

D I Y

TRAVELOYALTY'S

ULTIMATE

Umrah
guide





هَلْ بَعْرَاءُ الْإِحْسَانِ إِلَّا الْإِحْسَانُ

Surah. 055

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Chapter 1

About

Life is but just an eye blink, it may not seem like that now but there will be a point in this multi-staged journey of perpetuity that this opening line will be rendered a reality.

Everything in life in this world is equal to time. You have a set amount of time with your parents and kids, be it years, months or days, some even hours.

For those fortunate enough to endeavor a mubarak trip to the Haramain, it's the time spent closest to the Ka'bah, the time spent closest to Nabi Saw. A better soul satisfying feeling you wont find anywhere else in this world.

There is something undescrivable in the above that will leave the visitors soul in a crave to return to rekindle that affectionate feeling time and time again.

This book is or shall I say hope to enable the easiness and consistency to make a once in a lifetime journey into a once per year or eve once per month journey insha -Allah.

It is also a book for those who crave to visit Masjidul Ayesha each day, perhaps numerous times and for those who wish to stretch hours of their journey inside the Rawdah Mubarak.

The dynamics of the Umrah journey changes considerably time after time, something's have gotten easier and something's more difficult, this a definitive topic for a later chapter that would require constant updating.

*“ make a once
in a lifetime
journey into a
once per year“*



Chapter 2

The Dreamer

A dreamer with limited means makes a niyat to save for a journey to the holy lands. The dreamer starts his first job, gets his first salary and smiles that this is the beginning of that niyat, halaal earnings. So this carries on for a year, eating simply and living out of basic quarters in order to save for the journey ahead.

Once the dreamer accumulates enough funds for the journey, he decides to make istikhaarah. With no car, no house, is this the correct way to go about starting life?

As working life has begun most would give the advice of obtaining security, possessions and investments in the worldly monetary sense, but the dreamer knows this life is short, and putting off this journey ahead could be the biggest gamble in life as a later time is never guaranteed.

The dreamer decides to use Hadiths from Sahih Al Bukhari to do this. Its Thursday night and the start of Youm Al Jumuah.

He wakes up for Tahajud and recites Hadith no 2:253. Once he completes his Tahajud he recites Hadith no 2:221 and then Hadith no 2:263 in his dua.

In the dreamers dua he asks his creator to please bestow on him a dream, the best of dreams, a crystal clear dream whereby Nabi SAW would appear and inform him of what to do with his savings and the dreamer also pleads to his Creator to please let him recall every account of the dream upon awakening.

So he goes to sleep and the following happens:

*“ asks his creator
to please bestow
on him a dream,
the best of dreams*

“



The dream begins, the environment is of a misty white vapour all around him.

The dreamer sees soft mist evrywhere and then instantly sees his beloved Nabi SAW standing across him, this being the second time Nabi SAW appears in a dream to the dreamer in his lifespan this far, only this time Nabi saw has a serious but warm look, unlike the first time when he had a profuse smile. The dreamers heart starts to tremble.

Nabi SAW lifts his mubarak hands and puts it into the dreamers face by grabbing his bottom jawline, one on each side holding the mandibles. The dreamer remembers he learnt about the mandibles few years back in Biology class, Nabi SAW then puts his Mubarak forehead through the face of the dreamers face while still holding the dreamers mandibles of the jaw on each side.

Nabi SAW recites a Surah from the Qur'aan. It is a somewhat familiar Surah that the dreamer knows where to find if he looks it up.

Nabi SAW recites only a few verses and pulls his face out and away whilst still holding on to the dreamers jawline.

The dreamer, astonished, mumbles something to the effect of wow that's the best Qur'aan recital I've ever heard in a melodious voice way better than any other, way better than Imam Shuraim.

The dreamer asks his beloved Nabi SAW "Please more".

*"Nabi saw
pulls the
dreamer by
his bottom
jawline"*



Nabi SAW repeats the action pushing his Mubarak face through the dreamers face and Nabi SAW continues the same Surah with a few more verses.

The dreamer wishes it would never stop.

Nabi SAW continues to recite in a melodious tone hitting tajweed in the similar ending verses of the Surah, melodiousness with a tajweed thats unheard of.

