

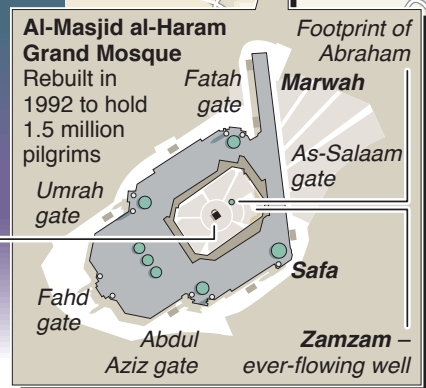
Haj – the fifth pillar of Islam

With its origins in the Biblical era, the annual pilgrimage to Mecca attracts over two million Muslims each year. The five-day spiritual journey follows the footsteps of Muhammad and the sacrifices made by Abraham in striving to follow God's will

Prelude

Grand Mosque in Mecca: Pilgrims perform *tawaf* – circling **Kaaba** at its centre seven times – and *saiy* – walking seven times between **Safa** and **Marwah**. Saiy symbolizes search for water by Abraham's wife, **Hajar**, before spring welled up in desert

Mecca remained a sacred site between eras of Abraham and Muhammad, during which time a number of idols were worshipped there

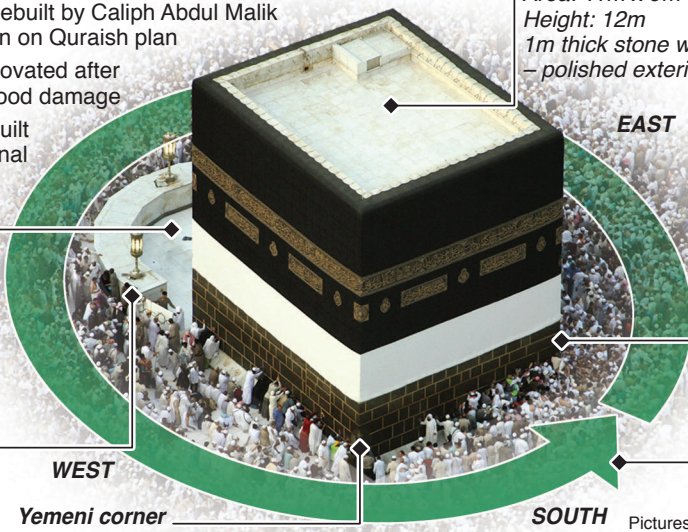


Kaaba

Built by Prophets Abraham (Ibrahim) and Ishmael (Ismail)
610AD: Rebuilt by Muhammad and Quraish tribe
683AD: Reconstruction on original foundations by Caliph Abdullah ibn az-Zubayr after destruction by Syrian Army
693 AD: Rebuilt by Caliph Abdul Malik bin Marwan on Quraish plan
1659: Renovated after massive flood damage
1996: Rebuilt using original stones

NORTH
 Tomb of Hajar and Ismail, wife and son of Abraham

Hateem – original boundary of Kaaba



Day 1 Pilgrims walk to Mina where they spend night

8km
5 miles

2 Waqfa
 Central rite of Haj: Pilgrims climb Mount Arafat, site of Muhammad's final sermon

Mina
Sea of tents
Slaughterhouse
Muzdalifah

3 Eid al-Adha (Feast of Sacrifice)
 Stoning of three pillars at Jamara, representing temptations of Satan.

Pillars have been replaced with 26m-long walls to improve flow of crowd.

Slaughter of an animal to give away meat to the poor

Construction
 Area: 11m x 9m
 Height: 12m
 1m thick stone walls – polished exterior

4 Return to Mecca for final tawaf

Hajar-ul Aswad
 Black Stone – embedded in south-eastern corner of Kaaba

