

15 Common Umrah Mistakes UK Pilgrims Make - and How to Avoid Every

15 common Umrah mistakes UK pilgrims make — ihram errors, tawaf slip-ups, booking traps and packing fails, plus simple ways to avoid every one.

Published 16 Jun 2026 · 4,099 words · 21 min read



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We see the same **umrah mistakes** every season — and in 2026, it's still happening. Not because people don't care. It's because Umrah has a lot of moving parts, and first-timers are often tired, nervous, and trying to do everything "perfect".

Now, here's the thing. Many guides only talk about ritual errors. But in our day-to-day work at Noor Umrah Travels, we've found the stress often starts earlier: visas left too late, hotels booked too far, brutal layovers, and packing gaps that turn simple days into hard ones.

So we wrote this the way we'd explain it to our own family. Kind, clear, and practical. And yes, we'll talk about Tawaf (circling the Kaaba). We'll also talk about money traps and health issues. Because both can ruin your trip.

If you'd like help checking your plan before you fly, you can browse our [Umrah Packages UK 2026](#) and ask our team what fits your dates and budget. No pressure. Just clarity.



Before You Fly - Booking Mistakes

This is where most stress begins.

We've arranged Umrah trips for thousands of UK pilgrims over the years. And honestly, the biggest problems often happen *before* you even reach Makkah. The good news? These are easy to avoid once you know what to check.

1) Booking the cheapest package without checking hotel distance

Cheap can be fine. But "cheap" can also mean "far".

We've had clients call us from Makkah saying, "The hotel said it's near the Haram." Then we check. It's a 25-minute walk, plus ramps, plus crowds. With kids or elders, it's tough.

Why it matters: if your hotel is far from Masjid al-Haram, you'll:

- miss prayers because you're exhausted
- spend more on taxis (and waste time in traffic)

- struggle more in heat, especially in peak months

Fix: before you book, ask one simple question: “How many metres to Gate 1 (or a named gate)?” Not “near”. A number.

Also, compare your stay level. A solid middle option often wins. If you’re weighing comfort vs price, our [4 Star Umrah Packages](#) are usually the sweet spot for UK families.

And if you want to learn hotel areas properly, save this for later: [Best Hotels Near Haram Makkah – Complete Guide for Umrah Pilgrims](#).

2) Leaving visas to the last minute

This one causes panic.

In 2026, Saudi entry routes can change based on rules and travel dates. And when you apply late, you’ve got no room for delays. We’ve seen people lose flights because they assumed visa approval is always “same day”. It often is. But not always.

Common UK issues we see:

- passport photos that don’t meet the size rules
- names entered differently to the passport
- wrong visa type picked by mistake

Fix: start visa prep as soon as your dates are likely. If you want the step-by-step, keep this open: [Umrah Visa UK 2026: Step-by-Step Guide to Apply Online, Latest Prices & Saudi Visa Waiver Cost](#).

Also, if you’re unsure about costs, read: [Umrah Visa Price UK 2026: Complete Cost Breakdown for British Passport Holders Before You Apply](#).

3) Skipping travel insurance

It feels boring. But it saves trips.

We’ve helped pilgrims who had a family emergency back home, or a medical issue in Saudi Arabia, or a missed connection. Without cover, the costs can be painful.

Fix: get travel insurance that covers:

- medical care abroad

- flight delays and missed connections
- lost baggage (Ihram in checked luggage is a real risk)

And please read the policy wording. It matters. If you're building your budget, our breakdown helps: [How Much Does Umrah Cost from UK? Complete Price Breakdown for 2026](#).

4) Choosing brutal layovers to save £50

We get it. Flights can be pricey.

But a 14-hour layover with kids, or an overnight airport wait, can break your energy. Then you arrive in Jeddah, you do the coach ride, and you're meant to do Umrah. Your body is done.

We've seen a common pattern: people choose the cheapest flight, arrive wrecked, and then make avoidable Umrah mistakes in Ihram or Tawaf because they're half-asleep.

Fix: aim for a flight plan that protects your first 24 hours. If you're comparing routes, this is useful: [Flights to Jeddah from UK – Airlines, Routes & Cheap Flight Tips](#).

And if you do take a long route, plan a rest window before Umrah. Even a short nap helps.

Ihram Mistakes

Ihram is simple. But it's strict.

Ihram (the sacred state for Umrah) starts with intention and the known rules. For men, it also includes the two white cloths. For women, it's normal modest clothing, with key limits.

If you want the full rule list, we've written it clearly here: [Ihram Rules for Umrah and Hajj - Complete Guide for Men and Women](#).