The dreamer eventually wakes up and grasps. A really really deep grasp.

He recalls everything of the dream and also for some miraculous reason has the surah now in full memory off the Mubarak lips of Nabi saw, Ayat for Ayat. All prases due to Allah SWT. There is just one problem.

The dreamer does not speak nor understand the Arabic language other than the basic learnt words and shorter Surahs. He has the dreamt Surah in heart, he knows more or less where to search for the Surah,

however he only has a Arabic Qur'aan with him.

He is working out of city on a sort of farm area.

The time is pre-internet almost a year prior to 56k dial up to be exact.

So the dreamer now has to wait until he is able to make the journey from farm to city where he knows his mother has a English translation Qur'aan on her shelf. What does this all mean he wonders in anticipation.... ?

Eventually the time comes, he gets into the city, and rushes to the book shelf, opens up the English translation Qur'aan to the beginning of the surah, it reads:

• • •

*“ Nabi saw
continues to
recite in a
melodious tone*





• • • **Surah no90, Makkiyah**
(it's a surah revealed in Makkah or pre Hijrah)

Surah Al Balad - The City.



Chapter 3

Why DIY ?

A question that cannot be answered in just a one liner, but if I had to try, the answer would be: because its way better!

Way better in what way(s) one might ask? Well for starters lets put that down in point form:

Its cheaper, way way cheaper. Gone are the days and mindset that over paying a per person rate for a package is the way to travel. Accommodation has always been booked per room in any event since as far back as my travel memories take me. Personally I have not been on a Umrah package since 1998 and in 2012 prior to traveloyalty.com I went on Umrah backpack style saying in the cheapest (furthest accom for under 50 Riyal per night at the border of 1st Ring Road Madinah and Ajyad in Makkah. Come 2013 with Traveloyalty.com we stayed free on two trips through Hilton Towers in Makkah and Crowne Plaza Madinah, all on points. Heaps closer and heaps better especially for families. This trip would be the kickstart to our future articles and inspiring thousands on staying free even through peak Ramadhaan where most were paying Zar 250,000 and getting nothing back on checkout.

Stay longer through visa validity. You not limited to X-amount days and nights if you not on a package. Visas are (mostly) valid 30days (mostly) upon entry to the Kingdom, like most visas they have a fee attached for the full validity period regardless, in this you could maximise the 29 x nights / 30 days validity.

*“ its cheaper,
way way
cheaper “*



Investment for akhira... and dunya. When you book direct your trip now becomes one that you can earn back points for future free hotel nights. 3rd party bookings are null and void of any earn back and perks.

Perks through Traveloyalty.com in #theTLway, this saves you even more and this alone needs its own chapter, but just to highlight, food savings by way of lounge access, early check ins and late check outs (thats like 2 free nights), 2nd adult stays free, upgrades, free breakfast for room, even open complimentary menu's, all of this has been mentioned many times since 2013, however daily new travelers are discovering the power of loyalty and best of all...

Bonus points. Most never knew that they could earn bulk if not more of their spend back in this alone.

Its easy, super easy. It takes about 20 seconds to make a booking on the hotels app.

Family travel perfected. Thank heavens the locals have large families and with this the hotels are super lenient to those who worry about having to lay out extra person charges and extra rooms in packages.

Flights. Here one can book any way, regardless, be it miles, cash on 3rd party or a find on skyscanner or Ita Matrix. Flights are the easiest part.

Transfers. There are all too many taxis from H1's to GMC's to sedans to vans outside airports and hotels that you can negotiate a price with per family not per person. Recently the new Hi Speed Train is popular.

Yearn for a repeat trip? You will be super pleased you saved mega bucks on last trip.



DIY travel has worked for hundreds of people you know, there's no reason why it will not work for you!

Chapter 4

A history into the DIY Umrah

It's always been DIY for longer than it has been packaged (package refers to paying a higher per person rate for most things included such as Airfare, accommodation, visas, transfers and often meals as well) as a matter of fact Umrah started out being DIY up until maybe 80 years ago and as the global travel and airline industry followed.

As the cities of the Haramain grew (and keeps growing) since late 1990's, it has attracted the largest global hotel brands to invest therein with many more in the pipeline as the newer ultra-modern modern suburbs are springing up just outside the main areas.

