

Hajjis



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

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The Foreign & Commonwealth Office know how deeply important the Hajj is to all those who attend it. This year thousands of British Nationals will attend the Hajj. The aim of this leaflet is to assist British Hajjis in preparing for the Hajj and to explain what services the British Hajj Delegation can offer British pilgrims in Saudi Arabia.

Health

The Saudi Ministry of Health has established 21 hospitals to provide health care to pilgrims free of charge. Make sure that you have been vaccinated with the quadrivalent meningococcal vaccine (ACWY). You will be required to produce a valid vaccination certificate. Consult your GP if you are in any doubt.

For more information on advice for travellers, visit fitfortravel.nhs.uk

Arrival and Departure

The Saudi Authorities take their responsibilities very seriously and the well-being of every Hajji is important to them. On arrival at the terminal the authorities will take your passport and give you a receipt. The Pilgrim Guides Establishment will hold your passport for you while you are performing the Hajj and will return it to you on departure. There are basic facilities at the airport, however large numbers of Hajjis arriving and leaving can cause delays.

Travel within Saudi Arabia will be limited to Makkah, Madinah, Mina, Arafat and Muzdalifah. If you choose to travel elsewhere your travel agent will need to inform the Tawafa Establishment giving at least 24 hours notice. Pilgrims travel by buses provided by the General

Cars Syndicate, using coupons provided by the Tawafa Establishment.

Dual Nationals

The Saudi Authorities do not recognise dual nationality and may confiscate second passports. Pilgrims travelling on non-British passports are not entitled to assistance from the British Consulate-General. British Nationals who choose to travel on non-British passports should ensure that all British visas or endorsements are clearly shown in that passport. Any documentation required to re-enter the United Kingdom should be obtained before leaving the UK, to prevent any delays in returning.

Help and Assistance

We hope that, like many thousands of Hajjis, you will have a trouble-free Hajj. However, if something does go wrong the British Hajj Delegation, working with the British Consulate-General, can provide you with a range of consular services.

The delegation will be located at the Elaf Al Khalil Hotel (see Useful Contact Details).

The Delegation can:

- > provide information on how to transfer money
- > arrange replacement passports
- > provide appropriate help if you are a victim of crime or are ill or in hospital
- > do all we properly can to contact you within 24 hours of being told that you have been detained

- > make special arrangements in case of civil disturbances or natural disasters
- > provide contact details for local lawyers and hospitals
- > arrange for a next of kin to be told of an accident or a death and advise on procedures

The Delegation cannot:

- > become involved in any disagreements e.g. pilgrim and tour operator disputes, lost baggage disputes
- > rearrange travel bookings
- > pay your hotel, legal, medical or travel bills
- > get you out of prison
- > give legal advice
- > intervene in court cases
- > investigate a crime

Travellers Checklist

- > Check the FCO travel advice to make sure that you are up-to-date with the situation in Saudi Arabia at **www.fco.gov.uk/travel** or call **0845 850 2829**.
- > Check that you have the correct tickets and ticket details.
- > Make sure that you book your tickets through an ATOL registered tour operator to avoid unnecessary difficulties. For more information please visit www.atol.org.uk.
- > Have contact details for your tour operator in the UK and their representatives in Makkah.
- > Get travel insurance for all aspects of your

journey. Shariah compliant insurance policies are available.

- > Check that you have had the required vaccinations for your pilgrimage, and that you have vaccination cards with you.
- > Ensure that your passport is in good condition and the necessary visas are in place.
- > Make copies of your passport, insurance policy plus emergency numbers and ticket details. Leave these copies, your itinerary and correct contact details with family and friends.
- > Individuals on medication should make sure that they have adequate quantities to get them through the Hajj period. Existing medication should be clearly labelled for each individual.
- > Please ensure you have good quality footwear as you may have to walk long distances.
- > Please ensure all your luggage is clearly labelled by placing stickers both on the outside and inside of your luggage showing your name, nationality, passport number, air carrier, flight number, hotel name and a contact telephone number.
- > Make sure you have the contact details of the British Hajj Delegation and local Consulate.
- > Please note any kind of photography (still or video) is strictly prohibited inside and around the two Holy Mosques. Anybody violating this will have their equipment and material confiscated.

Useful Contact Information

In the UK:

Hajj Desk Officer
Foreign & Commonwealth Office
King Charles Street
London, SW1A 2AH
Email: hajj@fco.gov.uk

In Saudi Arabia:

Elaf Al Khalil Hotel
Ibrahim Al Khaleel Street
Al Misqalah
Behind the Hilton Towers

Tel: 02 573 2555

Fax: 02 573 2666

British Consulate-General, Jeddah:

02 622 5550

Fax: 02 622 6249

Ministry of Hajj (Makkah):

02 530 8200

Ministry of Hajj (Jeddah):

02 647 7551

Emergencies in Saudi Arabia:

Ambulance **997**

Police **999**

Traffic Accidents **993**

Airline Offices In Jeddah:

BMI **02 800 124 5550**

Lufthansa **02 800 124 5550**

KLM **02 651 8012**

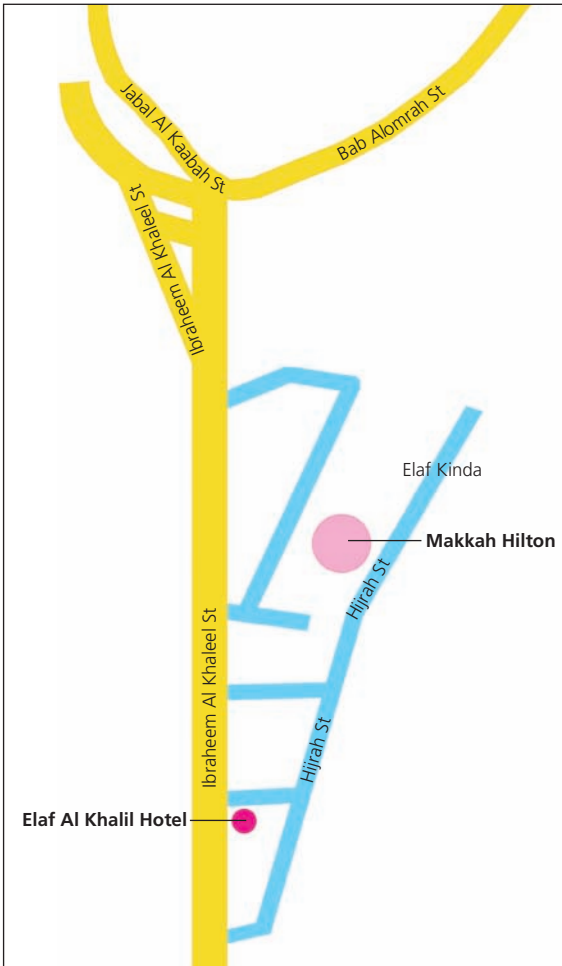
Air France **02 122 1225**

Saudi Air (in Saudi only) **9200 22222**

British Airways **92000 2215**

To call the UK from Saudi Arabia dial **00 44** before the number (drop the 0 at the beginning of the number and dial the rest of the number as normal). To call Saudi Arabia from the UK dial **00 966** before the number.

Copies of this leaflet are available to download at www.fco.gov.uk/hajj





Foreign &
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Consular Directorate

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