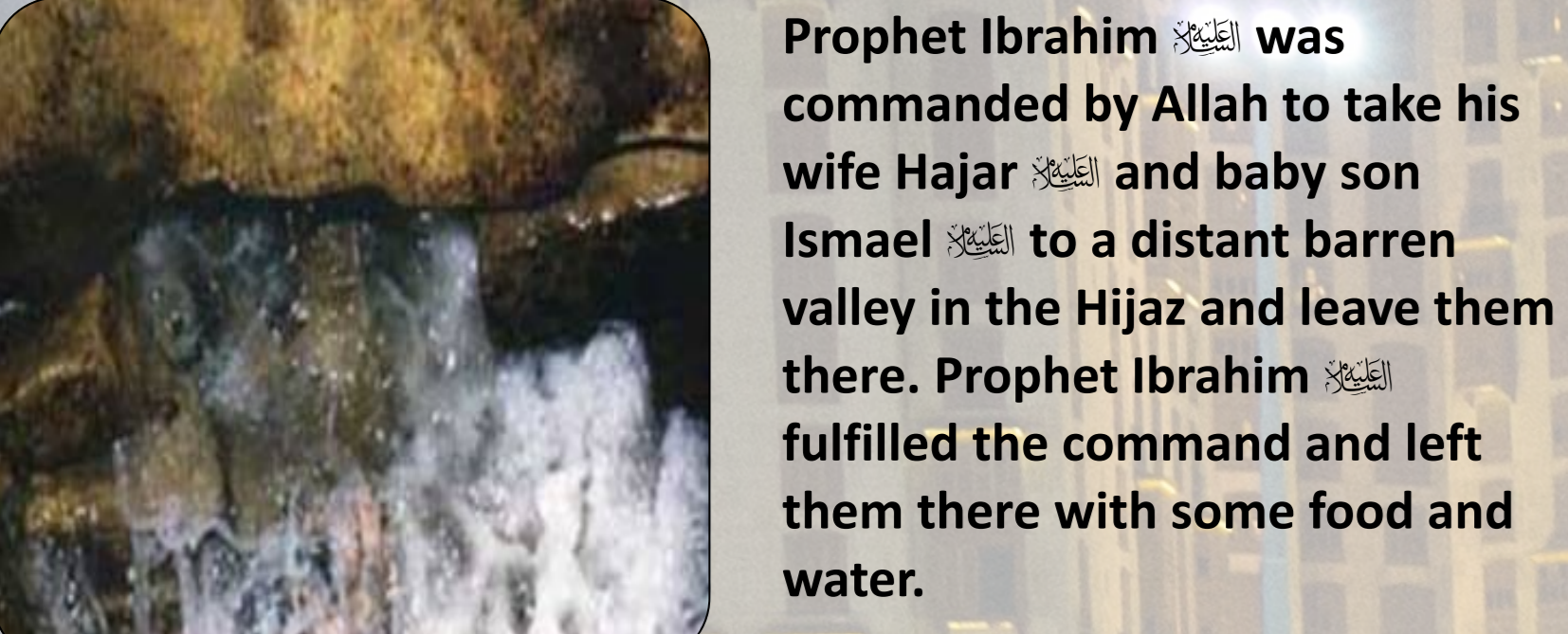




HAJJ

It is the sacred duty of Every Adult Muslim to perform the pilgrimage to Makkah at least once in their lifetime (if they can afford it). Every year millions of Muslims perform the Hajj.

HISTORY OF ZAMZAM



Prophet Ibrahim عليه السلام was commanded by Allah to take his wife Hajar عليها السلام and baby son Ismael عليه السلام to a distant barren valley in the Hijaz and leave them there. Prophet Ibrahim عليه السلام fulfilled the command and left them there with some food and water.

