

Umrah — step by step

Four acts in order: ihram at the boundary, tawaf, sa'i, then the hair. No 'Arafah, no Mina, no fixed month.



★ Complete them both

وَأَتِمُّوا الْحَجَّ وَالْعُمْرَةَ لِلَّهِ

“And complete the hajj and the ‘umrah for Allah.” The two are named in one command.

Qur'an 2:196

★ 1 · Ihram at the miqat

He ﷺ fixed Dhul-Hulayfah for Madinah, al-Juhfah for Sham, Qarn al-Manazil for Najd and Yalamlam for Yemen — and for anyone else passing through them.

Sahih al-Bukhari 1524

★ 2 · The talbiyah

لَبَّيْكَ اللَّهُمَّ لَبَّيْكَ، لَبَّيْكَ لَا شَرِيكَ لَكَ لَبَّيْكَ

“Here I am, O Allah, here I am. You have no partner...” He ﷺ began saying it at Dhul-Hulayfah as his mount rose with him.

Sahih al-Bukhari 1549 · 1515

★ 3 · Tawaf, seven times

Seven circuits of the Ka'bah, then two rak'ahs. He ﷺ moved briskly through the first three circuits and walked the last four.

Sahih al-Bukhari 1616

★ 4 · Sa'i, seven times

إِنَّ الْأَصْفَا وَالْمَرْوَةَ مِنْ شَعَائِرِ اللَّهِ

“Indeed, Safa and Marwah are among the symbols of Allah.” Seven lengths, starting at Safa and finishing at Marwah.

Qur'an 2:158 · Sahih Muslim, Kitab al-Hajj

★ 5 · Cut the hair

At the Farewell Hajj he ﷺ ordered those without a sacrificial animal to finish with tawaf and sa'i, shorten their hair, and leave ihram.

Sahih al-Bukhari 1651

★ What it clears

الْعُمْرَةُ إِلَى الْعُمْرَةِ كَفَّارَةٌ لِمَا بَيْنَهُمَا

“‘Umrah to ‘Umrah is an expiation for what fell between them — and the reward of an accepted hajj is nothing less than Paradise.”

Sahih al-Bukhari 1773

★ In Ramadan

To a woman of the Ansar kept from hajj by a shortage of camels he ﷺ said: “Perform ‘umrah in Ramadan, for ‘umrah in Ramadan is like hajj.”

Sahih al-Bukhari 1782 · 1863

★ Obligated, or recommended

Whether ‘umrah is owed once in a lifetime is disputed: the Shafi'i and Hanbali schools hold it obligatory, the Hanafi and Maliki that it is a sunnah. A fiqh difference, not a text.

Fiqh: the four schools differ