sim and use this with an unlocked phone. Charges are only incurred for outgoing calls. Alternatively, one can purchase an international package from their local carrier. The first option is cheaper.

It is possible that calls through WhatsApp, Viber and similar companies may be blocked during the hajj days.

Laundry Facilities

Laundromats are located close to both hotels in Makkah and Madina. They can usually return clothes within 24 hrs. However, it can take longer and be expensive as we approach the days closer to the of 8th Zilhajj. Cost is comparable to what we would pay in our home countries. Smart packing can be valuable.



Hajj 2019 Supplemental Information



Money Exchange

Money exchange facilities are accessible near our hotels. Usual exchange rate would range from 3.70 - 3.75 Saudi Riyals for one US dollar. Canadian dollars and British pounds are widely accepted at the foreign exchange facilities.

Shopping

There are countless vendors and stores in Madinah and Makkah located on both roads and within malls. Most stores generally accept Saudi riyals or US dollars. Credit cards are accepted in jewelry (gold) or watch stores. Please note vendors may add an extra two to three percent when using a credit card. Please do not bring your complete wallets including your driver's license and full sets of credit cards. At the most carry one credit card.

Medications

All prescribed medication must be carried in person (in your hand luggage throughout the trip) by each pilgrim. In addition, a list of all medications and dosage must be available in the event any medicine is lost or damaged. A short medical history letter for those who are taking multiple prescription drugs will be very helpful to the group physicians when treatment is needed during the trip.

Medical Clinics

Throughout the trip we have a medical clinic that is run by doctors that are from our group. Clinics will be open once or twice a day and timings will be announced when we arrive. A humble request to please respect the timings. We generally have male doctors accompanying us, unless there is a female hujjaj doctor. If by any chance one of your roommates is ill and have not been seen by the doctor, we ask you to please inform the volunteers. Generally, a female patient should be accompanied by another female. We hope by now you all have filled out the medical forms. This will ease the process if there is any emergency.

Electric Adapters

In this high-tech electronic age, the need for recharging phones and electronic items etc. has become a routine part of traveling concerns. Please purchase an international adaptor which can fit into electrical sockets in the hotels and allow the usage of electronics in the 110-220v voltage. During our stay in Arafat and Muzdalifah, there are no sockets available to charge any phones or tablets. Within the tents in Mina sockets are available although are very limited in number. As such we would recommend the purchase of a power bank which would allow you to be able to charge your devices easily. Power banks can be shared amongst one another.



Hajj 2019 Supplemental Information



Meals

During our stay in Madinah we will be provided with two meals, breakfast and dinner. In Makkah, three meals a day are provided by the group, breakfast, lunch and dinner. These meals are freshly cooked daily and consist of an Indian and Pakistani menu. In addition to this, in both Madinah and Makkah there are numerous fast food restaurants located nearby across the Haram within the shopping malls. During our stay in Arafat and Mina, as part of our package the Saudi government via the organizers provide us with three meals a day. In Mina, you may find a few road vendors selling fresh fries, eggs or paratha. No meals are provided in Muzdalifah due to the duration of time, rather tea and biscuits are sold.

Weather

As Hajj season falls during the summer months, the weather is extremely hot and humid throughout the trip. It is highly advisable to make sure you are always hydrated. Please always carry a bottle of water and a spray bottle with you wherever you go. Depending on the individual, Gatorade powders and/or energy drinks may also help stay hydrated and energized. Personal cooling fans and cooling towels would come in handy.

Valuable Items

Valuable items such as money and electronics are safe to stay within the hotel. There are no safes available in either Madinah or Makkah hotel rooms. Please lock your valuable in your suitcases and leave them in your room. Please do not take any valuable items with you to the haram or any outside Ziyarats. Specifically, when we are leaving for Arafat everyone will receive an envelope where they can place any valuables they may have. This will then be taken by the group organizers and placed in a hotel safe and will be returned to you once we come back from Mina.

Safety

When we arrive in Madinah a pouch consisting of respective name badges, a map, a wrist band, hotel cards as well as names and numbers of the volunteers will be given to each individual. It is always vital that this pouch be worn in order to prevent anyone from getting lost. In addition to this we ask that you never leave the hotel or our tents (in Arafat and Mina) alone. It is extremely important that you at least go with one other person and stay with them. When we leave for Makkah as well as for Arafat everyone will be in the state of ehram, wearing white and looking the same. Currently especially with the large crowds of people it is very important that everyone wears their badge. During this time, ladies will be given a neck scarf as an identification scarf to be worn on top of their ehram. Along with personal identification, the group will have a flag which will be carried. We request that you all be very vigilant of all the necessary assets for everyone's safety.

Attendance at Lectures

During our stay in Madinah and Makkah there will be two lectures conducted daily. In Madina we will announce the timings depending on the availability of the hall at the hotel. In Makkah the afternoon lectures will be after Zohr salaah followed by lunch and the evening lecture will be after maghrib salaah followed with dinner. The afternoon lectures in both places will cover fiqh masails and spiritual aspects of Hajj, followed by Q&A. These lectures are very important to attend. Evening lectures will be in the form of majalis covering the history and about the Holy personalities in these Holy cities. In addition, all logistics information will be announced after the lectures. There will be no jamaat salaah conducted as a group in the hotels. We encourage all the Hujjaj to go pray in the Haram.

Weather in KSA

We anticipate the heat to be a major factor in in the next few hajj seasons. Temperatures and relative humidity can make it feel like 120 degrees Fahrenheit, and pilgrims will have to take necessary precautions to remain healthy in order to perform all the hajj obligations satisfactorily.

Drink plenty of fluids. Generally, people avoid drinking water to avoid using the substandard toilet facilities in Arafat and Mina. The consequences of dehydration are worse than what anyone has to tolerate using these facilities. It can have an impact on the ability to complete the hajj, as well as create a huge logistical challenge.

It is advisable to bring with you Gatorade powder, or any similar products for rehydration.

Walking, Walking and Walking

During this spiritual trip there is a lot of walking involved. While the hotels in both Madinah and Makkah are close to the harams, you will be walking a lot back and forth to go to the haram a few times a day for salaah, etc. and in Makkah when performing your Tawaf and Sae, (Sae itself is 3.5 kms.)

Also as discussed in the seminar, there will be lots of walking between Muzdalifa, Mina (to and from Jamarat) and going back to Makkah after performing the last Hajj rituals.

Please refer to the PowerPoint slides sent earlier. Accordingly, please continue to practice walking.

The performers of Hajj and Umra are Allah's guests. If they ask, they will be given, if they pray, they will be answered. If they intercede their intercession will be accepted, if they keep silent, they will be blessed. Imam Sadiq (AS)