

# Hajj

Hajj is the annual pilgrimage made by Muslims to the holy city of Mecca in Saudi Arabia during the last month of the Islamic calendar. Hajj is one of the five pillars of Islam, so all Muslims make great efforts to make the pilgrimage at least once in their lifetime.

Usually, over 2 million people attend Hajj each year. During the COVID-19 pandemic, however, Saudi Arabia did not allow pilgrims from other nations and strictly limited numbers. In 2020, only 1000 pilgrims were allowed, and in 2021, 60 000. In 2022, Hajj was re-opened to foreign visitors but only 1 million pilgrims were permitted.

Many Muslims save for years to be able to afford Hajj, so the last couple of years will have been disappointing for

many who hoped to go.

During Hajj, Muslims participate in a series of rituals over several days. These are performed in obedience to God, as a duty for all Muslims. The rituals commemorate events in the life of Muhammad and other prophets, and honor symbols of God. Pilgrims from all parts of life are united in their faith at Hajj and believe that the journey allows them to be purified and return home with a heart cleansed from sin.

Saudi Arabia invests heavily in resources to host the Hajj safely and efficiently every year. It is also a major source of income for the Kingdom, with many residents of Mecca and the surrounding areas relying on the pilgrims for their livelihood.

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*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.*

*The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.*

2 CORINTHIANS 5:17

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## *How can we pray?*

**In 2023, Hajj begins on June 26.  
Pray for the health and safety of  
all those who participate.**

**During Hajj, Muslims are seeking a  
deeper devotion to God. Pray that  
they will find new life in Christ.**

**Pray for Muslims in Saudi Arabia,  
particularly in Mecca, to have  
supernatural revelations of Jesus.**