

Tawaf — circling the House

Seven circuits with the Ka‘bah on your left, beginning and ending at the Black Stone. The Qur‘an says the House was purified for exactly this.



☀ Commanded in the Qur‘an

وَلْيَطَّوَّفُوا بِالْبَيْتِ الْعَتِيقِ

“Then let them end their untidiness, fulfil their vows, and perform tawaf around the ancient House.”

Qur‘an 22:29

☀ The House was made for it

أَنْ طَهَّرَا بَيْتِي لِلطَّائِفِينَ وَالْعَاكِفِينَ وَالرُّكَّعِ السُّجُودِ

Ibrahim and Isma‘il were charged: “Purify My House for those who perform tawaf, those who stay for worship, and those who bow and prostrate.”

Qur‘an 2:125

☀ Seven, then two rak‘ahs

He ﷺ did ramal — a brisk step — through the first three circuits and walked the last four; then prayed two rak‘ahs, then went out to Safa.

Sahih al-Bukhari 1616

☀ Where those two are prayed

وَاتَّخِذُوا مِنْ مَّقَامِ إِبْرَاهِيمَ مُصَلًّى

“And take from the standing place of Ibrahim a place of prayer.” He recited it and prayed with the Maqam between himself and the Ka‘bah.

Sunan at-Tirmidhi 862 · sahih

☀ Like prayer, but you may speak

الطَّوَافُ حَوْلَ الْبَيْتِ مِثْلُ الصَّلَاةِ

“Tawaf around the House is like the prayer, except that you speak in it; so whoever speaks, let him say nothing but good.” At-Tirmidhi notes it is also reported as Ibn ‘Abbas’s own words.

Sunan at-Tirmidhi 960 · sahih

☀ The stone, and what it is not

‘Umar kissed the Black Stone and said: I know you are a stone that neither benefits nor harms; had I not seen the Messenger of Allah ﷺ kiss you, I would not have kissed you.

Sahih al-Bukhari 1597 · 1605

☀ Why the brisk step stayed

‘Umar added that ramal was first done to look strong before the pagans, and Allah has since destroyed them — “but he ﷺ did it, and we do not wish to leave it.”

Sahih al-Bukhari 1605

☀ Not while menstruating

‘A‘ishah menstruated on the way to hajj and wept. He ﷺ told her: do everything the pilgrims do, except do not perform tawaf of the Ka‘bah until you are clean.

Sahih al-Bukhari 305 · 1650

☀ Which tawaf is which

The three names are the jurists’ arrangement of the rite, not three separate hadiths.

- Qudum — on arriving in Makkah
- Ifadah — on 10 Dhul-Hijjah; a pillar of hajj
- Wada‘ — the farewell, on leaving

Fiqh: the standard naming of the tawafs