5) Crossing the miqat without ihram

This happens more than you'd think.

Miqat (the boundary point) is where you must enter Ihram before passing it. On flights, the captain often announces it. But people miss it. Some are asleep. Some are in the toilet queue. Some thought they'd "do it in Jeddah".

Real story (anonymised): a brother we helped in early 2026 boarded from London after a long shift. He fell asleep fast. He woke up after the miqat announcement, still in normal clothes. He felt awful. He also didn't know what to do next. (Trust us, we've seen it happen.)

What can happen: scholars mention a *dam* (a penalty sacrifice) may be due if someone crosses miqat without Ihram, depending on the case and what they do after. Dam means a required sacrifice in Makkah. It's serious. And it can cost money too.

Fix:

- change into Ihram at the UK airport (or at home if you're confident)
- make wudu before boarding when you can
- set an alarm for about 1 hour before landing (it helps)

Also, keep a small unscented wipe pack in hand luggage. It's useful.

6) Using scented products after niyyah

This is one of the most common umrah mistakes for first-timers.

Niyyah (intention) is when you enter Ihram. After that, fragrance is not allowed. People slip up with:

- perfume
- scented deodorant
- fragrance hand gel
- scented moisturiser

Fix: buy fragrance-free items *before* you travel. And label them. Sounds silly. It works.

If you want a simple clothing and Ihram packing guide, this helps: [What to Wear for Umrah – Complete Guide Ihram for Men & Women](#).

7) Wrong clothing rules for women

Women's Ihram often gets over-complicated.

Women don't wear the two white cloths. They enter Ihram in normal modest clothes. But there are key points many sisters miss, especially in mixed UK groups where advice comes from "auntie WhatsApp".

Common mistakes we see:

- wearing a face covering that touches the face in Ihram
- bringing only one abaya, then struggling with washing
- choosing slippery shoes, then falling in crowds

Fix: plan practical layers. Bring pins. Bring a spare scarf. And keep footwear stable and broken-in.

For the detailed rules, we always point sisters and families to: [Ihram Rules for Umrah and Hajj - Complete Guide for Men and Women](#).

Umrah Mistakes in Tawaf and Sa'i

This is where nerves kick in.

Tawaf and Sa'i are simple in shape. But crowds change everything. And when people panic, they rush, push, and lose count.

If you want the full step order in one place, keep this open while you read: [How to Perform Umrah Step by Step - The Complete Guide for UK Pilgrims](#).

8) Starting Tawaf in the wrong place

It sounds small. It isn't.

Tawaf starts at the Black Stone area (Hajar al-Aswad). You don't need to kiss it. But you do need to start your first circle from that line.

Fix: look for the floor markers and the green light indicators. If it's too crowded, stand in line with the marker as best you can. Then start.

And don't worry if you can't get close. Allah sees your effort.

9) Pushing to kiss the Black Stone

Please don't risk it.

We've seen shoulders dislocate. We've seen elders knocked. We've seen people cry after being crushed. And all of it was for a Sunnah act that you can do from a distance by pointing.

Fix: if you're far, raise your hand, point, and say *Allahu Akbar*. Keep moving. Stay calm. Your Umrah is not a wrestling match.



10) Miscounting laps

This happens a lot. Even to calm people.

You need seven circuits. In crowds, it's easy to forget if you're on lap four or five. Then anxiety hits. Then people restart. Then they get more tired.

Fix: use a simple method:

- count on your fingers, one finger per lap
- or use a small click counter (cheap and easy)
- or track in your notes app with big numbers

And keep your phone safe. Pickpocketing is rare, but it happens in crowds.

If you'd like a short list of authentic duas to read, we keep it simple here: [Complete Umrah Dua List with Arabic, English and Transliteration](#).

11) Doing rituals in the wrong order (and skipping Sa'i laps)

Order matters. It's part of the act.

The basic flow for Umrah is:

1. Ihram
2. Tawaf
3. Two rak'ahs (units of prayer) after Tawaf
4. Sa'i (walking between Safa and Marwa) for seven rounds
5. Hair cut (Halq/Taqsir)

In the rush, some people do Sa'i first. Others do Tawaf, then go back to the hotel "for a break", then forget what's next. And some miscount Sa'i and do six rounds by mistake.

Fix: keep one clear "Umrah day" plan. No big detours. And for Sa'i, remember this simple line: Safa to Marwa is **one**. Marwa back to Safa is **two**.

If you want the exact Sa'i dua references, we've listed them here: [Dua for Safa and Marwa – All 7 Rounds in Arabic, English &](#).

After the Rituals

Don't rush the last steps.

