

Halq and Taqsir: Halq means shaving the head, while Taqsir means shortening or clipping of hair. After performing the sacred sacrifice, men pilgrims are advised to get their heads completely shaved or clipped. While forbidden to shave their heads, women are advised to get a strand or lock of their hairs chopped. The act of Halq and Taqsir symbolizes a Muslim's complete devotion to Allah ﷻ and detachment from worldly appearances.

- **Step 7 – Farewell Tawaf:** After completing the ritual, pilgrims return to the Holy Kaaba in Makkah to perform the “Farewell Tawaf,” followed by Sa’I. Though this officially marks the end of Hajj, many pilgrims also visit Madinah before heading home.

Umra

Umrah : Linguistically, means to visit a particular place. In terms of Shariah, Umrah comprises of passing the Miqat in the state of Ihram, performing Tawaf of the Kaaba, doing Sa’i of Safa and Marwa and carrying out Halq (shaving) or Taqsir (shortening) of the hair.

Umrah can be performed throughout the year, although it is disliked to carry out the Umrah during the days of Hajj which take place between the 9th and 13th of Dhul Hijjah. The rites carried out during Umrah also form an integral part of Hajj itself.

Conditions of Umrah

There are a number of conditions that need to be met in order to perform Umrah:

- 1- Islam – you must be Muslim.
- 2- Maturity – you must have reached puberty (Baligh).
- 3- Sanity – you must be mentally sound and in full control of your mental faculties.
- 4- Financially able – you must have sufficient expenses to cover travelling, accommodation and all other requirements during the course of your Umrah.
- 5- Physically able – you must be physically capable of travelling to Makkah and performing the rites of Umrah. You should be free from any illnesses or diseases that would restrict you from doing so.
- 6- Transport – you must have access to and can afford transport to travel to Makkah in order to perform Umrah. Travelling should also be safe i.e. you shouldn't be in any danger of being harmed during your trip.

7- The Necessity of a Mahram (women only) – females must be accompanied by a Mahram.

8- Free from Iddah period (women only) – females must be from their Iddah period, if applicable.

How to perform Umrah

To perform Umrah, a Muslim must follow the following steps:

1. Ihram The first steps in your `Umrah are to put on the clothing of ihram and to make the intention of `Umrah. After making the intention of ihram, It is recommended to chant Talbiyah frequently. Male pilgrims are recommended to raise up their voices when repeating the words of Talbiyah. Males and females repeat Talbiyah until they start Tawaf.

2. Tawaf The first ritual to perform after arriving in Makkah is Tawaf. prepare yourself for Tawaf by performing ghusl (ritual bathing), if possible, or at least wudu' (ablution). For men, it is recommended that you drape the upper piece of ihram over your left shoulder only, exposing the right one. This is called Idhtiba`. On entering the Sacred Mosque (Al-Masjid Al-Haram), now you are ready to start Tawaf.

Tawaf involves walking around the Ka`bah seven times. Each round starts and ends with the Black Stone, with the Ka`bah being on your left side. In the first three rounds, males are recommended to jog from the Black Stone to the Yemeni corner, the third of the Ka`bah's corners and the one preceding the Black Stone. After finishing Tawaf, pray two rak`ahs behind Maqam Ibrahim (the Station of Ibrahim) or a little bit away from it. It is recommended that you drink Zamzam water after you have finished Tawaf and the two-rak`ah prayer.

3. Sa`i The next step in your `Umrah is to make Sa`i between As-Safa and Al-Marwah mounts. You need not climb to their top. You just have to walk back and forth the full distance between these two points. If any part of this distance is left untraversed, the Sa`i will remain incomplete.

This requires ascending even a small part of both mounts, but it is recommended that you go up until you are able to see the Ka`bah. Start performing the Sa`i by walking from As-Safa to Al-Marwah. If you are a male, it is recommended that you hasten between the two green signs. On reaching Al-Marwah, ascend it, face the Ka`bah.

Repeat the same steps in each of the seven parts. Going from As-Safa to Al-Marwah is reckoned as one part, and the return to Al-Safa is another part. Sa'i, therefore, begins with Al-Safa and ends at Al-Marwah.

4. Shaving or Cutting the Hair Just one step is remaining, that is shaving or cutting the hair on your head. If you are a male, you should have your hair either completely shaved or shortened. If you intend to make Hajj shortly after `Umrah (tamattu` mode), you are advised to shorten your hair because you are going to shave or shorten it as part of your Hajj. If you are a female, you should shorten your hair slightly.

Allah ﷻ Almighty says about Umrah:

“And complete the Hajj and ‘umrah for Allah. But if you are prevented, then [offer] what can be obtained with ease of sacrificial animals. And do not shave your heads until the sacrificial animal has reached its place of slaughter. And whoever among you is ill or has an ailment of the head [making shaving necessary must offer] a ransom of fasting [three days] or charity or sacrifice. And when you are secure, then whoever performs ‘umrah [during the Hajj months] followed by Hajj [offers] what can be obtained with ease of sacrificial animals. And whoever cannot find [or afford such an animal] – then a fast of three days during Hajj and of seven when you have returned [home]. Those are ten complete [days]. This is for those whose family is not in the area of al-Masjid al-Haram. And fear Allah and know that Allah is severe in penalty” (Qur’an 1:196)

﴿وَأَتِمُّوا الْحَجَّ وَالْعُمْرَةَ لِلَّهِ فَإِنْ أُحْصِرْتُمْ فَمَا اسْتَيْسَرَ مِنَ الْهَدْيِ وَلَا تَحْلِقُوا رُءُوسَكُمْ حَتَّى يَبْلُغَ الْهَدْيُ مَحَلَّهُ فَمَنْ كَانَ مِنْكُمْ مَرِيضًا أَوْ بِهِ أَذًى مِنْ رَأْسِهِ فَفِدْيَةٌ مِنْ صِيَامٍ أَوْ صَدَقَةٍ أَوْ نُسْكَ فَإِذَا أُمِنْتُمْ فَمَنْ تَمَتَّعَ بِالْعُمْرَةِ إِلَى الْحَجِّ فَمَا اسْتَيْسَرَ مِنَ الْهَدْيِ فَمَنْ لَمْ يَجِدْ فَصِيَامُ ثَلَاثَةِ أَيَّامٍ فِي الْحَجِّ وَسَبْعَةٍ إِذَا رَجَعْتُمْ تِلْكَ عَشْرَةٌ كَامِلَةٌ ذَلِكَ لِمَنْ لَمْ يَكُنْ أَهْلَهُ حَاضِرِي الْمَسْجِدِ الْحَرَامِ وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَاعْلَمُوا أَنَّ اللَّهَ شَدِيدُ الْعِقَابِ﴾ [البقرة: