

Jeddah Airport to Makkah - Complete Guide for Umrah Pilgrims

How to get from Jeddah airport to Makkah by train, taxi or bus. Plus Nusuk app setup, SIM cards, Madinah airport & departure tips for UK Umrah pilgrims.

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Working out how to get from **Jeddah airport to Makkah**? It's the first thing most UK pilgrims worry about. And honestly, it's easier than it looks.

We've been through King Abdulaziz International Airport more times than we can count. Our team has guided families, couples, and first-time pilgrims from London, Birmingham, Manchester and beyond. So we know where people get stuck, what causes stress, and what actually helps.

This guide walks you through the full trip. You land. You clear immigration. You sort your SIM. You set up the Nusuk app. Then you choose the best way from Jeddah airport to Makkah by train, taxi, or bus. We'll also cover Madinah airport, departure day, and the small details that save a lot of hassle. If you'd like the wider picture too, have a look at our [full Makkah to Madinah transport guide](#) and our step-by-step guide on [how to perform Umrah](#).

First trip? Don't panic. We've done this hundreds of times. You're going to be fine, insha'Allah.



Jeddah Airport to Makkah Transport Guide for Umrah Pilgrims in Terminal Arrivals

Jeddah Airport - Quick Facts You Need to Know

Let's keep this simple.

Most UK pilgrims land at **King Abdulaziz International Airport**, also called KAIA or just Jeddah airport.

The airport code is JED. And yes, it's open 24/7.

| Fact | Detail |
|---------------------|---|
| Official name | King Abdulaziz International Airport |
| Airport code | JED |
| Location | About 19 km north of Jeddah city centre |
| Distance to Makkah | About 95 km or 59 miles |
| Distance to Madinah | About 400 km |

| Fact | Detail |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Main terminal for UK flights | Terminal 1 |
| Hajj terminal | Separate terminal in peak Hajj season |
| Haramain train station | Connected to the airport |
| Open all day | Yes |

Most flights from the UK use **Jeddah airport terminal 1**. That's the one most of our clients use. The big plus now is the Haramain station. It's linked to the airport, which has made the trip much smoother than it used to be.

And that's huge. Years ago, everyone had to rely on road travel. Now you have options.

What Happens When You Land at Jeddah Airport - Step by Step

Here's exactly what happens.

You land. You leave the plane. You follow the signs for arrivals and immigration. That's it. Don't overthink this.

| Step | What happens | Helpful tip |
|------|--------------------------------------|--|
| 1 | Leave the plane and walk to arrivals | Stay with your group if you're travelling together |
| 2 | Join immigration queue | UK passport holders usually join the visitors line |
| 3 | Passport check and biometrics | Keep passport and boarding pass ready |
| 4 | Collect bags | Check screens for your carousel number |
| 5 | Pass customs | Most pilgrims use the green channel |
| 6 | Enter arrivals hall | SIM kiosks, ATMs and transport are all here |

At immigration, staff will usually scan your passport, take fingerprints, and take a photo. That's normal. It doesn't mean there's a problem.

In our experience, British passport holders with valid documents usually get through without drama. The main issue is just queue time. Off-peak, it can be 15 to 45 minutes. In Ramadan or busy school holiday periods, it can stretch to one or even two hours.

So be patient.

One common mistake we see is people packing documents too deep in hand luggage. Keep these easy to reach:

- Passport
- Boarding pass
- Visa details if needed
- Hotel booking
- Return flight details
- Meningitis ACWY proof if requested by your airline or travel provider

If you still need to understand the wider paperwork side, our [Umrah visa guide](#) helps a lot. Trust us, reading that before you fly saves stress.

After immigration, head to baggage claim. Grab a trolley. They're usually easy to find. Then you go through customs. Most pilgrims have nothing to declare, so the process is quick.

Then you're out.

And that moment matters. You finally reach the arrivals hall, and the hard part feels done. This is where you'll see SIM card kiosks, exchange counters, taxi pickup points, and signs for the Haramain train. Take a breath. Have some water. Message home if you've got signal.

