Hajj Checklist

From the first application to the flight home

Before you apply (3 to 6 months ahead)

- [ ] Hajj needs an official permit from the Saudi authorities. Register only through your country's official Hajj authority or an officially approved operator. A normal Umrah or tourist visa is not valid for Hajj. Check the current official rules.
- [ ] Choose your group carefully. Ask for the package in writing: flights, hotel in Makkah and Madinah, tent in Mina, transport, food and the scholar who travels with you.
- [ ] Passport valid for at least 6 months after your return date
- [ ] Book your doctor's visit. Get the vaccinations and certificates the current official Hajj health rules ask for, and ask how to manage any long-term condition in the heat
- [ ] Buy travel and health insurance that covers Saudi Arabia
- [ ] Make sure the money for Hajj comes from lawful earnings. Pay back or arrange your debts, and write your will
- [ ] Take a Hajj course and learn the rites. Your group's scholar will teach the way of your school
- [ ] Start walking every day, a little longer each week. Hajj means many hours on your feet
- [ ] Ask people for forgiveness, say goodbye to family, and write your dua list

Documents and money to carry

- [ ] Passport, Hajj permit or visa and the official card or app your group gives you
- [ ] Vaccination certificates and travel insurance papers
- [ ] Flight tickets and the hotel and tent addresses (on your phone and on paper)
- [ ] Copies of all documents, kept in a separate bag from the originals
- [ ] Emergency contacts and your group leader's phone number written on a card you carry
- [ ] Some cash in Saudi riyals in small notes, plus a card that works abroad
- [ ] Phone plan or local SIM, offline maps and a power bank

Ihram and personal items

- [ ] Men: two plain white unstitched cloths for ihram, a second set to change into, and a belt or money pouch
- [ ] Women: loose, modest, ordinary clothes that cover everything except the face and hands. No special ihram dress is needed
- [ ] Sandals that are easy to take off, and a shoe bag
- [ ] Unscented soap, shampoo, toothpaste and deodorant for use in ihram
- [ ] Small backpack for the long days at Arafat and Muzdalifah
- [ ] Light prayer mat, a thin sleeping mat and a small pillow for Muzdalifah
- [ ] Small Quran, dua booklet and notebook
- [ ] Wet wipes, tissues, plastic bags and a small towel
- [ ] Nail clipper and razor, used before you enter ihram

Health and heat

- [ ] Your medicines in the original packs, with a doctor's letter
- [ ] Refillable water bottle, electrolyte sachets and dry snacks
- [ ] Umbrella and a cooling towel for the sun
- [ ] Unscented sunscreen and lip balm (apply before ihram)
- [ ] Face masks for the crowds

Free to print and share. For education only. Ask a qualified scholar about your own situation.

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Health and heat (continued)

- [ ] Blister plasters, foot cream and comfortable walking shoes or sandals
- [ ] Earplugs and an eye mask for sleeping in crowded places

The days of Hajj, in order

- [ ] 8th Dhul Hijjah (Tarwiyah): enter ihram for Hajj with your intention, say the talbiyah often, go to Mina and pray the five prayers there, each at its time, with the four-rak'ah prayers shortened to two
- [ ] 9th (Day of Arafah): go to Arafat and stay from midday until sunset. Standing at Arafat is the essential part of Hajj in all four schools. Spend the time in dua, dhikr and Quran
- [ ] 9th, after sunset: leave Arafat calmly for Muzdalifah, pray Maghrib and Isha there, rest, and collect pebbles
- [ ] Pebbles: take at least 49 small pebbles (about the size of a chickpea), and 70 if you will stay in Mina until the 13th. Bring a few extra
- [ ] 10th (Eid day): after Fajr, go to Mina and throw 7 pebbles at the large Jamarat (Jamrat al-Aqaba)
- [ ] 10th: the sacrifice (hady) is done for you through your group or a trusted service. Confirm it with your group leader
- [ ] 10th: men shave the head (halq) or trim; women trim a fingertip length from the ends of the hair. This ends the main ihram restrictions
- [ ] 10th or after: Tawaf al-Ifadah, and Sa'i if it is still due for you. Go in the quieter hours if you can
- [ ] 11th: after midday, throw 7 pebbles at each of the three Jamarat, in order: small, middle, large. Spend the night in Mina
- [ ] 12th: throw the same 21 pebbles after midday. You may leave Mina before sunset on the 12th, or stay another night and throw again on the 13th
- [ ] Before you leave Makkah: the farewell tawaf (Tawaf al-Wada')

Madinah and the way home

- [ ] Visit the Prophet's Mosque and send salutations on the Prophet, peace be upon him
- [ ] Pray as much as you can in the mosque, and visit Quba Mosque
- [ ] Keep gifts and zamzam within the airline weight limits
- [ ] Thank the people who helped you, and make dua for those who could not come
- [ ] Keep up the good habits you built, and repay anything you owe
- [ ] If you think you missed or changed a step, ask a qualified scholar what to do. Do not guess

My own items

- [ ] _____
- [ ] _____
- [ ] _____
- [ ] _____
- [ ] _____

The four schools explain some details of Hajj differently. Follow your own school or your group's scholar. Permit and health rules change. Check the official sources for your country.