A year prior to the advent of Traveloyalty.com circa 2010 (maybe 2011) I personally went on my first solo DIY Umrah trip staying at the (now gone) 30 -50 Riyals accommodation spots far off with 15 minutes walk time up the hills of Ajyad. Come a few years later we used loyalty points to stay multiple free nights in the frontline and at the same time have the perks of free breakfast + upgrades. That year we used a transit visa that entailed: 3 days in Mecca then off to another Country (Oman) then back to Saudi for 3 nights on the return doing Madinah as the maximum stay the visa allowed. It was too short, way too short.

In that trip we stayed at Hilton Towers for 30,000 points per night and we stayed at Crowne Plaza for 5000 points for a free night, this was our first 3 nights in this hotel, a hotel that in latter years we would go on to stay over 100 nights, some times booking 20-25 nights on a trip to max the pricey 30 Umrah visa validity.

You see Crown Plaza is a premium brand of IHG - Intercontinentals Hotels Group. In that first year of Traveloyalty we stuck mostly to touring hotels that featured on IHG's amazing Pointbreaks promotion: 40 hotels+ for a mere 5000 points for a free night, this promo happened every quarter or 4x per year. So for the first time a Saudi hotel popped up, let alone a premium one in Madinah that even had a lounge for free snacks, meals and drinks.

In the December's that followed the next year and the year after that and the year after that, Crowne Plaza Madinah again featured - for only 5000 points for a free night. If one did not have 5000 points one could even manufacture buying the points for a mere 20 something USD, notably this was for the whole quarter December - March as per availability. As the Pointbreaks promo grew and grew year after year with popularity it became harder to book unless you had the info from Traveloyalty.com on the exact time of day the promo went live. 25x nights and even booking 2 rooms was a blessing for most travel loyalty enthusiasts and a normality each year end.

Umrah visas then allowed Mutamireen a max stay of 30 days, here again we stayed 29 nights in the Kingdom, mostly free on points with free meals in lounges to max this. 29days Umrah still felt too short. Things became even easier with the newer hotels that offered lounge access in the cities of the Mecca. Upon new hotel openings some hotels offered free Ala carte options off the dining menus.

Umrah visas pricing increased more as the years went by from R1500 to R3500, I believe its now minimum R3500-R5000 for a single entry 30day stay visa.

Ramadhaan:

Planning a Ramadhaan Umrah since 2013? It has never been easier DIY with points. Here the cash rates always seem to be R20,000 per night. Using points blended with Elite status one could even buy the points and end up booking 5 nights with every 5th night free for \$800 or basically a R80,000 saving per 5x nights. Here again loyalty programme elites would get free suhoor and free iftaar in the hotels executive lounges. Offcourse if you earned the points free from previous trips and stays - your Ramadhaan accommodation was totally free.

Taxes:

Then suddenly The Kingdom introduced taxes on 1st of January one year. I wont forget the time I was again at Crowne Plaza. Taxes do not apply when booking with points. Another massive (20%) saving.

Chapter 5

Flights



In the last 9 years I don't think there has ever been a year that we paid full prices for flights. The solo Umrah year in 2012 pre Traveloyalty - I paid R3800 on Emirates.

The transit visa Umrah year in 2013 - we paid R4500 with kids fly free on Saudia to Oman with the 2 stops in Jeddah and Medina on return.

The 2 years we used Etihad it was on miles and taxes which were a few hundred Rand return

The year 2017 Saudia had promos of R6000 in Business class into Jeddah)and R3400 in Economy)

link: <https://www.instagram.com/p/BKkew0PgQ7y/?hl=en>

<https://www.instagram.com/p/BKmwQgXAqlu/?hl=en>

2x Ramadhaan's Saudia had R3200 via Jeddah (hello stopover perk) to Istanbul.

link: <https://www.instagram.com/p/B720RtNpcyg/?hl=en>

Egypt Air was up next year with R7500 Business class (or R6600 economy) into Jeddah and exit from Madinah.

link: <https://www.instagram.com/p/Bmnj6BNHXGg/?igshid=MDM4ZDc5MmU=>

Then came the discounted Emirates years - up to 2019/2020 with no more than R6500 per ticket, adding a domestic route and multi city with another country brought down the price substantially. Upgrades with all the excess earned miles were a big help as Emirates runs the jumbo A380 between Dubai and Jeddah @ a easy 12000 Skyward miles per passenger per way.