Many umrah mistakes happen right at the end, when people think, "We're basically done." But the final acts matter. And they're often the easiest ones.

12) Cutting hair in the wrong way (or wrong place)

This is a big one for men and women.

After Sa'i, you exit Ihram by cutting hair. Men may shave (Halq) or trim (Taqsir). Women trim a small amount from the ends of the hair.

Common mistakes we see:

- men trimming only a few strands from one side
- women cutting far too much due to bad advice
- people doing it before Sa'i due to confusion

Fix: wait until Sa'i is complete. Then do a proper trim. If you're unsure, ask a trusted guide on the ground. Don't guess.

And yes, the barbers near the Haram can be very busy. Plan a little time for it.

Dua When Shaving/Cutting Hair (Halq/Taqsir)

ARABIC

اَللّٰهُمَّ اغْفِرْ لِّلْمُحَلِّقِيْنَ اَللّٰهُمَّ اغْفِرْ لِّلْمُحَلِّقِيْنَ اَللّٰهُمَّ اغْفِرْ لِّلْمُقَاصِّصِيْنَ

TRANSLITERATION

Allahumma-ghfir lil-muhalliqeen. Allahumma-ghfir lil-muhalliqeen. Allahumma-ghfir lil-muqasssireen

TRANSLATION

O Allah, forgive those who shave their heads. O Allah, forgive those who shave their heads. O Allah, forgive those who trim their hair.

REFERENCE

Sahih al-Bukhari

13) Rushing out without praying after Tawaf (near Maqam Ibrahim)

This is often missed in crowd pressure.

After Tawaf, you pray two rak'ahs. Many people try to pray right behind Maqam Ibrahim (Station of Ibrahim). But it's often packed. So they give up.

Fix: pray the two rak'ahs anywhere in Masjid al-Haram where it's safe and allowed. Don't block people. Don't argue. Just pray calmly.

And remember the Quranic wording connected to Maqam Ibrahim in Surah Al-Baqarah (2:125).

Dua at Maqam Ibrahim (After Tawaf)

ARABIC

يَا اَللّٰهُمَّ مَآءِ اَرْضِ اِيْمَاقٍ مِّنْ اَوْذِخَّتْ اَوْ

TRANSLITERATION

Wattakhidhu min maqami Ibrahima musalla

TRANSLATION

And take the Station of Ibrahim as a place of prayer.

REFERENCE

Quran, Surah Al-Baqarah (2:125)

If you want round-by-round Tawaf duas, we've kept them in one place: [Dua for Tawaf - All 7 Rounds with Arabic, English and Transliteration](#).

Health and Comfort Mistakes

Your body is part of the journey.

Spiritual focus is easier when you're not dizzy, dehydrated, or limping. And in Makkah, small health mistakes become big fast. Heat, marble floors, long walks, and crowds all add up.

If you're still building your packing plan, keep this open: [What to Pack for Umrah – Complete Umrah Packing List for Men & Women](#).

14) Dehydration and no sun plan

This one catches UK pilgrims off guard.

Makkah heat can feel sharp, even in “mild” months. And inside the Haram, you may not feel thirsty because you're focused. Then you stand up. And your head spins.

Fix:

- drink small amounts often, not huge amounts rarely
- carry an empty bottle and refill where allowed
- use shade routes when walking back to the hotel
- rest after Dhuhr if you can

Zamzam is a gift. Use it well. If you want the history and proper etiquette, read: [Zamzam Water - The Complete Guide to Its History, Benefits and Duas](#).

Also, check the monthly climate before you lock dates. It helps you pack right: [Makkah Weather – Month by Month Guide for Umrah Pilgrims](#).

15) Brand-new footwear = blisters

We wish we could shout this at airports.

People buy “Umrah sandals” the day before. They look great. Then they do Tawaf, Sa’i, and long walks. By day two, they can’t step properly. Then they miss prayers because it hurts.

Fix: wear your footwear at home for at least a week first. And bring:

- blister plasters
- small bandage roll
- antiseptic wipes (unscented)

And don’t forget: the marble can be slippery when wet. Grip matters.

Summary Table - Mistake, Consequence, Fix

Here’s the quick-reference version.

If you’re travelling with parents, print this section and keep it in your bag. It saves a lot of repeat stress.