Also, if you're entering in Ihram (the white cloth worn during Umrah), make sure you're comfortable and organised before moving on. If you need a refresher, read our guide on [ihram rules](#) and [what to wear for Umrah](#).

The Nusuk App - Download This BEFORE You Fly

Do this now.

The **Nusuk app** is Saudi Arabia's main app for Umrah and Hajj services. Think of it as your digital pilgrim tool. It can help with permits, identity checks, maps, and useful services during your stay.

And here's the thing. Don't wait until you land.

Set it up at home. On your sofa. With proper WiFi. Not in Jeddah airport, half asleep, trying to catch an OTP code on patchy signal.

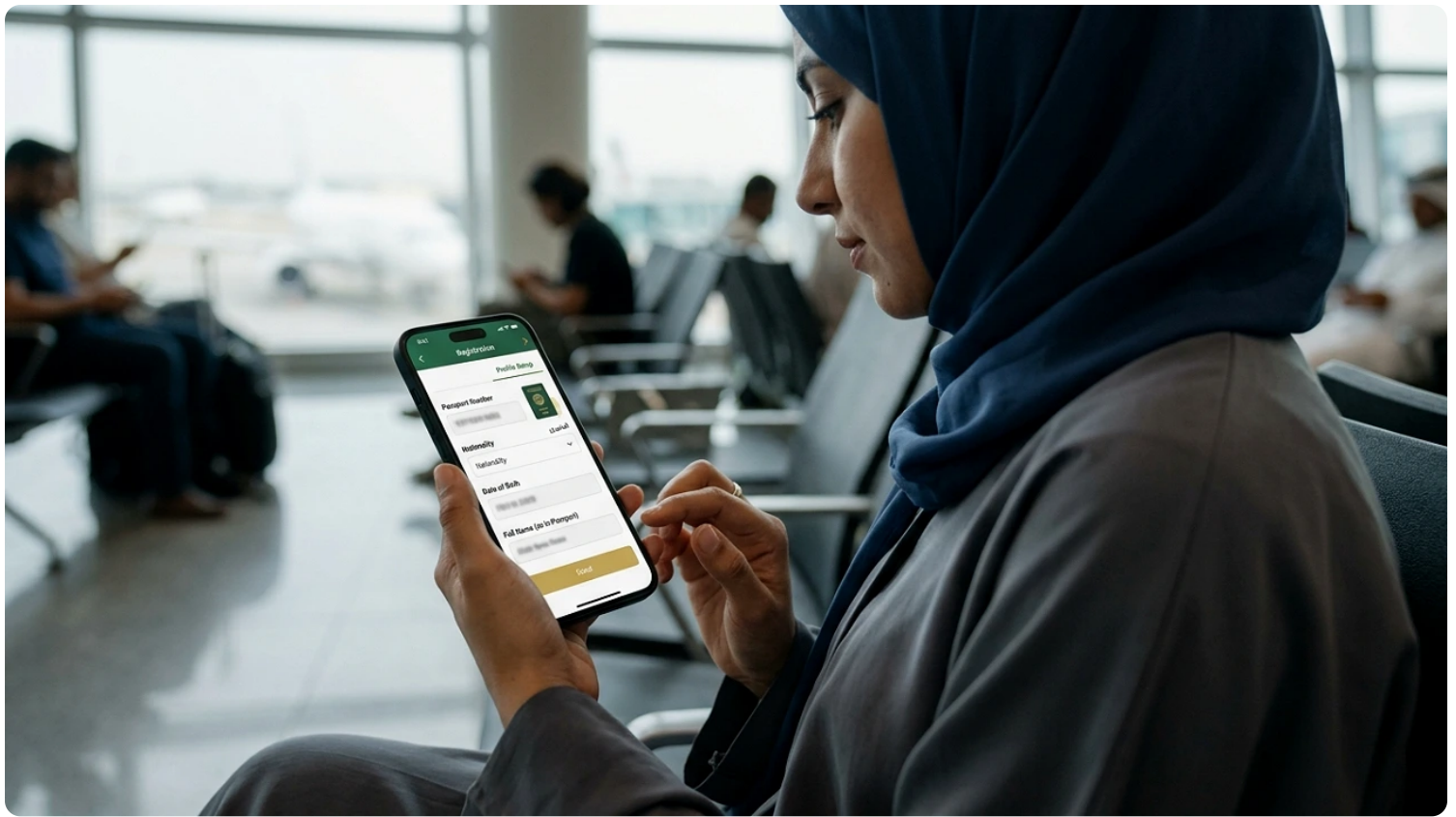
| Step | What to do |
|------|---|
| 1 | Download Nusuk from the App Store or Google Play |
| 2 | Select English |
| 3 | Tap register or create account |
| 4 | Enter your full name exactly as on passport |
| 5 | Add nationality, passport number, email and UK mobile |
| 6 | Verify with OTP code |
| 7 | Set password and complete profile |
| 8 | Log in and check everything matches |

