

COMEREL TRAVELS AND TOURS UMRAH 2010 – FULL DAILY TRIP PLAN

DAY 1, 7th April (ABUJA)

We will converge at the National Mosque, Abuja for those travelling from Abuja. There, air-conditioned shuttle buses will ferry everyone to the Nnamdi Azikiwe Airport where we shall airlift everyone to Lagos at no extra charge. Anyone who misses the flight should please find their way to Lagos.

DAY 1, 7th April (LAGOS)

Our staff will meet you and usher you into our buses that will convey you to the international wing of the Murtala Muhammad Airport. Please note that we will convey only those who boarded the designated flight from Abuja to Lagos.

DAY 1, 7th April (DUBAI)

We shall have a brief or long stop over here (depending on the time for our connecting flight to Jeddah) before our connecting flight to Jeddah. It is important to observe the following:

1. Hand over your international passports to our designated staff; they shall use them to process your onward journey to Jeddah and your hotel voucher in case your transit period is long.
2. If the transit period is long, the airline shall provide you with a hotel, please check out early to avoid missing your flight to Jeddah. **Avoid sleeping in the mosque in the transit area. DO NOT LOSE YOUR BOARDING PASS PLEASE!**
3. Use the boarding gate indicated on your boarding pass. If you are unsure, please ask our staff.
4. Parents should especially watch their wards' movements, as kids tend to be easily distracted

DAY 2, 8th April (JEDDAH)

Now that we are in Jeddah, please note that the immigration procedures here take some time. Please be patient; we have no control over these procedures. Where feasible, we shall take you to Madeenah by air; otherwise, we will travel by road, which incidentally is more expensive than travelling by air but affords you the opportunity of taking in the scenery around you as you traverse the Kingdom. To board our buses, we require you to please keep your bus/jeep boarding ticket and wear your COMEREL ID card.

DAY 2, 8th April (MADEENAH)

No doubt, you will be tired and you need to rest. Our accommodation at the prestigious Madinah Hilton Hotel is the best Madeenah has to offer and it is within the Haram itself. Allow our staff to assist you with the check in procedures. Where this takes some time, please be patient as this is normal when dealing with a large number of pilgrims.

Our stay in Madinah is bed and breakfast, which means any additional meals or items you consume shall be at your own cost please.

DAY 3, 9th April (MADEENAH)

This morning, we will begin our exploration of Madeenah; we shall begin with the graves of the righteous predecessors at Baqee' immediately after the Subhi salah. We will return to the hotel for breakfast, then we will set out for Mount Uhud and the graveyard of the martyrs there.

After this we will go to the Qubaa mosque and the only mosque with two Qiblahs in the world; the famous Masjid Qiblatain!

Our next port of call is at the sensational King Fahd Quran Printing Complex. You shall see how the Glorious Quran is produced from the outset to the finished product! Revel in the light of the Divine Guidance as you behold crisp copies of the glorious Quran coming off the press. You may even get a complimentary copy

In the evening, we shall visit the amusement park and have fun. You have so many kinds rides and activities to choose from.

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DAY 4, 10th April (MADEENAH)

Today is for shopping. We will visit shopping centres and malls where you can get goods at a good bargain.

We shall send luggage tags to your rooms. Please use them as instructed. Not filling them can be dangerous. Not using them is even worse. Please do not leave valuables and or money in your luggage at any point in time. COMEREL absolves itself and its staff of any blame if you do not follow these instructions. If you require more stickers than the numbers sent, please ask our staff for more stickers.

Also, endeavour to buy your ihram garment today if you have none as experience has shown that there is hardly any opportunity to do so on the day we leave for Makkah without causing distress to others by keeping them waiting.

DAY 5, 11th April (MADEENAH)

As early as possible this morning, please arrange your luggage neatly in front of your rooms where the hotel porters shall come and pick them. The luggage shall precede us to Makkah. Make sure that you have taken out your valuables from the bags and that you have removed your most essential items like toiletries for your use till both luggage and owner are united in Makkah once again.

We will take our ritual bath (Ghusl) from our hotel rooms and wear our Ihraam garments.

