

Chapter 15

Hajj

1. Hajj is the fifth pillar out of the five pillars of Islam.
2. We should go for Hajj to please Allah (S.W.T).
3. Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W) taught us how to do Hajj. He did Hajj ten years after he moved to Madinah. He was 60 years old. That Hajj is called the Hajj of farewell.
4. Hajj is the big Pilgrimage and Umra is the small Pilgrimage.
5. Hajj is done in the month of Dhul-Hijjah. It is the 12th month of the Islamic calendar.
6. We should perform Umrah as well which can be done at any time of the year.
7. More than 1 million people go for Hajj every year. We meet Muslims from all over the world. We are so happy to see them.
8. Hajj is the Pilgrimage to Makkah and Arafat.
9. We must go for Hajj if we are healthy and can afford it at least once in our lifetime.
10. We go to Kaba in Makkah for Hajj. We are so happy when we see the Kaba.
11. Hajj teaches us patience and teaches us that we are all equal.
12. Before we go for Hajj, we should make an intention to go for Hajj.
13. Hajj brings us closer to Allah (S.W.T). We recite the Holy Qur'an, pray nafl Salah and make as many duas as we can.
14. We learn the history of Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W) and of Prophet Ibrahim (A.S) when we go for Hajj.
15. Sayyida Hagar (Hajra) (A.S) and Prophet Ismail (A.S) who was a baby, were in Makkah and were very thirsty. Hajra (A.S) was looking for water and ran between two hills called Safa and Marwa seven times. She prayed to Allah (S.W.T) for help and when she got back, she found Zam Zam water under the feet of her baby Ismail (A.S) where he had been hitting the ground with his feet.

16. For this reason, during Hajj we run or walk between the 2 hills 7 times. We also enjoy drinking Zam Zam water.
17. Allah (S.W.T) told Prophet Ibrahim (A.S) to build the Kaba. In the corner of the Kaba there is a black stone called Hajar al-Aswad. Maqam Ibrahim is the place where Prophet Ibrahim (A.S) used to stand while building the Kaba.
18. We can see Prophet Ibrahim's (A.S) footprint in Maqam Ibrahim in the Masjid al-Haram in Makkah.
19. We kiss Hajar al-Aswad or blow a kiss if there is a lot of rush.
20. Prophet Ibrahim (A.S) saw in a dream that he was sacrificing his son, Ismail (A.S). As this was a Command from Allah (S.W.T), he decided to obey the Command, and his son Ismail (A.S) also agreed. On their way, shaitaan tried to stop them and Prophet Ibrahim (A.S) threw stones at him to make him go away. Allah (S.W.T) was pleased with Prophet Ibrahim (A.S) and he was told to sacrifice an animal instead.
21. When we go for Hajj, we say Labbaik Allahumma Labbaik. This is called the Talbiya. It means "Here I am, O Allah, to obey Your Command, here I am."
22. Men wear two unsewn white pieces of clothing called Ihram on Hajj. We become humble in Ihram clothing. Women wear simple clothing.
23. While on Hajj, we should help anyone who needs to be helped.
24. We should recite the Surahs of the Qur'an which we have memorized. This makes us happy.
25. We should not quarrel, especially while we are on Hajj.
26. We walk around the Kaba seven times which is called Tawaf.
27. Once the Tawaf is completed, we pray 2 rakat nafl Salah behind Maqam Ibrahim and drink Zam Zam water.
28. We also run between Safa and Marwa seven times.
29. Once we have done that, men will have their hair clipped or shaved while women will only clip a little of their hair.
30. We should do Tawaf of the Kaba as many times as we can.

31. Once we have completed our Umrah, we start performing Hajj on the 8th of Dhul-Hijjah, by doing Tawaf of the Kaba. Then we travel to Mina.
32. After Fajr Salah in Mina, on the 9th, we go to mount Arafat where pilgrims ask for forgiveness from Allah (S.W.T) and make a lot of dua.
33. On 9th of Dhul-Hijja we have to be in Arafat. This is a must to complete the Hajj. On this day our sins are forgiven by Allah (S.W.T).
34. After sunset, we depart from Arafat and go to Muzdalifah.
35. In Muzdalifah, we pray Maghrib and Isha Salah and collect 49 or more pebbles.
36. After Fajr Salah, the next day on the 10th of Dhul-Hijjah, we leave Muzdalifah and go to Mina where we sacrifice an animal to feed the poor as it is the day of Eid al-Adha. We stop reciting the Talbiya and begin to recite the Takbeeraat of Eid. We then pray Zuhr Salah and throw 7 pebbles at the big pillar in Mina which represents Shaytaan.
37. After we have sacrificed an animal, the men shave their head or cut their hair, and the women clip their hair. Now we come out of Ihram clothing and put on our usual clothes.
38. We then return to Makkah and make Tawaf of the Kaba. This Tawaf is a must. We pray Sunnah Prayer at Maqam Ibrahim, drink the water of Zam Zam, then run between Safa and Marwa 7 times.
39. We then return to Mina, and on the 11th and 12th day, we throw 7 stones at the 3 pillars there which represent Shaytaan.
40. After that, we return to Makkah on the 12th day to make our farewell Tawaf. This is called Tawaf al-wada.
41. After Hajj, we should go to Masjid Nabawi in Madinah where Prophet Muhammad's (S.A.W) resting place is.
42. There, we say Salaams and send blessings on Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W). We also say Salaams to Sayyidina Abu Bakr (R.A) and Sayyidina Umar (R.A). We should also say Salaams to the Family members of the Prophet (S.A.W) and his Companions (R.A) who have been laid to rest in Makkah and Madinah.
43. If we do Hajj, our sins are forgiven by Allah (S.W.T). He is the most Merciful.
44. When we come back from Hajj, we have to avoid sins and continue to be good Muslims.

45. May Allah (S.W.T) bless us all with the opportunity to go for Hajj. Ameen.