The journey begins...
Special edition
marking Hajj 2019
Dreams become reality on road to Makkah

The rites and rituals of the Hajj pilgrimage offer a unique opportunity for worship and spiritual renewal.

1. **Mina**: After Arafat, one more day of prayer and worship is spent in Mina. It is a flat, open area with several mountains in the background.

2. **Arafat**: On the plains of Arafat, pilgrims gather to listen to the khutbah (sermon) and perform the.Tree climbing ceremony. The area is marked by the site where the Prophet Muhammad delivered his farewell sermon.

3. **Muzdalifah**: This area is known for its natural beauty and spiritual significance. It is where the Prophet Muhammad performed the Stoning of the Devil ritual.

4. **Arafat**: On the day of Arafat, pilgrims gather to perform the Day of Arafat rituals, including the Stoning of the Devil.

5. **Mina**: The Stoning of the Devil ritual is repeated here, symbolizing the devil's defeat.

6. **Muzdalifah**: Pilgrims gather here to perform the Stoning of the Devil ritual.

7. **Arafat**: The final day of the pilgrimage, pilgrims perform the Day of Arafat rituals.

8. **Mina**: The final act of the pilgrimage is the Stoning of the Devil ritual.

**Source**: Arab News, Wikipedia.
INSIGHTS OF A PILGRIMAGE VETERAN

A former volunteer paramedic and guide says visitors should immerse themselves in the experience.

Hajj 2019

FAST FACTS

- Hajj takes about 3-5 days and occurs on the 10th of Zul-Hijjah, ninth month of the Islamic calendar.
- Pilgrimages stay at Mount Ar-Rahmah, then move to Mount Arafat and Mina, where they perform the stoning rite of the devil.
- Almost 3.4 million pilgrims performed Hajj in 2019.
- It is one of the Five Pillars of Islam.
- Every Muslim, performing Hajj at least once in their lifetime is obligatory if they are physically fit and financially able.
- Hajj pilgrims are required to dress in white clothes. Wearing shiny, novel materials and cloths is prohibited.

People are missing the point when they seek out luxurious facilities and lodgings.

This year, however, things are different. More people are seeking to immerse themselves in the experience, which is what Hajj is all about.
Hajj through history

The annual Muslim pilgrimage of Hajj is an Islamic practice more than 1,400 years old that holds an incomparable spiritual value for Muslims when performed during their lifetime. The advancements in technology and security have considerably eased the burdens on pilgrims and their families.

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

Kingdom ‘open to Qatari pilgrims’

The service of pilgrims runs in the blood of all Saudis, says Hajj minister

Mohammed Al-Sudairy, Ministry of Hajj

Saud bin Faisal, the minister, said that Saudi Arabia is open to Qatari pilgrims and they are welcome to visit.

In an exclusive interview with Arab News, Mr. Saud said: “We have called the Hajj a common cause. We call on all Muslim countries to work together for the benefit of the pilgrims. When the time comes, we will work together to ensure that the pilgrimage is successful. We will not allow any obstacle to prevent the pilgrimage from being successful.”

Mr. Saud said that Saudi Arabia is committed to ensuring the safety and security of all pilgrims. He added that Saudi Arabia is one of the largest countries in the world and it is home to millions of pilgrims who come from all over the world.

Their safety is a top priority for the Saudi government, he said. “We provide all necessary services, including transportation, accommodation, and medical assistance. We also work closely with other countries to ensure the safety of all pilgrims.”

Mr. Saud also emphasized the importance of the pilgrims’ mental and spiritual well-being during their pilgrimage. He said: “We believe that the spiritual journey of the pilgrim is as important as the physical journey. We work hard to ensure that the pilgrims are able to have a meaningful and spiritual experience.”

There is at least one person in every house in the Kingdom working as a service or management employee at the Ministry of Hajj, the minister said. “Hajj is a global service, and we have employees in all parts of the world to ensure the smooth running of the pilgrimage.”

Mr. Saud also said that the Saudi government is committed to ensuring the safety and security of all pilgrims. “We have a comprehensive plan in place to ensure the safety of all pilgrims, and we work closely with other countries to ensure the smooth running of the pilgrimage.”

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Once a rapper, now a pilgrim

Before converting to Islam, I felt a sadness in my life, says Mafalani Georgiadis.

It was a revolution, I believe. It's how I became more convinced that God existed. The more I was reading, the more convinced it became. I then felt a desire to see if I could become Muslim. I had been feeling this for a while, but I was Christian in my heart, or rather, did not know exactly what I was, except that I had Allah who related me to my ancestry and my ancestors.

Mafalani Georgiadis

The lyrics of that last song, "Children of the Revolt," described how she felt at the time of her thuộcing to a Muslim, writing the lyrics. It was other human beings who helped her to become a Muslim. I always welcomed to help with, may she who love me follow me.

Despite her troubles, she was more at peace than in any other time in her life.

Before converting to Islam, I felt a sadness in my life because I did not realize that all I had to do was speak to Allah. (Georgiadis says: "Now, everything that is good in my life, or at least, I know that I have Allah who relates me to my ancestry and my ancestors.

Mafalani Georgiadis was born in a life-changing visit to a Muslim friend in 2019. At night, Georgiadis as the papal Fadhelman in the world

Mafalani Georgiadis and her husband, Vassilis Georgiadis, visit the Holy City of Mecca in 2019.

An aerial photo of the Grand Mosque in Mecca.

The pilgrimage is a highlight of the year for all Muslim pilgrims, the climax of the Hajj calendar.

The pilgrim's guidebook, "Hajj 2019," contains all the rules and regulations for the Hajj.

Mafalani Georgiadis and her husband, Vassilis Georgiadis, visit the Holy City of Mecca in 2019.

An aerial photo of the Grand Mosque in Mecca.