All pilgrims will go to the hotel reception and check out room by room such that everyone is accounted for. All meals ordered as room service and items consumed from the mini fridge in each room shall be the responsibility of the affected room's occupants.

We will proceed to Dhul Hulayfah by road where you will make your intention for Umrah. From here, we proceed to Makkah.

We note that some people insist on reaching the Meeqaat before taking their bath, making the intention for Umrah and proceeding to Makkah. While we respect those who hold this view, we do not share it. This is because there is no command from Allah and His messenger to do this; more so that this leads to so much congestion in the bathrooms. At the end of the day, the journey to Makkah is greatly hampered. Though the prophet (SAW) took his bath at *Dhul Hulayfah*, he did not order anyone to do so. Contrary to popular belief, the Ihram garb is only a symbol of the state of Ihram which itself is an intention to sanctify yourself for Allah's sake; it can be worn before or after getting to *Dhul Hulayfah*. You can ask scholars and read further to get a better picture of this issue

DAY 5, 11th April (MAKKAH)

Here, as before, we will patiently go through the check-in procedure at the fabulous Safwah Royale hotel, which, by the way, is the closest five-star hotel to the Haram.

Due to the normal protocol of check out of outgoing guests at the hotels, when we arrive, we have to wait for our rooms to be made ready for us. The waiting time may be considerable and it may linger until dinnertime. If this happens, please bear it patiently.

After check in, we will go to the Ancient House of the Lord of the Worlds and perform Umrah. Our handbook on Umrah and Hajj should prove helpful if you want to do your Umrah properly; you will have a copy, insha Allah.

Please note that your stay in the hotel is also bed and breakfast. Lunch and dinner will be at your own expense.

DAY 6, 12th April (MAKKAH)

Today, we will go sightseeing. We will start by visiting the sites of pilgrimage one after another. You will be amazed at how tranquil the places can be without the huge crowd people are accustomed to seeing.

From the sites of Hajj, we will visit the cave of Hira, which was the site of the first revelation to the prophet (S.A.W). We will also visit some important mosques including the mosque where the Jinns met the prophet (S.A.W) for the first time to listen to the Quran.

We will see an exhibition of the ancient relics of the Holy mosque in Makkah and then we will head to the Kaabah Clothing Factory. You will watch with fascination how the cloth that covers the Ka'abah is woven and decorated with the unbelievably beautiful calligraphy that you see all the time. You will learn its history and that of the generations of the family dedicated to the art.

13th April (TAIF)

Taif is just some kilometres from Makkah; it was here the messenger of Allah (S.A.W) was stoned by a mob of disbelievers until he bled from almost all parts of his noble body.

We will travel uphill in a cable car from which you can see an amazing winding road and the trail of those who made Hijrah with the prophet (S.A.W). We shall visit the Al Hadaa Nature Resort and the mosque of Abdullah ibn 'Abbas, the great companion of the messenger of Allah (S.A.W).

We will also be at the Wet and Dry Amusement Park where again we will have many fun-filled Halaal activities, insha Allah.

After this, we shall visit the Ekrimah Dam also in Taif and at night, we will leave Taif and return to Makkah.

DAY 8, 14th April (JEDDAH)

This morning, after check out at the hotel in Makkah, we proceed to Jeddah and check in at the fabulous five-star Trident Hotel. Everybody is expected to just cool off until evening when we go to the beach side. Please note that women are expected to dress in an Islamic manner to the beach or else, they might be arrested. We will proceed to a mosque built on water and perform the Maghrib and Isha prayers.

DAY 9, 15th April (JEDDAH)

We will shop all day today in the shopping malls of Jeddah. Be ready to feast your eyes on more items than you can buy. You must also remember the etiquette of Islamic trade and of entering the market place.

DAY 10, 16th April (JEDDAH)

Today, we will get our luggage ready for our return flight to Nigeria. Please take care to pack your luggage properly and tag them accordingly. When our staffers inform you of the flight time, please hasten to join the bus that will take you to the airport.

Hope you had a rewarding trip.