Be exact with your name. Letter for letter. If your passport says Abdul Rahman, don't type Abdurrahman. Small mismatch. Big headache.

Our groups tell us this is one of the easiest things to sort before travel, but also one of the most forgotten. So yes, we get asked this a lot. And yes, it matters.

You may use the app for:

- Umrah-related permit access
- QR checks where needed
- Maps and navigation
- Service information
- Helpful updates during your stay



Nusuk App Registration Screen for Umrah Pilgrims on a Smartphone

If you're planning the full journey from the UK, our [complete Umrah guide](#) ties all of this together. It's useful if this is your first trip.

Getting a SIM Card at Jeddah Airport - Which One & How Much

This part is easy.

Once you're in the arrivals hall, you'll see SIM card kiosks. Usually STC, Mobily, and Zain. The staff are used to pilgrims. Hand over your passport, choose a package, and they'll set it up in a few minutes.

| Provider | Best plan | Data | Validity | Price (SAR) | Price (£) |
|----------|-------------|-------|----------|-------------|-----------|
| STC | Visitor 65 | 30 GB | 3 weeks | 75 SAR | About £15 |
| Mobily | Visitors 50 | 20 GB | 14 days | 57.50 SAR | About £12 |
| Zain | Visitor 50 | 15 GB | 14 days | 57.50 SAR | About £12 |

Our pick is STC.

We've found STC gives the most steady coverage across Makkah, Madinah, and the train routes between them. For most pilgrims, 30 GB is more than enough. You'll use it for WhatsApp, Google Maps, Uber, video calls, and the Nusuk app.

Just make sure your phone is unlocked. This catches people out every year. If your phone is tied to a UK network, the Saudi SIM may not work. Sort that before you travel.

If you prefer, you can also use an eSIM before departure. That's handy. But for many first-timers, buying a physical SIM at Jeddah airport still feels simpler.

And if you're making your final packing checks, our [Umrah packing list](#) and [Umrah packing list from the UK](#) both cover tech items people forget.

Jeddah Airport to Makkah - All Transport Options Compared

This is the big one.

The journey from **Jeddah airport to Makkah** is about 95 km. In real terms, that means about 30 to 55 minutes by train, or around 1 to 1.5 hours by car depending on traffic.

| Transport | Price (SAR) | Price (£) | Time | Drop-off | Best for |
|-----------------------|-------------|-----------|-------------|----------------|-------------------------|
| Haramain train | 50-75 SAR | £10-£15 | 30-55 min | Makkah station | Speed and light luggage |
| Private taxi sedan | 250-350 SAR | £50-£70 | 1-1.5 hours | Your hotel | Comfort and families |
| Private taxi 7-seater | 250-400 SAR | £50-£80 | 1-1.5 hours | Your hotel | Groups and kids |
| Uber or Careem | 180-350 SAR | £36-£70 | 1-1.5 hours | Your hotel | Flexible travel |
| SAPTCO bus | 20-35 SAR | £4-£7 | 3-4 hours | Bus station | Very low budget only |

Our honest advice?

If you're travelling light, take the train. If you're with kids, elderly parents, or lots of bags, take a private taxi.