All the above trips, bookings, screenshots have been documented and archived on Traveloalty's website and/or Instagram and/or Youtube

Going forward - all those miles earned on Egypt Air above = a return business class ticket this past December of 2022 for R1300 (full cash price R32000)

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Chapter 6

Hotels to stay free at in MAKKAH

● Marriott

Sheraton

Shaza

● GHA

● Hilton

Convention

Doubletree

Marriott

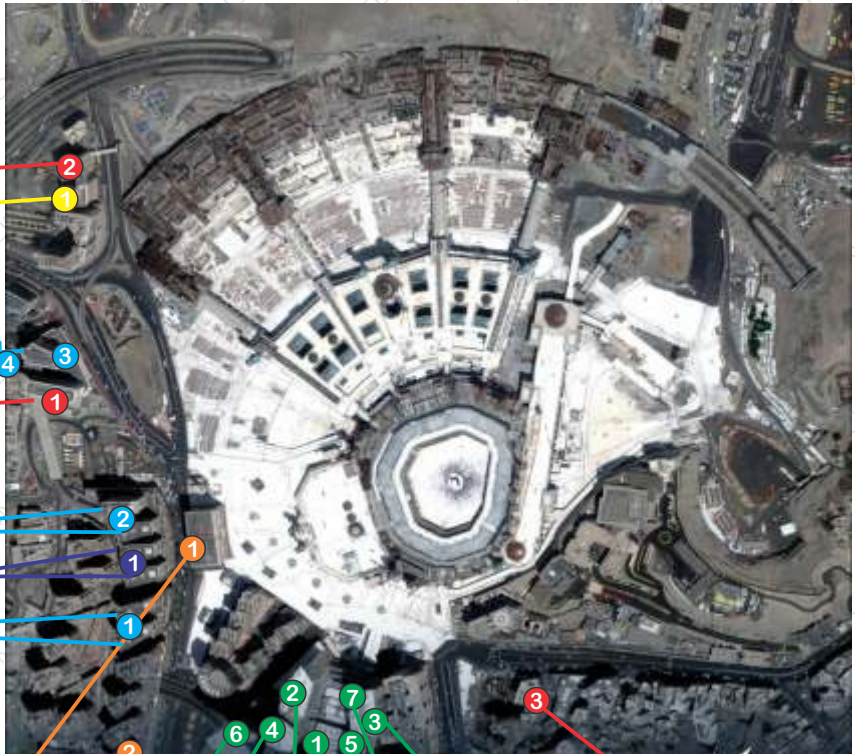
Suites

● Hyatt Regency

Conrad

● IHG

Intercontinental
Dar Al Tawhid



Voco

Swissotel
Maqam

● Accor

Pullman

Raffles

Fairmont

Royal

Clocktower

Movenpick

Rotana

Swissotel
Makkah

Le Meridien

For 2023
See the last link on
PAGE 26

Staying Free

● IHG

34,000 points
per free night

● Accor

points rates
depends on
cash rates
2000 points = 40 Euro

● Hilton

17,000 points on
5th night free perk
(goes up to 221k)

● Marriott

8,000 points on
5th night free perk
(goes up to 36k)