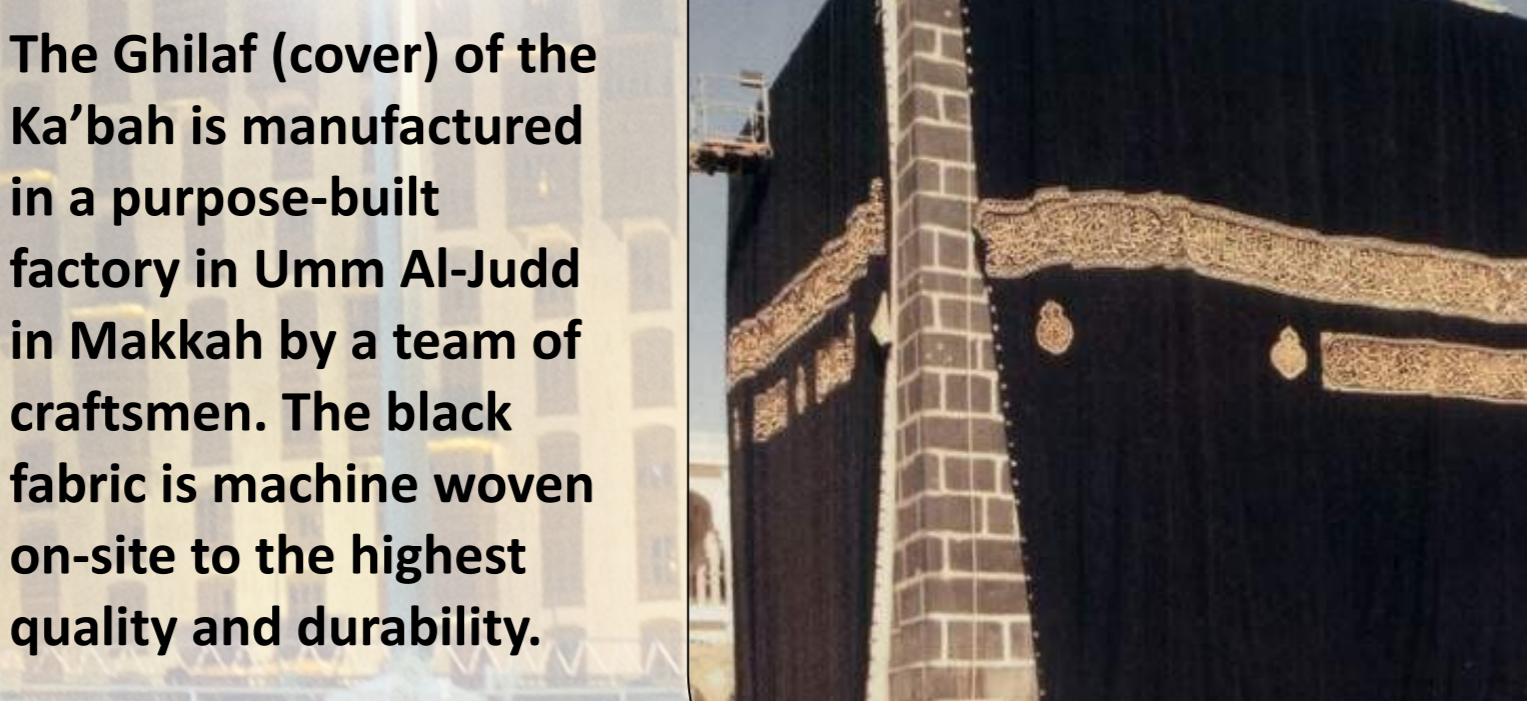
However, the food and water ran out and Ismael عليه السلام began to cry. Hajar عليها السلام was panicking so she ran up the hill (As-Safa) to see if she could see any water or maybe a traveller from whom she could get some water.

All she saw was the lifeless desert so she ran down the hill and up the other hill (Al-Marwa) in the hope that she could find some source of water. Again she saw the waterless desolation of the desert.

She ran between these two hills seven times. Finally, she returned to find that water was gushing from the ground, close to Ismael's feet.