The **Jeddah airport to Makkah train** is usually the best mix of speed and price. The Haramain High Speed Railway has changed everything. You can walk from the airport side to the station, board a clean modern train, and reach Makkah fast. For many pilgrims, it's the least stressful option.

But there is one catch. The train gets you to Makkah station, not your hotel. So you'll still need a short taxi or Uber at the other end. That's usually 15 to 25 SAR, or about £3 to £5. It often takes 10 to 15 minutes depending on where you're staying.

If you're staying near the Haram, that final ride is usually short. And if you're still choosing where to stay, our guide to the [best hotels near Haram](#) helps a lot.

The taxi option is simple. You walk out, meet your driver, load your bags, and go straight to your hotel door. Families love this. So do older pilgrims. It costs more, yes, but after a long UK flight, many people feel it's worth it.

As for the bus, to be honest, we rarely recommend it. It's cheap. But it's slow, less direct, and still leaves you needing another taxi at the end. If you're trying to save money, the train gives far better value.

For booking details, route info, and what to expect onboard, read our [full Haramain train guide with booking steps](#).



Jeddah Airport to Makkah Transport Options Train Taxi and Bus Comparison

And if you're still comparing trip styles, you can also browse our [Umrah packages](#), [3 star Umrah packages](#), [4 star Umrah packages](#), and [10 days 4 star Umrah package](#). Different packages suit different arrival plans.

Jeddah Airport to Madinah - If You're Heading There First

Some pilgrims do this first.

If your trip starts in Madinah, then you're not going from Jeddah airport to Makkah right away. You're heading north instead. In that case, the Haramain train is usually the clear winner.

| Transport | Price (SAR) | Price (£) | Time |
|----------------|---------------|-----------|---------------|
| Haramain train | 125-200 SAR | £25-£40 | About 2 hours |
| Private taxi | 800-1,200 SAR | £160-£240 | 4-5 hours |

We usually tell pilgrims the same thing here. Take the train. Unless there's a very specific reason not to.

It's faster. It's cheaper. And it's much less tiring than sitting in a car for hours after a flight. Once you arrive in Madinah, you'll need a short taxi to your hotel near Masjid Nabawi.

If you want the route explained in more detail, our [full Makkah to Madinah transport guide](#) breaks it down properly.

Madinah Airport - If You're Flying Into Madinah Instead

Madinah is different.

Some UK packages fly into **Madinah airport** first, especially when the plan is Madinah before Makkah. The official name is Prince Mohammad bin Abdulaziz International Airport. It's smaller than Jeddah. And most of the time, it feels calmer too.

| Fact | Detail |
|---------------------------|---|
| Official name | Prince Mohammad bin Abdulaziz International Airport |
| Airport code | MED |
| Distance to Masjid Nabawi | About 18 km |
| Terminal | Single main terminal |
| Facilities | SIM cards, food, prayer areas, exchange desks |

The process is much the same. You land. You go through immigration. You collect bags. Then customs. Then arrivals.

But in our experience, Madinah airport is often faster. Less crowding. Less noise. Less waiting.

| Transport | Price (SAR) | Price (£) | Time |
|----------------|----------------|-----------|-----------|
| Airport taxi | 50-70 SAR | £10-£14 | 25-35 min |
| Uber or Careem | 40-60 SAR | £8-£12 | 25-35 min |
| Hotel shuttle | Often included | Free | 30-40 min |

The trip from **Madinah airport to Masjid Nabawi** or nearby hotels is pretty straightforward. If your package includes transfers, even better. A driver meets you in arrivals and you're sorted.

Here's the quick comparison:

| Factor | Jeddah | Madinah |
|-------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Size | Large and busy | Smaller and calmer |
| Immigration speed | 15 min to 2 hours | 10 to 30 min |
| Train at airport | Yes, linked to airport | No airport train station |
| Best for | Makkah first | Madinah first |

If you're staying there first, our guides to the [best Madinah hotels](#) and [places to visit in Madinah](#) are worth saving now.

Money, Cards & Currency Exchange at Jeddah Airport

Don't change all your money there.