● GHA

points rates
depends on
cash rates
1 Ds = 1 usd

● Hyatt

9,000 points
per free night
up to 15,000

● Rotana

points rates
depends on
cash rates
*unique stay 5 pay for 4 perk

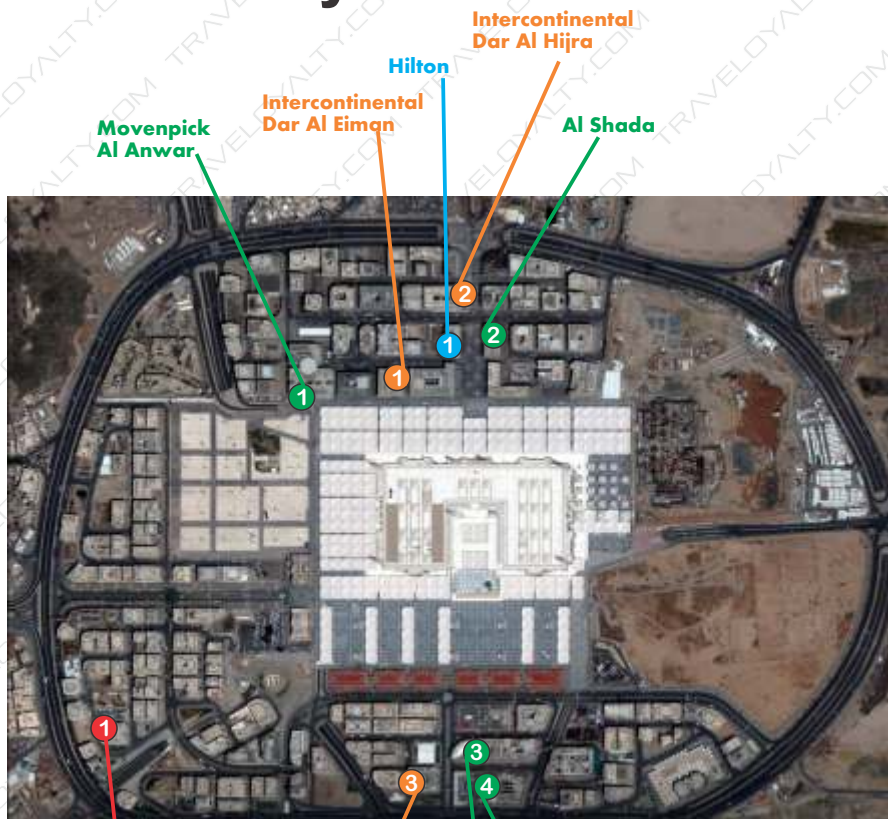
You can buy points on a bonus sale:
Up to 480,000 Hilton points for \$2400.

Marriott 140,000 points for \$1250.

IHG: 300,000 points for \$1500.

Chapter 7

Hotels to stay free at in MADINAH



Marriott

Crowne Plaza

Pullman
ZamZam

Movenpick Al Hajar

Staying Free

● **IHG**

12,000 points
per free night

● **Accor**

points rates
depends on
cash rates
2000 points = 40 Euro

● **Hilton**

24,000 points on
5th night free perk
(goes up to 204k)

● **Marriott**

12,000 points on
5th night free perk

● **GHA**

You can buy points on a bonus sale:
Up to 480,000 Hilton points for \$2400.

Marriott 140,000 points for \$1250.

IHG: 300,000 points for \$1500.

Chapter 8

Visa

The most common Visa is the Umrah Visa - at current it costs R3800 + for a single entry 30day visa.

The other newer visa is the Tourist Visa since January 2020.

If you hold a passport from one of the 52 member states you can get this visa online.

If not?

If you have a valid and entry stamped USA, Shengen or UK visa you can fly into Jed or Med or Riy or even Dmm on any carrier and obtain the tourist visa on arrival for SAR480.

Its multiple entry for one full year, up to 90days stay in the Kingdom. You can enter at any time but you cannot perform Umrah during the Haj months (note that Haj months start around 15 Dhul Qadah..)

link: <https://www.visitsaudi.com/en>

Latest Visa rolled out is the Personal Visit Visa where a Saudi Citizen can apply for your and your families visa, you may Umrah / visit Makkah and Madinah with this visa, it scosts SAR300 before + application fees + insurance fees (that shows on the portal once applying). The validity and period of stay depends on the nationality of the visitor.

Saudia & Flynas as also started free Visas on arrival for up to 4 days stay.



Chapter 9

Earning miles from hotels

There are also many ways to earn miles from hotels.

3.1 Double dip offers where hotels often offer points and miles from bookings. Certain Airlines offer double dips from flying as well as is the case with Emirates and Marriott Partnership or Qatar and Accor.

3.2 Book with Rocketmiles, ideally one will want their famous 5000 miles per booking sales, here simply make multiple bookings in each family members names if the Airline FFP has a link up in family bonus membership to pool it.

3.3 Use the OTA portals earn miles portal skin, even the largest tourist trap website Booking dot com has these with many airlines at no additional charge.