This spring is called 'Zamzam' which is still with us today. When Muslims come to perform the pilgrimage, they drink Zamzam water which still flows freely in this valley.

THE GHILAF OF THE KA'BAH



The Ghilaf (cover) of the Ka'bah is manufactured in a purpose-built factory in Umm Al-Judd in Makkah by a team of craftsmen. The black fabric is machine woven on-site to the highest quality and durability.

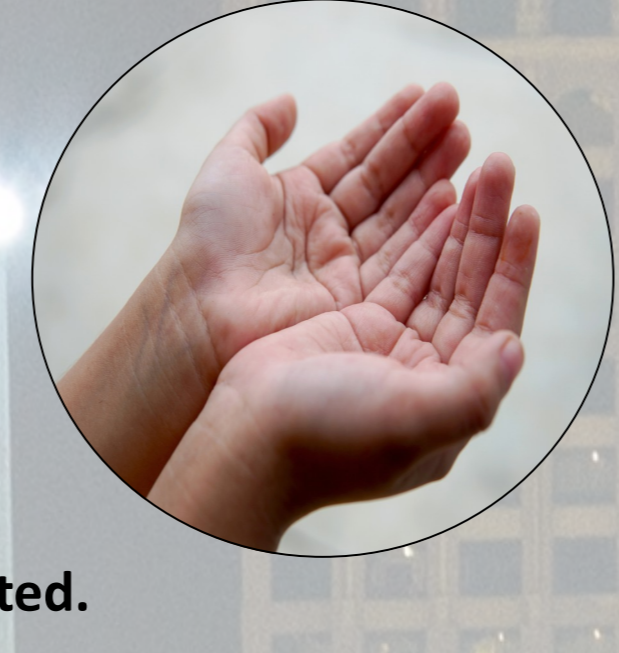
The rest of the manufacturing procedure is done by hand to maintain a high level of artistic merit and quality. Verses of the Qur'an and Islamic designs are inscribed by hand using a range of techniques by skilled craftsmen.

Every year before Hajj, the Ghilaf is replaced with a new one.



DUAS

When a person first sets eyes on the Ka'bah they pray to Allah to their heart's content. It is an auspicious time when Duas are accepted.



People pour their hearts out and show so much gratitude to be able to visit this holy place. Truly a blessing from the Almighty.

