

Grand Travel and Tours

HAJJ 2004 – GENERAL INFORMATIONS

CUSTOM: During Hajj season customs and Saudi formalities in the airports takes longer than the usual. Your patience is highly appreciated. In order to avoid delays at Saudi Customs we suggest that you travel light everything is available around your hotel at reasonable prices. Food, herbs, newspapers, magazines, etc will not be allowed through customs.

Don't buy food off the street.

Anyone carrying a camera MUST NOT have it loaded with film. All films and videotapes must be factory sealed to pass through customs. Absolutely, no pictures will be allowed inside THE HARAM or around it. DO NOT carry a camera with you while going to the Haram.

PASSPORTS: As per the Saudi Government laws the Saudi authorities keep the Hajj's passports upon arrival and return them back before departure. It is important that you carry photocopies of all your personal documents such as your passports, green card etc. It is also advisable that you leave a copy at home with someone. Please bring an extra photo with you, if possible.

BUSES: Buses schedules are strict, and posted in the signs. Please comply accordingly. (Sometimes we face delay due to the high traffic). Every bus has a group leader please refer to him for information and questions

HOTELS: the check in/out at the hotels work according to plan, due to the high volume in Hajj it might take longer be calm and have patience it will be certainly appreciated.

TICKETS: it's highly recommended to submit your tickets to the group leader to make the necessary reconfirmation for your return flight.

SHELTER SERVICES:

Grand Travel and Tour provides a special service for all the passengers to enable them to travel light. We will secure all extra belongings and or shopping bag we keep them in a storage room in Jeddah.

ITENARY: The Hajj agenda is according to the Hijri calendar not the western calendar. IHRAH: FOR PROGRAMS THAT STARTS WITH Makkah first (refer back to your Itinerary). We will send your Ihram close with your HAJJ package. (Please provide your own slippers).

IN GENERAL:

- Always wear your I.D.
- Anyone with a medical problem should always keep the medication in his or her handbag. Please don't check it in. Inform the group leader and your roommates.
- Always keep the telephone number or business card of the hotel with you.
- It is advisable not to walk around with lots of cash especially during Rami Jamarat (during Hajj) and Tawaf. Most of the big stores accept credit cards. It is safe to keep your valuables and cash in the safe in the hotel. ROE is US \$ 1.00 approx. SR 3.74.
- It is not advisable to use traveler checks, as you will not be able to cash them without your passports.
- Wheelchairs for Tawaf for handicap are available at the Haram for a charge. Your group leader will advise you as to how to rent them.

BEFORE THE JOURNEY

Make sure your intention for making Hajj is sincerely for the sake of Allah and it is not for showing off to the people nor to be called a Hajje.

Make sure you make the Hajj as instructed by the Prophet (s). Please make sure you read about the Hajj and "Umrah Rites".

Remember that you will face difficulties in this journey. Do not let the difficulties devalue your Hajj as the Prophet (s) said: "One who comes to this House for Hajj and avoids all lewdness and sins; he returns as he was on the day his mother gave birth to him" (Al-Bukhari and Muslim)

Everytime you have to wait on line or on the bus or anywhere else, then remember to be patient. Remind yourself of the waiting on the Day of Judgment that will last for 50,000 years.

Avoid arguing with anyone. Your Hajj is worth more than any argument with anyone.

Kissing or touching the Black Stone is not a pillar nor an obligation of Hajj, but a Sunnah. Please don't push, shove, or force yourself through a crowd to get to the Black Stone. The one who waves to the Black Stone will get the same reward insah'Allah.

THINGS TO TAKE WITH YOU

- 2 Ihram
- Your books on Hajj
- Slippers or sandals without straps over the ankles (for men).
- Sunglasses
- Imodium AID (Diarrhea Medication)
- Snacks to be used at MINA.
- Prayer Rug or mat to sit on at the HARAM.
- Unscented Soap (to use during Iharam).
- Washroom necessities-towels, toothbrush, etc.
- A backpack to carry your necessities.
- Money pouch.
- Make sure you make at least 2 copies of your passport, green card,
Hajj Voucher (of the Hajj Fees), and airline ticket.

HELPFUL STIPS

- Don't eat from small restaurants, but from big and clean ones.
- Never drink the tap water. Spring water and ZAMZAM water is available.
- Try not to always eat to your fill.
- Never drink something cold after coming from the outside heat.
- Try not to tire yourself before Hajj.
- Expect people coming from all over the world – be patient with their manners.
- Spend your time wisely and not in useless conversations with your
Fellow travelers.
- Memorize the phone number and address of your hotel.
- Plan for your next day – go over the acts of worship you will be
Doing and what necessities you will be needing to take with you (snacks, towels, etc.)