Room type	Sleeps	Price for 10 nights	Your choices
Twin/Double Room <small>Only 5 rooms left on our site</small> Choose your bed (if available) <input type="radio"/> 1 extra-large double bed  <input type="radio"/> 2 single beds 		ZAR 12,500 ZAR 11,250 (i) <small>Includes taxes and charges</small> Genius <small>Earn 1887 Etihad Guest</small>	 Superb breakfast included <ul style="list-style-type: none">Partially refundable10% Genius discount applied to the price before taxes and charges

3.4 Car rentals often offer amazing miles earn promotions, so if you're the type to rent and drive in Saudi (just make sure your hotel offers free parking) you will be banking plenty towards future upgrades.



Chapter 10

Flying in



Again here one is spoilt for choice, but do note this changes ALL the time:

From South Africa in no particular order the airlines are, Egypt Air, Ethiopian Air, Emirates, Etihad, Qatar, Saudia (direct), Turkish Air and Kenyan. Outside options like British Airways and Singapore Airlines have been effective over the years but mostly the Middle Eastern and 2 North African Carriers are the go -to's.

What is the easiest? What is the best? comes down to the individual.

Cheapest price is by far the biggest draw to booking, the other factor of transit times is another, these days with lounge access even the longest of transit times makes it much easier if not better as this gives one a opportunity to utilize complimentary showers, sleeper rooms some with jacuzzi and spa facilities and even to don Ihram for the shorter flight prior to crossing the Meeqat.

You can fly in 3 ways: Cash, miles, cash +miles and a 4th option - upgrade.

CASH: this changes all the time, you can use the App skyscanner or Google flights to get a comparison on your dates Always search Jnb-Jed and Med -Jnb, this falls under Multi city and is the most used ticketing option

MILES: using your frequent airline miles you may score amazing lower priced fares by way of TAXES ONLY.

Outbound →		JNB - JED						
Inbound ←		Economy						
JED - JNB	Friday 11 November	Saturday 12 November	Sunday 13 November	Monday 14 November	Tuesday 15 November	Wednesday 16 November	Thursday 17 November	
Friday 25 November	Start R7,500 miles + 2500 R,380	Start R7,500 miles + 2500 R,380	Start R7,500 miles + 2500 R,380	Start R7,500 miles + 2500 R,380	Start R7,500 miles + 2500 R,380	Start R7,500 miles + 2500 R,380	Start R7,500 miles + 2500 R,380	
Saturday 26 November	Start R7,500 miles + 2500 R,380	Start R7,500 miles + 2500 R,380	Start R7,500 miles + 2500 R,380	Start R7,500 miles + 2500 R,380	Start R7,500 miles + 2500 R,380	Start R7,500 miles + 2500 R,380	Start R7,500 miles + 2500 R,380	
Sunday 27 November	Start R7,500 miles + 2500 R,380	Start R7,500 miles + 2500 R,380	Start R7,500 miles + 2500 R,380	Start R7,500 miles + 2500 R,380	Start R7,500 miles + 2500 R,380	Start R7,500 miles + 2500 R,380	Start R7,500 miles + 2500 R,380	
Monday 28 November	Start R8,750 miles + 2500 R,380	Start R8,750 miles + 2500 R,380	Start R8,750 miles + 2500 R,380	Start R8,750 miles + 2500 R,380	Start R8,750 miles + 2500 R,380	Start R8,750 miles + 2500 R,380	Start R8,750 miles + 2500 R,380	

Emirates:

Usually requires

68,750 Miles +

R6,380 tax for a
return fare

You need to have at least 50% of the Avios required to book an award flight. Alternatively, you can book using other payment methods or Cash + Avios.

Book with other payment methods

Outbound flight

Johannesburg > Jeddah

Thu, 10 Nov	Fri, 11 Nov	Sat, 12 Nov	Sun, 13 Nov 2022	Mon, 14 Nov	Tue, 15 Nov	Wed, 16 Nov
From 23750 Avios + 2479.40 ZAR	From 23750 Avios + 2479.40 ZAR	From 23750 Avios + 2479.40 ZAR	From 23750 Avios + 2479.40 ZAR	From 23750 Avios + 2479.40 ZAR	From 23750 Avios + 2479.40 ZAR	From 23750 Avios + 2479.40 ZAR
			2479.40 ZAR			

Qatar: requires 23750 Avios + R2479 for the Outbound



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Discover how many miles you need to issue a reward ticket on your next trip from your region to any other region.