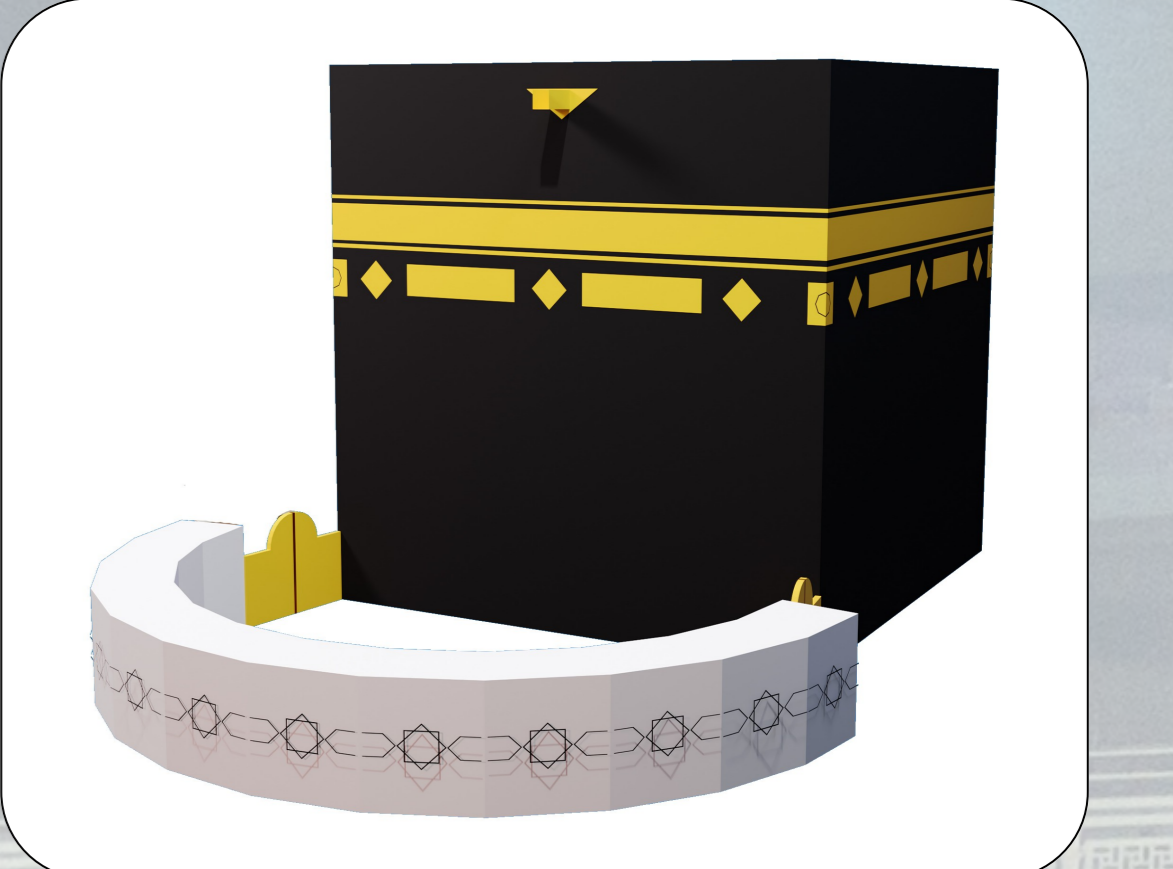
HAJJ AND OTHER WORSHIP

Hajj can only be performed in the month of Zul Hijjah, the last month in the Islamic Calendar. At other times of the year, the Umrah can be performed. The Umrah is often known as the lesser Hajj.

One of the busiest times, outside Hajj time is Ramadhan (the month of fasting). Again many Muslims travel from many parts of the world to the holy city. The worshippers perform their fasting and worship in this mosque because of its spiritual excellence.

During the night, there are night prayers (Tarawih) during which the recitation of the Qur'an is heard by the worshippers. The Imam recites portions of the Qur'an every night and the whole Qur'an is completed during the month.

AL HIJR



The Hijr is the area enclosed by the semi-circular wall adjacent to the Ka'bah. It was originally part of the Ka'bah before the Quraish rebuilt it. This rebuilding took place at the time of our Prophet Muhammad عليه السلام.

The Hijr was not included and the Ka'bah was reduced in size because funds ran short. The People of Makkah wanted to use only lawfully earned money to be used in its reconstruction.

Prophet Muhammad عليه السلام said that praying in the Al-Hijr is equal in merit to praying inside the Ka'bah. Few people get the opportunity to pray inside the Ka'bah whilst many people pray in Al-Hijr.