You'll see exchange desks in the arrivals hall. But the rates are usually poor. That's normal for airports everywhere, and Jeddah is no different.

| Option | Our view |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Airport exchange desk | Avoid for large amounts |
| Airport ATM | Good for a small cash withdrawal |
| Wise or Revolut card | Usually the best option |
| Bring a little SAR from the UK | Useful backup |

We usually tell pilgrims to withdraw about 200 to 500 SAR when they land. That's enough for a taxi, snacks, tips, or a SIM card. Then use your travel card for most other spending.

Visa and Mastercard work in lots of places across Saudi Arabia. But a travel card usually gives a much better rate than changing cash at the airport.

If you want the full breakdown, read our [complete Saudi currency guide](#). It covers SAR to GBP, cards, cash, and what actually works on the ground.

Jeddah Airport Facilities - Food, Prayer, Lounges & More

You won't be stuck.

Jeddah airport is modern and well set up. So if you need food, prayer space, WiFi, or a place to sit for a while, you'll find it.

| Facility | Available? | Notes |
|-----------------|------------|---|
| Prayer rooms | Yes | Clearly signed for men and women |
| Food and coffee | Yes | International chains and local options |
| Free WiFi | Yes | Good enough for messages and light browsing |
| Duty free | Yes | Perfume, sweets, gifts, dates and more |
| Lounges | Yes | Useful for long waits |
| ATMs | Yes | In arrivals and departures |
| Pharmacy | Yes | Basic items available |
| Wheelchair help | Yes | Best arranged with airline in advance |

If you have a long wait on the way home, a lounge can be worth it. Not always. But sometimes yes, especially with children or elderly parents.

People also ask us about **Jeddah airport duty free** and **Jeddah airport hotel** options. Duty free is there, and it's fine for gifts and last-minute bits. As for airport hotels, many pilgrims don't need one, but they can help if you have a long layover or a late-night arrival with a next-day train.

Departure Day - Getting Back to Jeddah Airport & What to Expect

Your last day can get hectic.

So plan it early. That's the best advice we can give.

If you're leaving from Makkah, these are the main ways back to the airport:

| Transport | Price (SAR) | Price (£) | Time |
|----------------|-------------|-----------|-------------|
| Haramain train | 50-75 SAR | £10-£15 | 30-55 min |
| Private taxi | 250-350 SAR | £50-£70 | 1-1.5 hours |
| Uber or Careem | 180-300 SAR | £36-£60 | 1-1.5 hours |

If you're leaving from Madinah and flying out via Jeddah, the Haramain train is again the easiest option. It usually takes about two hours.

| Task | When |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Leave hotel in peak season | 5-6 hours before flight |
| Leave hotel off-peak | About 4 hours before flight |
| Arrive at airport | 3 hours before international flight |
| Be at gate | 45 minutes before boarding |

This sounds early. We know.

But we've seen pilgrims miss flights because they guessed wrong on traffic, train times, or queue length. During busy periods, **Jeddah airport departures** can be crowded. So give yourself more time than feels necessary.

And yes, you can usually bring Zamzam home in checked luggage. Don't put it in hand luggage. That won't work. If you want to read more about it, our [Zamzam water guide](#) explains the basics and its place in the Umrah journey.



Jeddah Airport Departure Hall with Umrah Pilgrims Checking Flight Times

8 Mistakes UK Pilgrims Make at Jeddah Airport

We've seen all of these.

So here's the short list of what not to do.

1. **Not downloading the Nusuk app before flying.** Do it at home.
2. **Travelling with a locked phone.** Your Saudi SIM may not work.
3. **Changing all your money at the airport.** Rates are poor.
4. **Not booking train tickets in advance.** Busy seasons fill up fast.
5. **Leaving too late on departure day.** Build in extra time.
6. **Forgetting your hotel address in Arabic.** Screenshot it.
7. **Packing Zamzam in hand luggage.** It needs to go in checked baggage.
8. **Assuming everything will be obvious.** Save key details on your phone before travel.

And one more, if we're being honest. Some people arrive with no clue about costs. Then every taxi price feels shocking. If you want to budget properly, our guides on [how much does Umrah cost from UK](#) and [Umrah cost from UK 2026](#) will help.