Select Region

Southern Africa

Europe 1 & Middle East

VIEW MILES

Award Class	Miles
Economy	40,000
Business	60,000

Price

TOTAL

ZAR 9,935.40

Round trip price for all travellers (including taxes and fees)

Air Transportation Charges	ZAR R 547.00
Taxes, Fees and Charges	ZAR 1,393.40

YOUR BOOKING

Hide booking details

Booking details

Purchase, change & cancellation conditions

Fare notes

Fare basis information

Itinerary

Johannesburg - Jeddah
Monday 14 November 2022

21:45 Johannesburg
O.R. Tambo International (JNB)
Terminal B

Duration 07h40m
Airline Egyptair (MS 840)
Aircraft Boeing 787-9
Class Economy Restricted

Egypt Air: requires 40,000 Miles for economy and 60,000 Miles for Business class Roundtrip

The taxes are **R1393** for both Economy and Business Class roundtrip

Chapter 11

Airline Upgrades

While Saudia has a unique curtained prayer room at the back of the plane to put on Ihram and to read prayers standing, other airlines do not have, upgrading to a premium cabin makes the change on board much easier not forgetting you able to leave the plane 1st and cross immigration 1st with little to no delays.

Emirates upgrades - DXB-JED/MED - start at 11,700 - 25,000 Skywards miles per way

Etihaad upgrades - AUH - JED/MED - start at 8,333 - 67,500 Etihad Guest Miles per way

Qatar upgrades - DOH - JED/MED - start at 4000 - 8000 Avios per way

Emirates A380 service will have the most space.

Star Alliance carriers Ethiopion and Egypt air require 15-20k to upgrade

EGYPTAIR AWARD UPGRADE

EGYPTAIR AWARD UPGRADE TABLE										
From/To	Reward Upgrade Class	Domestic	Europe 1 & Middle East	Europe 2	East&West & North Africa & Gulf Countries	Southern Africa	Indian Continent	South East Asia	Central Asia	North America & Canada
Egypt	To Business	7000	8000	15000	15000	15000	15000	22000	30000	30000

REGIONS AND COUNTRIES

***NEW:** Emirates and Air Canada has formed an code-share alliance. Air Canda loyalty Aeroplan has no fuel surcharges and seems to be great way forward, we have touched on this on Instagram with plenty more to follow as this opens up

Chapter 12

How to greet the Imam's ?

The Imam enters the Haram from the door of the Kings Palace just a few steps from Babul Ayyad and the ramp of Ayyad. The door of the Kings Palace will have a few guards posted outside.

As the Imam's also have an entourage of guards its making meeting or handshaking near impossible however there are 2 ways to greet them.

1. Wait for the Imam to exit the Kings Palace prior to the Fard Solaahs and walk across the walkway to the Haram and then greet them, this is the hardest way as the guards usually clear the path but if you are inside the Haram it's a bit easier.
2. After the Fard Solaah immediately make your way to the Ayyad exits, when the Imam concludes the Fard they usually go up the escalator to where the Janaazah solaah is performed. If you are fast and able enough you can make use of the staircase nearby and get to the Janaazah gate exit next to Ayyad gate, this is where the Imam will walk past to get to the Kings Palace, here again, plenty of security so do try to be alone and when the Imam walks by greet him, he would usually smile raise a hand and greet back. You won't stop smiling walking back to Jabal Omar thereafter.

link: <https://www.instagram.com/p/Cj-aHhIKmzm/?hl=en>

MADINAH

Usually we could meet the Imam when he leaves Bab Janaazah or near the parking escalator entrance at no . Also certain Imams would walk out Bab Baqee soon after janaazah prayers. If one could pray the front of the Raudah Jannah and leave straight after the fard there was ample opportunity to greet the Imam near the Salaam area of the raudah Mubarak.