THE KA'BAH AND THE HOLY MOSQUE OF MAKKAH

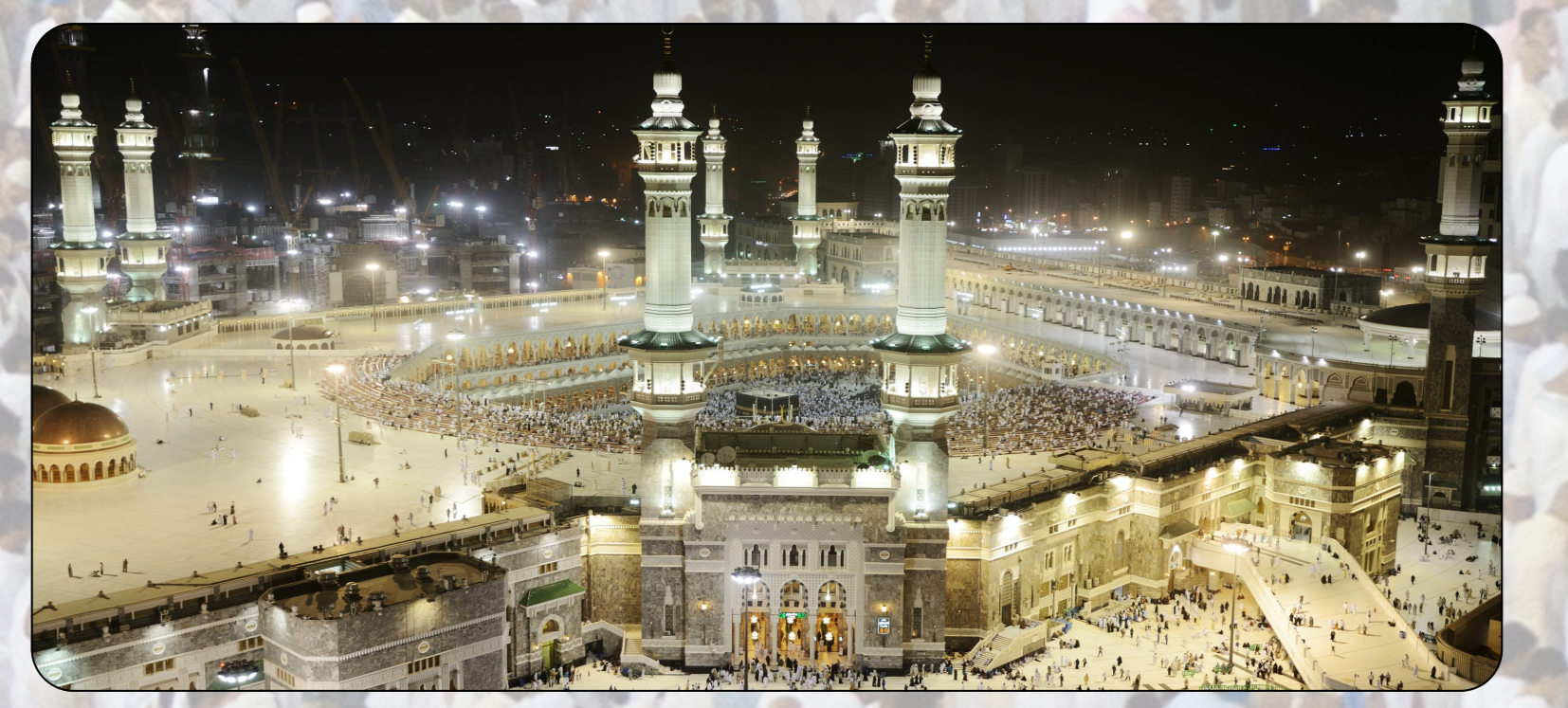
HAJJ TIME IN MAKKAH

Hajj is one of the most important times in Makkah. Muslims from far and wide come to make the annual pilgrimage.

People from all walks of life can be seen during the Hajj, diligently performing their worship and praying to Allah. These scenes are repeated throughout the Hajj season.

In 2019, about 2.5 million people went to Makkah to perform the Hajj. These Muslims travelled from all corners of the world to make this annual pilgrimage which is a duty bestowed upon all Muslims (the fifth pillar of Islam).

Muslims are duty-bound to perform the Hajj at least once in their lifetime, if they have the means to do so.



AL HAJAR AL ASWAD - THE BLACK STONE

Whilst prophet Ibrahim عليه السلام was building the Ka'bah, he needed a corner-stone to complete the wall. Ibrahim عليه السلام asked his son Ismael عليه السلام to search for a suitable stone.

When Ismael عليه السلام returned, Ibrahim عليه السلام had already placed a pure white corner-stone in the wall. Ibrahim عليه السلام explained to Ismael عليه السلام that Angel Jibrael had brought this stone from heaven.

The stone is currently mounted in a silver housing. The stone signifies the starting point for tawaf (walking around the Ka'bah seven times whilst reciting prayers).