Frequently Asked Questions - Jeddah Airport to Makkah

Here are the questions we hear most.



UK Umrah Pilgrims Reviewing Jeddah Airport to Makkah Travel Questions on Mobile Phones

How far is Jeddah airport to Makkah?

It's about 95 km, or 59 miles. By taxi, it often takes 1 to 1.5 hours. By Haramain train, it can take 30 to 55 minutes, plus a short taxi from Makkah station to your hotel.

What is the Nusuk app?

Nusuk is Saudi Arabia's official app for pilgrims. It helps with permits, QR checks, maps, and useful trip services. Download it before you fly and register with your passport details.

How do I get from Jeddah airport to Makkah?

You have four main choices. Haramain train, private taxi, Uber or Careem, or bus. We usually recommend the train for speed and value, or a private taxi if you're travelling with family and luggage.

Is there a train from Jeddah airport to Makkah?

Yes. And it's one of the best things about the airport now. The Haramain station is linked to the airport area, and it gets you to Makkah quickly.

How do I get from Jeddah airport to Madinah?

The train is usually best. It takes about two hours and costs much less than a long taxi ride. For most pilgrims, it's the sensible choice.

Where do I buy a SIM card at Jeddah airport?

In the arrivals hall after customs. Look for STC, Mobily, or Zain. Bring your passport and make sure your phone is unlocked.

How long does immigration take at Jeddah airport?

Off-peak, around 15 to 45 minutes is common. In Ramadan or very busy periods, it can be one to two hours. So be patient and keep water with you.

What terminal do UK flights arrive at?

Usually Terminal 1. That's where most international arrivals from the UK come in. The Hajj terminal is separate and mainly used in peak Hajj periods.

Should I fly into Jeddah or Madinah?

It depends on your plan. If you're going to Makkah first, Jeddah makes sense. If you're starting in Madinah, then Madinah airport is often calmer and easier.

Can I use my UK bank card in Saudi Arabia?

Yes, in many places. Visa and Mastercard are widely accepted. But a travel card like Wise or Revolut often gives a better exchange rate.

Can I bring Zamzam water home on the plane?

Usually yes, in checked luggage. Wrap it well. Don't put it in hand luggage.

What about Madinah airport?

Madinah airport is smaller and often quicker than Jeddah. It's about 18 km from Masjid Nabawi. A taxi usually costs 50 to 70 SAR, or about £10 to £14.

Final Thoughts

The first arrival feels big.

But honestly, the trip from **Jeddah airport to Makkah** is modern, organised, and much easier than many first-timers expect. Millions of pilgrims do it every year. Once you've landed, cleared immigration, sorted your SIM, and chosen your ride, the rest falls into place fast.

So here's the simple version. Download Nusuk before you fly. Keep your phone unlocked. Save your hotel address. If you're travelling light, take the train. If you're with family, book a driver. That's it.

And if you'd like help putting the whole trip together, you can [Browse our Umrah packages](#) or [Get a free quote](#). You can also read our [Saudi currency guide](#), [Umrah packing list](#), and [best hotels near Haram](#) before you go. We do this every day. And we're always happy to help.

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.
- [Bradford Economy 3 Star 10 Nights Umrah 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.
- [How Can You Get a Saudi eVisa from the UK? Complete Application Guide](#) 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 get a Saudi eVisa from the UK](#). Step-by-step guide covering

requirements, fees, processing time, and travel tips.

- [Umrah Visa Price 2026: Latest Fees for 15 Days, 1 Month & Single Entry Applications](#) 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 the latest Umrah Visa Price 2026 for UK pilgrims. Learn 15-day, 1-month & single entry fees and how to apply for Umrah visa online.
- [Bradford Economy 3 Star 14 Nights Umrah 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.
- [Bradford Economy 3 Star 21 Nights Umrah 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.

Small planning details make a big difference. A stronger plan usually means fewer rushed decisions, fewer missed steps, and a calmer journey overall. That is why we always suggest reading the core pillar guide, one practical package page, and a few narrower support articles before you book or travel.

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