



HAJJ

الحج

JURISPRUDENCE

LEVEL 3

Objectives >>>

Students should:

- Understand that Hajj is a requirement that all Muslims need to fulfil in their lifetime
- Understand the layout of Mecca
- Understand the conditions that must be fulfilled for one to undertake this journey
- Understand the components of Hajj
- Understand that umrah is another obligation
- Understand briefly the significance of visiting Medinah

Aspects Of Hajj

Just like the daily prayers and fasting, Hajj is an obligation upon the Muslims. Hajj is the pilgrimage or journey that a person makes to the holy city of Mecca. Muslims make this journey every year in the month of Dhul Hijjah.

In this lesson, we will discuss a few different aspects of the Hajj.

HAJJ IS A DUTY

It is clear from the Holy Qur'an and the traditions that performance of Hajj is obligatory on every person who has attained puberty and has the means necessary to perform this journey.

Hajj is one of the basic principles of Islam and denying it or rejecting to perform it is major sin. Denial of the obligatory nature of Hajj is equal to disbelief. Allah (SWT) states in the Holy Qur'an:

...وَلِلَّهِ عَلَى النَّاسِ حِجُّ الْبَيْتِ مَنِ اسْتَطَاعَ إِلَيْهِ سَبِيلًا
وَمَنْ كَفَرَ فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ غَنِيٌّ عَنِ الْعَالَمِينَ

"... Hajj to the House (Ka'bah) is a duty that mankind owes to Allah, those who can afford the expenses, and whoever disbelieves then Allah stands not in need of any of the people ". (3:97)

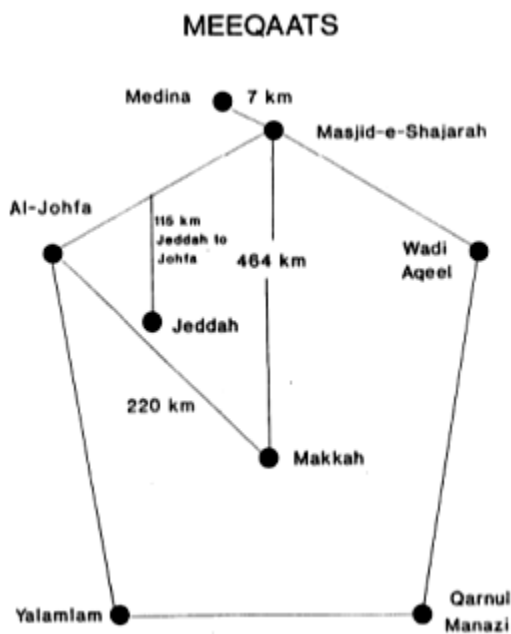
Imam al-Şāadiq (as) has said:

"Whoever dies without having performed obligatory *Hajj* when he was not prevented by lack of means, illness, or force, dies a Jew or a Christian".

Performing the *Hajj* is obligatory on a person only once in their lifetime.

MĪQAT – BOUNDARIES AROUND MECCA

Any person (not present in Mecca) who wishes to come from far to enter Mecca to perform *Hajj*, will have to put on the *Iḥrām* from any one of the following appointed places.



'UMRAH

The *Hajj* journey consists of two main parts:

- The 'Umrah
- The *Hajj* itself

We will discuss the stages of *Hajj* in detail. As for 'Umrah, it simply consists of some of the stages of *Hajj*, and is like a summarised version of *Hajj*. We will learn more about it in future years.

THE STAGES OF HAJJ

Hajj is a Journey that has different stages and places to visit – once all the stages or parts are completed, only then is the *Hajj* complete.

The *Iḥrām*

The *Hajj* begins when a person wears their *Iḥrām*. This is a special type of simple clothing that people performing *Hajj* are required to wear. Once a person wears the *Iḥrām*, a number of things becoming forbidden for them. For example, they cannot look at a mirror or beautify themselves in any way.

STAYING AT 'ARAFAH

The next part of the *Hajj* process is to leave Mecca and stay in a desert outside Mecca called 'Arafah. A person must spend the afternoon of the 9th day of Dhul *Hijjah* in this place. This is the best time to ask Allah (SWT) for forgiveness and for our needs.



STAYING AT MUZDALIFAH

The next step is to stay in a place called al-Muzdalifah between Fajr and sunrise of the 10th day of Dhul *Hijjah*. This is where we collect rocks for the stoning of the pillars.

STONING OF THE PILLARS

On the morning of the tenth day, we head towards Mina, another place on the outskirts of Mecca. Here, on the morning of the 10th, 11th and 12th days, we throw pebbles at a set of three pillars or walls which represent Satan



THE SACRIFICE

Part of performing Ḥajj is to sacrifice an animal and feed its meat to the poor and needy. These days, most people pay to buy an animal and have someone slaughter it on their behalf.

SHAVING OF THE HEAD

After the sacrifice has occurred, men shave their heads, while women cut a small portion of their hair. This is another symbol of a person being freed from their sins. After this, a person can remove their Iḥrām, and most things are permissible for them to do again.

TAWĀF

After shaving the head, we can head back to the Ka'bah in Mecca. Here we must perform Ṭawāf. This means to walk around the Holy Ka'bah seven times, and then perform a two rak'ah prayer at a place called Maqām Ibrāhīm (as). This is the place where this great prophet used to offer prayer to Allah (SWT).



SA'Y

After completing the Ṭawāf, we move to the two hills, Ṣafa and Marwah. Here, we do what Hager, the wife of Prophet Ibrāhīm (as) did thousands of years ago. We walk between the two hills seven times.