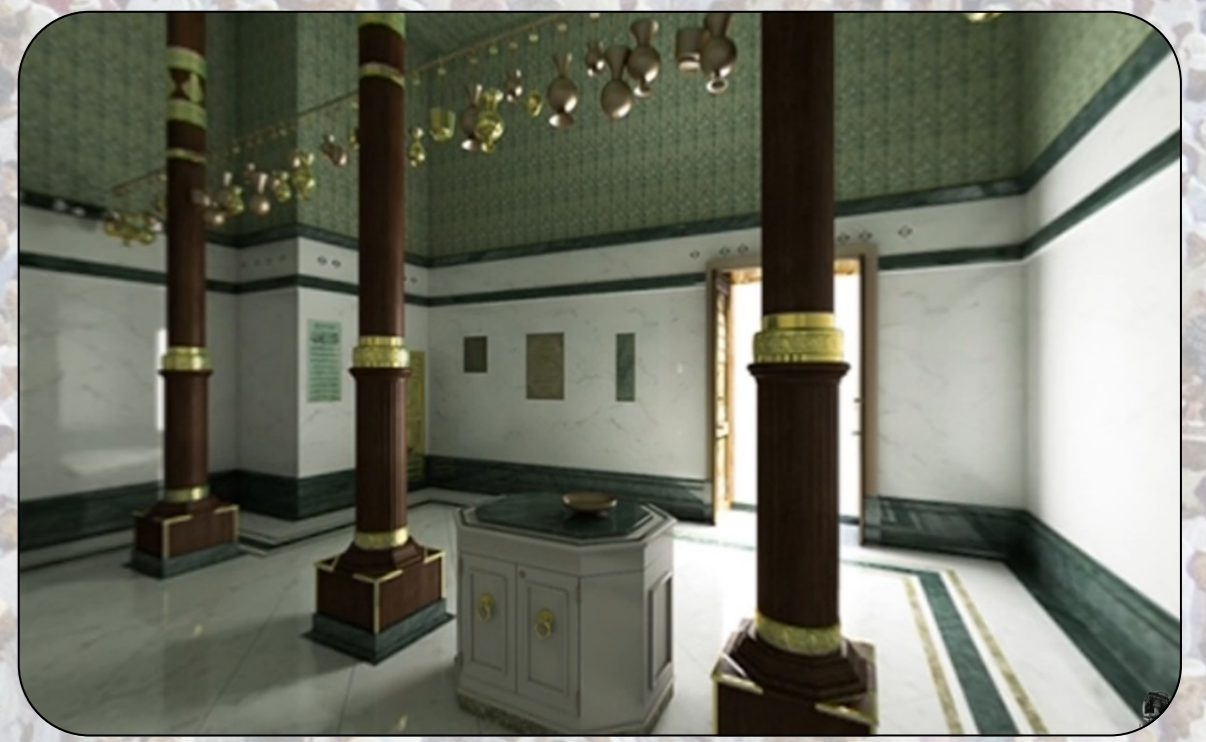
The Pilgrims must kiss the stone before beginning the Tawaf. Over time, the sins of the people kissing the white stone caused it to turn black.



INSIDE THE KA'BAH

The Ka'bah is a simple structure which hasn't changed much during its long history. The inside of the Ka'bah is also very simple with three pillars which support the roof.

There is a small table in one corner with perfume upon it.



The inside of the Ka'bah is green in colour and the walls are approx 1m thick. The stones used were quarried from the surrounding mountains.

