



# Traveller's Prayer

## صلاة المسافر

### Objectives >>>

#### Students should:

- Know the fact that we pray 'qaṣr' if we are travelling under certain conditions
- Know the main conditions of qaṣr prayer
- Understand other miscellaneous rules regarding the prayers of a traveller

### Traveller's Prayer

We have learnt in previous classes that in certain situations we have to shorten our prayers when we are travelling. This is called 'qaṣr' prayer. Qaṣr means to shorten the prayer. In this lesson, we will learn the conditions for shortening our prayers when we are travelling.

### Class Activity: Revision Table

#### Fill in the blanks:

| Prayer  | Full | Short (Qaṣr) |
|---------|------|--------------|
| Fajr    |      | 2            |
| Ḍuhr    | 4    | 2            |
| 'Aṣr    | 4    |              |
| Maghrib | 3    |              |
| 'Ishā'  |      | 2            |

### JURISPRUDENCE

### LEVEL 4

### CONDITIONS OF QAṢR PRAYER

There are three major conditions for shortening our prayers:

- We should not be travelling to a place we consider our hometown. For example, Ali's family lives in Sydney and he grew up there and still has a home there and visits regularly. Now, Ali is studying in Melbourne and lives in Melbourne as well. Tomorrow, Ali will be travelling back to Sydney to stay with his family for a week. He does not need to shorten his prayer during this trip, because Sydney is also his home town.
- We should not be staying at the place we are travelling to for more than 10 days. For example, if I live in London but am travelling to New York to stay for two weeks, I do not need to shorten my prayers.
- We should be travelling a distance of more than 44kms on a return journey. For example, if I am leaving my town for 5 days, but going somewhere that is only 10 km's away, I do not need to shorten my prayers.

There are some other conditions that need to be met before a person must offer the shortened prayer:

- 1- One must intend to travel greater than 22km (or 44km round trip) before the journey and should not change his mind on his way.
- 2- The purpose of travelling nor the trip itself should not be ḥarām:

- a. If the parents are unhappy or displeased about a trip that is not obligatory, it is *ḥarām* and therefore one must recite full prayers
  - b. If a person is travelling with the sole intent to avoid an obligatory act (like escaping from creditors) he has to recite the full prayer.
  - c. If one travels with a means of transport that is usurped (for instance khums has not been paid on it) they must pray the full prayer.
- 3- The person should not be a nomad
  - 4- A person should not be a regular traveller. For example, if I live in Sydney but work in Newcastle and travel there 4 days a week every week, then I do not need to shorten my prayer in either city.
  - 5- A person must be leaving the borders of his hometown. For example, if I am travelling more than 44kms from one suburb of my large city (e.g. Sydney) to another without leaving its borders, then I do not need to shorten my prayers.

## OTHER RULES

Here are a few other rules to remember about prayer when we are travelling:

- If a person recites the full prayer when he should be reciting the Qaṣr prayer, his prayer is void, unless he has completely forgotten about being a traveller or he does not know the rules of Qaṣr prayer. If he remembers or learns before the time of prayer runs out, he should repeat his prayer.
- Similarly, if one offers Qaṣr prayer (even if in ignorance) when he was meant to be praying full prayers, his prayers would be void.

Indicate whether the person should pray full prayer or qaṣr (shortened) prayer in the following journeys:

- 1- From his home town to another town 24km away, returning a day later
- 2- From his home town to another town 25 km away and returning 11 days later
- 3- From his home to another suburb in the same city, 40km away.
- 4- From his home town to another town to gamble for 7 days
- 5- From his home town to a town 50km away to study or work for a week

## Review Questions

### 1. What distance do I need to travel before I should shorten my prayers?

- a. 44kms one way
- b. 44kms return journey
- c. 38 kms

### 2. If I live in Sydney and work in Newcastle, and travel back and forth every week, I should:

- a. Always shorten my prayer, in both Sydney and Newcastle
- b. Always pray in full, in both Sydney and Newcastle
- c. Shorten my prayer, only in Newcastle

### 3. I live in Australia and I am travelling to stay in London for two full weeks with my cousins. I should:

- a. Shorten my prayers in London
- b. Pray the full prayer in London
- c. I do not need to pray in London because I am travelling

## Class Activity