#	Umrah mistake	What it can cause	Simple fix
1	Booking cheapest deal without checking hotel distance	Exhaustion, missed prayers, extra taxi costs	Ask for metres to a named Haram gate, not “near”
2	Leaving visa to last minute	Delays, missed flights, panic	Start early and double-check passport name spelling
3	Skipping travel insurance	Large costs if illness, delay, or loss happens	Get cover for medical, delays, and baggage

#	Umrah mistake	What it can cause	Simple fix
4	Brutal layovers to save small money	Arrive drained, higher risk of ritual errors	Pick a kinder route or plan rest before Umrah
5	Crossing miqat without ihram	Possible dam penalty, stress, confusion	Enter ihram before flight reaches miqat; set an alarm
6	Scented products after niyyah	Ihram violation, worry	Pack fragrance-free toiletries and label them
7	Women's ihram clothing misunderstandings	Discomfort, rule confusion	Keep it modest and practical; learn key limits early
8	Starting tawaf from wrong point	Wrong lap counting, need to restart	Line up with Black Stone marker and begin there
9	Pushing to kiss the Black Stone	Injury, harm to others	Point from distance and keep moving
10	Miscounting tawaf laps	Anxiety, restarting, fatigue	Use fingers, click counter, or notes app
11	Wrong order / skipping Sa'i laps	Incomplete rites, confusion	Follow the standard order; Safa→Marwa is one
12	Cutting hair incorrectly	Not properly exiting ihram	Trim correctly after Sa'i; ask if unsure
13	Leaving without two rak'ahs after tawaf	Missed Sunnah act, regret	Pray anywhere safe in the Haram if crowded
14	Dehydration and no sun plan	Dizziness, headaches, heat illness	Drink often, rest mid-day, use shade routes
15	New shoes causing blisters	Pain, missed prayers, slow movement	Break shoes in for a week; pack blister plasters

What Our Team Wishes Every First-Timer Knew

We'll keep this real.

Most first-timers aren't "making mistakes" because they're careless. They're making mistakes because they're overwhelmed. And because they're trying to copy what others do, without knowing why.

Here are a few things we wish you knew before you go:

- **Outer rings are your friend.** In Tawaf, the outer area is calmer. It's often safer too.
- **Slow is not wrong.** A calm Umrah is often a better Umrah.
- **Don't treat Umrah day like a sightseeing day.** Do the rites first. Then rest.
- **Keep your phone working.** A working SIM or eSIM helps with maps and family contact.

On that last point, we get asked about data every week. This guide is helpful: [eSIM Saudi Arabia – Best SIM Card Guide for Umrah Pilgrims](#).

Second real story (anonymised): a family we supported last winter booked a "too good to be true" deal elsewhere. The hotel ended up far, and the room fit was tight. By day three, the dad was paying for taxis each prayer time. They told us later they didn't mind paying more. They just wished they knew the *true* cost upfront.

That's why we always tell people to read cost breakdowns before booking. If you're price-checking, these two posts help a lot: [Umrah Cost from UK 2026: Full Price Breakdown, Hidden Fees & How to Book the Cheapest Package](#) and [Cheap Umrah Packages UK: How to Book Including Flights & Save Thousands in 2026](#).

And if you're still choosing dates, don't guess. Use the month-by-month advice here: [Best Time to Perform Umrah – Complete Month by Month Guide \(2026\)](#).



FAQ

These are the questions UK pilgrims ask us most.

What mistakes should I avoid during Umrah?

The biggest umrah mistakes are usually a mix of ritual and planning issues. Avoid crossing the miqat without Ihram, using scented products after niyyah, and miscounting Tawaf or Sa'i laps. Also avoid booking a hotel far from the Haram without realising the daily walk. Finally, don't ignore hydration and footwear, because pain and dizziness ruin focus fast.

What breaks your ihram?

Ihram can be affected by doing things that are not allowed in that state, like using fragrance after entering Ihram. For men, wearing stitched clothing in the Ihram state is also an issue. Hair cutting and nail cutting are also not done until you finish the rites and exit Ihram. If you're unsure about a specific case, check a trusted scholar or read our clear breakdown: [Ihram Rules for Umrah and Hajj - Complete Guide for Men and Women](#).

Can I use perfume during ihram?

After you make niyyah and enter Ihram, you should avoid perfume and scented products. The slip-ups we see most are deodorant, hand gel, and scented wipes. So it's best to pack fragrance-free items and keep them in your hand luggage. If you've already applied something by mistake, don't panic, but do seek advice on what to do next.

What happens if you make a mistake in tawaf?

Many Tawaf mistakes are fixable, like starting from the wrong place or miscounting laps. If you realise early, you can correct your position and continue with clear counting. If you're genuinely unsure about your number of circuits, it's safer to act on what you're most sure of, then complete seven. For helpful duas and structure, use: [Dua for Tawaf - All 7 Rounds with Arabic, English and Transliteration](#).

Do I have to do sa'i immediately after tawaf?