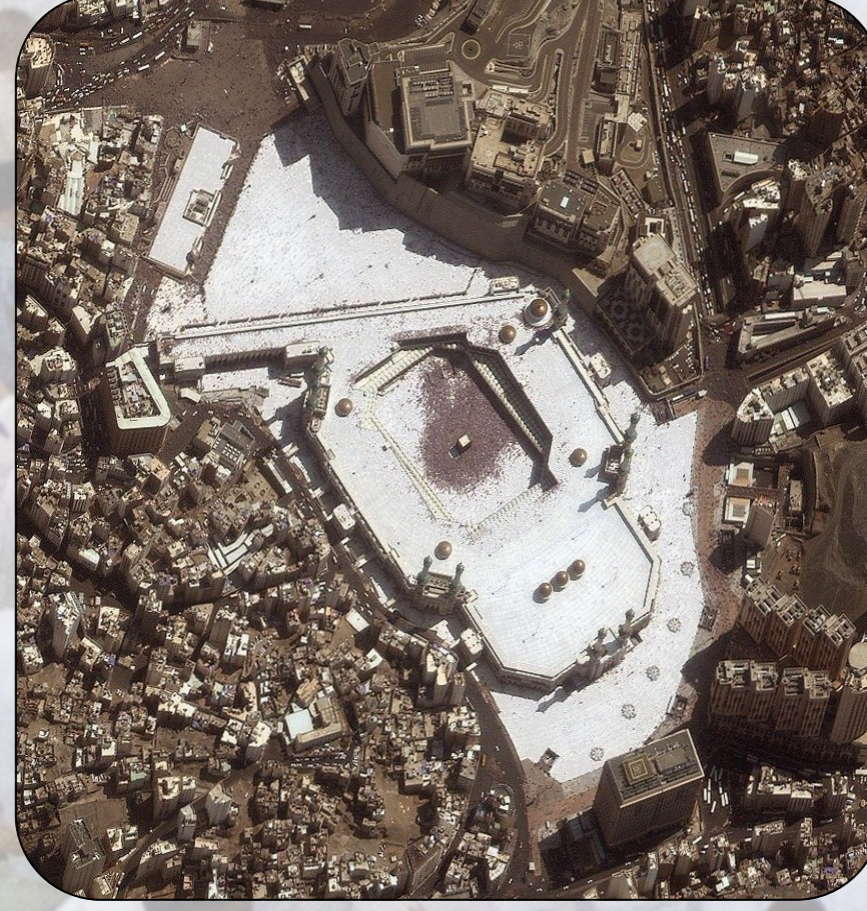
The Ka'bah does not hold any ancient relics but is a simple stone structure which serves its primary purpose as a place of worship as well as being the direction of prayer for Muslims.

EXPANSION OF THE MOSQUE

The mosque has been expanded through time by various rulers to accommodate the ever-increasing number of pilgrims coming to Makkah.

The recent expansions in the Saudi era increased the worship area by many folds. The work carried out has been to a very high level of quality and beauty with the convenience of the pilgrims and their comfort given the utmost priority.

The mosque is built on many floors with a basement, ground floor, first floor and roof. The prayer area also includes the marbled courtyard which in total provides a huge prayer area for the millions of pilgrims who come to Makkah. The expansion of the holy mosque is still continuing as more plans are discussed and implemented by the Saudi authorities.



IHRAM

When performing the Hajj, the pilgrims wear the customary 'uniform' of Hajj. For men, this is simple clothes. For women, this consists of two sheets of white unstitched cloth.

The pilgrims can not wear jewellery or any other form of adornment. Everyone looks the same which reinforces the teachings that all humans are equal, irrespective of gender, nationality, wealth or social status.

The Ihram must be worn during the days of Hajj and also when performing the Umrah (the smaller Hajj). The pilgrims must wear the Ihram before entering the sanctuary (the Holy Mosque and the area around it).

Many people wear the Ihram from home. If they live in Makkah, they travel outside the boundaries of the sanctuary to the Miqat, adorn the Ihram before returning to Makkah.



THE KEY TO THE KA'BAH



The key to the Ka'bah was in the possession of Uthman bin Abi Talhah whose family were the original custodians of the key to the Ka'bah.

After the conquest of Makkah, the key was presented to Muhammad عليه السلام to open the Ka'bah. Muhammad عليه السلام returned the key to Uthman whose descendants have retained the honour of being the key holders of the Ka'bah until today.