ṬAWĀFUL NISĀ'

After completing the walking between the hills, we go back the Ka'bah and perform another seven laps to complete what is called Ṭawāful Nisā'.

STAYING AT MINA

We are required to stay in Mina on the 10th, 11th and 12th days of Dhul Ḥijjah. Once we have done this, and completed all the above actions, our Ḥajj is complete.

THE GEOGRAPHY OF MECCA AND THE PLACES OF IMPORTANCE

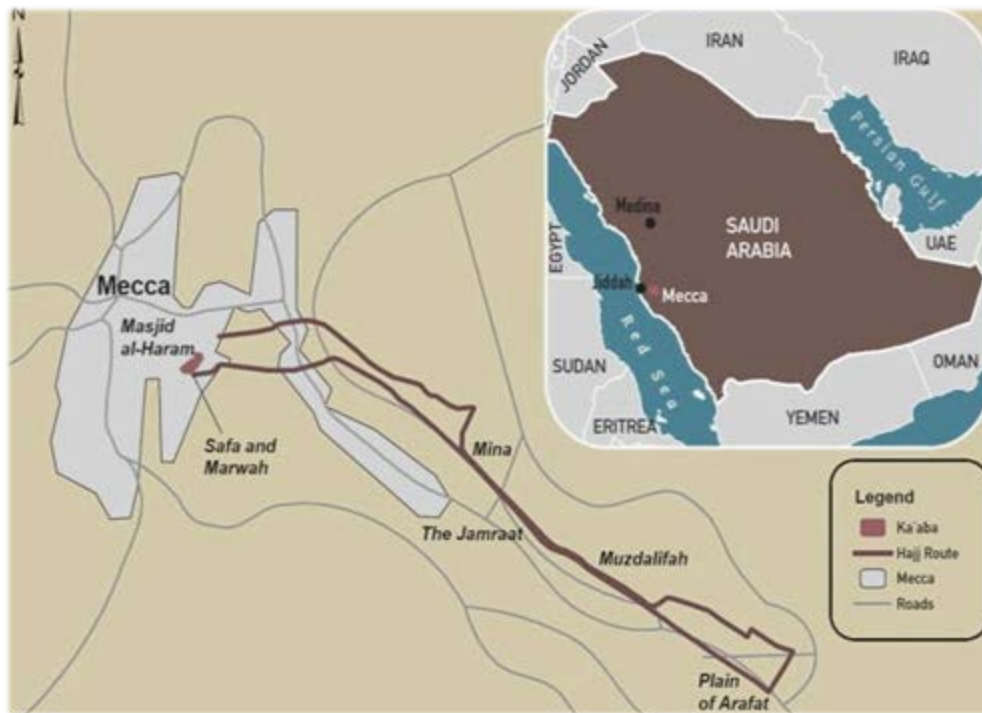
During the Ḥajj, there are a few other places besides the Holy Mosque that pilgrims must visit, as we learnt above.



Masjid al Haram



The Ka'bah



The Plains Around Mecca

WHEN DOES HAJJ BECOME OBLIGATORY?

There are a few conditions that must be met before *Hajj* becomes obligatory:

- The person must be an adult
- The person should have the physical strength and ability to perform *Hajj*
- The person should have sufficient wealth to perform *Hajj*

A person meets all these conditions, then it is obligatory on that person to perform *Hajj*. They are not allowed to delay it for the sake of convenience.

VISITING THE GRAVE OF THE HOLY PROPHET (SAW)

It is highly recommended to visit the grave of the Holy Prophet (saw) and Jannatul Baqī' where four of our Holy Imams (as) are buried. These sites are in the city of Medina, which is not far from Mecca.

When new go to *Hajj*, we usually also visit Medina, to have the honour of visiting the Holy Prophet (saw). There are many hadith that encourage this. For example, Imam al-Reḍā (as) says:

”Then you will visit the tomb of Muḥammad (saw), for the Holy Prophet has said: “Whoever performs the *Hajj* rites but does not visit my grave will be unkind to me.”
And then visit the tombs of the Sayyids (as)”¹

¹Imam al-Reḍā (as) was asked about the reward of visiting the graves of any of the Imams (as). He said:

“He (who visits the grave of any of the Imams) will be rewarded as same as him who visits the tomb of Abu-‘Abdillah (Imam Ḥusayn as). That is Paradise, I swear it by Allah.”¹¹¹

Review Questions

Q1. The *Hajj* Pilgrimage is made up of which two main parts:

- a. *Hajj* and Umrah
- b. Ṣafa and Marwah
- c. Mecca and Medina

Q2. The place where the pilgrims put on the *Iḥrām* before entering Mecca is called:

- a. Mina
- b. Miqāt
- c. ‘Arafah

Q3. Where do the pilgrims throw the stones at the pillars?

- a. ‘Arafah
- b. Mecca
- c. Mina

ⁱ *Fiqh ur-Ridha*

ⁱⁱ References

- Hajj – The Islamic Pilgrimage, by Sayyid Mohammed Zia Abadi , Ansariyan Publications - <http://www.al-islam.org/thehajj/>
- Hajj Rituals (Manasik-e-Hajj), by Ayatullah Sistani - <http://www.saba-igc.org/Hajj/ManasikHaji-Sistani.pdf>
- Holy Qur'an - [al-islam.org/quran](http://www.al-islam.org/quran) & <http://noblequran.com/translation/index.html>

ⁱⁱⁱ *Mustadrak ul-Wasaai*; Kitab al-Hajj, section: Visitation p. 189