Most people do Sa'i soon after Tawaf, and it keeps the flow simple. That said, short breaks can happen due to crowd control, prayer times, or tiredness. The main thing is not to confuse the order or forget where you are in the rites. If you're a first-timer, we suggest doing Tawaf, praying, then going straight to Sa'i when you can.

What is a dam penalty in Umrah?

Dam is a penalty that may be required for certain violations, such as crossing the miqat without entering Ihram, depending on the situation and scholarly ruling. It usually involves arranging a sacrifice in Makkah. It's not something you want to "risk and see". If you think you may owe dam, ask a qualified scholar on the ground and act quickly.

How early should I book Umrah from the UK?

For 2026 travel, we suggest booking as early as you can once your dates are stable, especially for school holidays and Ramadan periods. Prices often rise as flights and closer hotels sell out. Early booking also gives you time for visa, vaccines, and packing. If you're comparing trip lengths, you can start with our main page: [Umrah Packages UK 2026](#).

Is it a mistake to book the cheapest package?

Not always. But it can be, if you don't understand what's missing. The most common "cheap package" issues are hotel distance, long layovers, and poor room fit for families. A better approach is to set a budget, then pick the best value inside it. This price guide helps you judge deals fairly: [How Much Does Umrah Cost from UK? Complete Price Breakdown for 2026](#).

What do first-timers forget to pack?

First-timers often forget blister plasters, fragrance-free toiletries, and a small cross-body bag for the Haram. Many also forget a spare pair of sandals and basic meds like rehydration salts. And some forget a simple printed copy of key bookings, which helps when your phone battery dies. Use our checklist before you zip the suitcase: [What to Pack for Umrah – Complete Umrah Packing List for Men & Women](#).



Final thoughts (from our team)

Umrah isn't about being flawless.

It's about turning up with a sincere heart, then doing your best. So if you spot yourself in a few of these umrah mistakes, don't feel bad. Just fix what you can. And ask when you don't know.

If you want a calm, well-checked plan for 2026, you can explore our [Umrah Packages UK 2026](#) and then [contact our team](#) with your dates. We'll tell you what we'd book for our own family.

May Allah accept your Umrah, make it easy, and bring you home safe. Ameen.

Helpful next steps for UK pilgrims

If you want to turn this advice into a clear plan, the pages below will help you go one step further. They cover the wider rules, package choices, checklists, and practical travel points that usually come up after you finish a guide like this one.

- [Hajj Packages UK 2026](#) This pillar page gives you the full background, key rules, and step-by-step context around this topic. It is the best place to go if you want the bigger picture before you make any travel decisions. It is especially helpful if you are looking for hajj packages uk.
- [Birmingham 4 Star Non-Shifting Hajj Hajj Package from UK](#) This page is useful when you want real options, package details, hotel information, and practical UK departure planning. It helps you compare what is available instead of staying at the research stage.
- [Can You Perform Umrah on Behalf Can You Perform Umrah on Behalf of Someone Else?](#) This supporting guide answers a closely related question and adds more detail, examples, or travel tips. It works well as your next read if you want a narrower answer after this main article. It is especially helpful if you are looking for Learn how to perform Umrah on behalf of someone else, who it's allowed for, the right intention, step-by-step method, and mistakes to avoid.
- [How to Apply for Umrah Visa from UK Without Mistakes: Full Online Form Guide, Price Breakdown & Approval Tips](#) This supporting guide answers a closely related question and adds more detail, examples, or travel tips. It works well as your next read if you want a narrower answer after this main article. It is especially helpful if you are looking for Discover how to apply for Umrah visa from UK step-by-step. Learn prices, online form tips, Saudi waiver rules and approval advice for 2026.
- [Birmingham 4 Star Shifting Hajj Hajj Package from UK](#) This page is useful when you want real options, package details, hotel information, and practical UK departure planning. It helps you compare what is available instead of staying at the research stage.
- [Birmingham 5 Star Non-Shifting Hajj Hajj Package from UK](#) This page is useful when you want real options, package details, hotel information, and practical UK departure planning. It helps you compare what is available instead of staying at the research stage.

Reading a few of these pages together will give you a fuller view than relying on one article alone. That matters even more when you are comparing routes, costs, rituals, and timing from the UK.

Why this matters for your planning

If you are searching for an umrah mistakes, you usually want one thing: clear guidance you can trust before you travel. That means the information needs to be practical, easy to follow, and tied to the real questions UK pilgrims ask before they leave.

A strong umrah mistakes should not just repeat key terms. It should help you understand what to do next, which pages to read after this one, and how to move from general research to a real travel plan with fewer gaps.