



Traveller's Prayer

صلاة المسافر

Objectives >>>

Students should:

- Be introduced to the fact that when we travel under certain conditions, we must shorten our prayer
- Learn the main conditions of a journey that requires us to shorten our prayer
- Understand that a journey that requires us to shorten the prayer, also requires us to break the fast

Traveller's Prayer

In this lesson, we will learn about the rules of prayer when we are on a journey. Under certain conditions, we must shorten our prayer when we are travelling. We call the shortened prayer 'qasr prayer'. We will learn some of these conditions in this lesson.

WHICH PRAYERS ARE SHORTENED?

The following prayers are shortened when we travel:

- Ḍuhr prayer is shortened from 4 rak'āt to 2 rak'āt
- 'Aṣr prayer is shortened from 4 rak'āt to 2 rak'āt
- 'Ishā' prayer is shortened from 4 rak'āt to 2 rak'āt

JURISPRUDENCE

LEVEL 3

The Fajr and Maghrib prayers remain the same.

WHAT ARE THE CONDITIONS FOR SHORTENING THE PRAYER?

If the journey we are taking meets the following conditions, then we need to shorten our prayer:

- Our journey must be longer than 44 kilometres going and coming back. So if the journey is 23 kilometres away from our city and 23 kilometres back, then we must shorten our prayer as described above. We do not necessarily have to come back on the same day or the next day. As long as we are not intending to stay at the place we are travelling to for ten days, we should shorten our prayer. For example, if I am travelling from Sydney to Newcastle, staying in Newcastle overnight and coming back the next day, I should shorten my prayers.
- We must leave the borders of our home city. This means that if we travel more than 44 kilometres, but within Sydney, or Melbourne or any other large city, then we pray normally and do not shorten our prayer, because we have not left the borders of our town. From this rule, you can see that we count the 44 kilometres from the border of our city and not from the door of our house.
- We must not have the intention of staying at the place where we are going to for ten days

or more. If we are staying at the place we are travelling to for ten or more days, then we should pray the full prayer like we normally do. For example, if I am travelling from Sydney to Melbourne and staying in Melbourne for two weeks, then coming back, I should pray normally in Melbourne.

- Our journey must not be ḥarām or for a ḥarām purpose.
 - An example of a ḥarām journey is a journey that our parents have said we are not allowed to make.
 - An example of a journey for ḥarām purposes is to go another city to gamble
- We should not be people who travel regularly. For example, a person who lives in one city but works or studies at another and travels there every day or a few times a week, should pray normally, even if the distance between the two cities is more than the limit for shortening the prayer.

TRAVELLING WHILE FASTING

Very soon we will be learning about fasting and its rules. The rules we learnt about travelling and prayer also apply to fasting. Whenever we are supposed to shorten our prayer, we are not allowed to fast. So if the above conditions apply to our journey, then we are not allowed to fast on that journey and we must break our fast.

Review Questions

- 1. When measuring the distance we are travelling we should start counting from:**
 - a. The door of our house
 - b. The border of our city
 - c. The border of our suburb
- 2. If a person travels to another city and intends to stay there for nine days, he should:**
 - a. Pray normally
 - b. Shorten his prayer
 - c. He does not need to pray
- 3. If a person travels to do something ḥaram in another city, he should:**
 - a. Pray normally
 - b. Shorten his prayer
 - c. Not pray at all