MAQAM IBRAHIM

The Maqam Ibrahim (station of Prophet Ibrahim عليه السلام) is the stone upon which Prophet Ibrahim عليه السلام stood as he built the Ka'bah. Ismael عليه السلام would hand him the building stones and he would build the walls of the Ka'bah.

This stone retained the footprint of prophet Ibrahim عليه السلام. It was preserved by the people and now is stored in a housing close to the Ka'bah.

This station of Ibrahim is also a place of prayer where some sunnah prayers are performed in the proximity of the Maqam Ibrahim.



ZAMZAM WATER

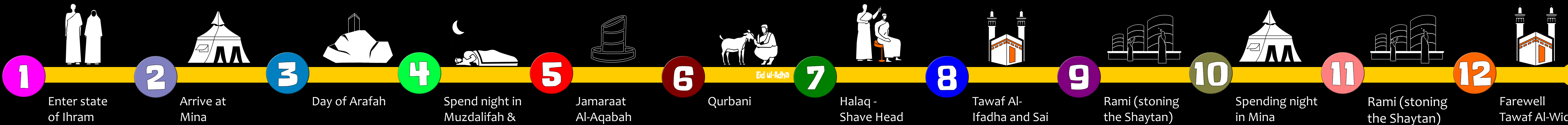
Zamzam water owes its origin to the Zamzam spring which later was dug into a well. The water was drawn out by a bucket and rope. An electric pump was later installed which made it easier to provide water in abundance to the pilgrims.

There is an underground room where the pumping system is housed which can still be viewed although access is not available to the general public.

Zamzam is pure water which has higher calcium and fluoride minerals than most water. This also partially contributes to the many health benefits of drinking it. Zamzam provides cures for ailments - medical, physical and spiritual. Zamzam is drunk by the pilgrims throughout their visit to Makkah and is even transported to Madina by the Saudi authorities.



Hajj a Step by Step guide



- 1 Enter state of Ihram
- 2 Arrive at Mina
- 3 Day of Arafah
- 4 Spend night in Muzdalifah & collect pebbles
- 5 Jamarat Al-Aqabah
- 6 Qurbani
- 7 Halaq - Shave Head
- 8 Tawaf Al-Ifadha and Sai
- 9 Rami (stoning the Shaytan)
- 10 Spending night in Mina
- 11 Rami (stoning the Shaytan)
- 12 Farewell Tawaf Al-Wida

- In the state of Ihram, the Hajji must observe its conditions which includes extreme gentleness and patience.
- Mina is also known as tent city because so many Hajjis camp here for a few days in tents.
- The Day of Arafah is the most important day of Hajj. It's dedicated to reflection, forgiveness and prayer.
- In Muzdalifah, we sleep outdoors in the desert. We collect small stones that we will use later in the Hajj.
- The Jamarat are three pillars which represent the Shaytan. The Shaytan was chased away by prophet Ibrahim.
- Rami is when we throw stones at these Jamarat which represents us chasing the Shaytan from our lives.
- We sacrifice an animal just as Prophet Ibrahim عليه السلام did. Allah tested him by asking him to sacrifice Ismael.
- The tawaf is a special kind of worship when we walk around the Ka'bah seven times.
- Sai' is when we walk between the hills of Safa and Marwah seven times - just as Hajar had done.
- After the Halaq, we can remove the Ihram 'uniform'. Men usually shave their head, women cut a few strands.
- Tawaf al Wida is the farewell tawaf performed when we leave Makkah at the end of Hajj.
- After Leaving Makkah, often the Hajjis will spend a few days in Madina. In Madina we visit Masjid al-Nabwi.
- In Madina we send salutations to our beloved Nabi Muhammad عليه السلام at his Roza (his place of burial).
- People performing Hajj don't do Eid ul-Adha. The rest of the Muslim world celebrate Eid-ul-Adha.