These times, as security is very tight the only possible place is near the Parking Area escalators no 1A & 1B

Chapter 13

Attaining the front Safs

Madinah

BEFORE up to 2017:

For many years the front Saff was read in front of the Raudah and Raudah Mubarak. The Imam would stand in the middle at the Mihrab Othman.

These years we would hope for attaining a spot in front of the Blessed Graves or Raudah Mubarak on the far left side of the front of the Masjid.

Personally a spot here I would consider one of the greatest blessing of this lifetime as one could have hours there or under the window (where the huge TV Camera is) waiting for Fard solaah or even after waiting for the next Fards from Asr to Ishaah with no security chasing you away. These spots could be attained by anyone coming early enough and waiting for the Safs to form, each day, every day.



IN-BETWEEN 2017 - current:

The Front Saff or Saff Al Awal was then moved back to inline with the Raudah as the Imam now reads at Mihrab Nabawi (SAW) in the middle of the Raudah Mubarak.

From 2017 - March 2020 (pre Pandemic) the most wanted spot was between the Mihrab and the Mimbar in the Raudatul Jannah due to the mentions in the Sunnah of the Pond Of Kauthar as well as the spots next to the Green painted grill gate of the Raudah Mubarak. Attaining these spots all one needed to do was go very early and wait for lines to be made prior to fards as the crowds pour through. This was a enormous blessing to attain for almost every day on visits to Madinah. One could read 7 or 8 people away from behind the Imam on almost every Fard.

CURRENT:

The Imam still reads in the Raudahtul Jannah however due to the security its no longer possible to read Fard in the Raudah unless your Raudah booking time coincides with the guards time to leave you in.

The front saff still extends the outside on the carpeted area as well as Babus Siddique where most of the old Saf Al Awal Musalees have positioned themselves. The front Saff of the Mihrab Umar is reserved for the Janaza Solaah workers and Families

Makkah

In Makkah, It's a bit more simple on one hand being that the front saff cant be blocked or sat on hours prior due to the tawaaf, one has to come early and stand as it starts to form close to a hour before the Adhaan, on the other hand its not so simple as the amount of traffic and pushing through from emotional people to get to the Kaabah would carry on for a lengthy amount of time until the guards clear the Hajr Al Aswad - door to Hateem entrance and ultimately no one can come to the Kaabah then except the cleaning crew.

At current, post August 2022 - as the round barrier of the Kaabah was removed anyone can read at the front saff, even on the Imams spot infront of the door as he now reads on the side of the Kaabah due to safety concerns. . The Imam prays under the Muadhin box off the mataaf.

Previous years attaing the front saff has always been on the sides of the Kaabah and around the Hateem, as far back as anyone can remember no one has prayed here infront of the door and Multazam side for hundreds of years unless part of the Imams congregation or security.

This is the most wanted spot to pray on from most people on Earth.

Chapter 14

Commute

The Kingdom is geared up for commuting up and down between Haramain and beyond.

You have these options:

- negotiate with a taxi driver at airport terminal.
- rent a bus if your contingent is large.
- high speed Haramain Train.
- use Careem or Uber (Careem often partners with Airlines so many times we've used our smaller expiring miles into Careem credit thats been lasting for many trips inside cities in Saudi)

The Haramain Train is by far the easiest, just take note of their luggage policy of 65cm on big bags. There is a work around if you prepared to wait.

At the moment the Haramain Train has been running many 50% off specials as well as free bus service Inside Makkah station to Jabal Omar where its a short walk to most of the free point hotels there. Book Train tickets early within 2 weeks of departures or else prices go up but even here we have another work around

link: <https://sar.hhr.sa/travel/guidelines/tickets#>

Chapter 15

Closing

There are 14x of travelers, with insight see the links below.

What number are you at? and what number do you wish to change to?

Link 1: <https://www.instagram.com/p/B7ftxRJJXuy/?hl=en>

Link 2: <https://www.instagram.com/p/B7qVE6MJJoy-/?hl=en>

Link 3: https://www.instagram.com/p/B7yc_YNJg2Y/?hl=en

Link 4: <https://www.instagram.com/p/B78LqzTJ5Ou/?hl=en>

2023 Umrah bookings advice:

Link: <http://traveloyalty.co.za/discounting-ramadhaan-umrah-2023/>





*For the love of
visiting the
Haramain
repeatedly*

