NOOR UMRAH TRAVELS

15 Best Places to Visit in Makkah – Complete Ziyarat & Sightseeing

Discover 15 best places to visit in Makkah during Umrah. From Masjid al-Haram to Cave of Hira, Jabal Thawr and the Clock Tower. UK pilgrim guide 2026.

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Most UK pilgrims land in Makkah, perform their Umrah, and devote every spare moment to Masjid al-Haram. That’s the heart, no doubt. But here’s the truth: there are places to visit in Makkah that will touch your soul in ways you might not expect. **Makkah** is a city with 4,000 years of living Islamic history. From the cave where the first Quranic verses came down, to the simple cemetery where Khadijah (RA) rests, every mountain and every street has a story. Our team at Noor Umrah Travels has guided thousands of UK Muslims through these sacred spots. We’ve seen how stepping outside the Haram, even for an hour, can change your whole trip. This guide reveals 15 places to visit in Makkah — each one a piece of our shared history, each with practical tips for UK pilgrims in 2026. If you’d like help planning your ziyarat, our team is just a phone call away.



places to visit in makkah aerial view masjid al haram kaaba 2026

Why Makkah Is More Than Just the Haram — 15 Places Every UK Pilgrim Should Visit

Let’s be honest. For most UK Muslims, Makkah means Masjid al-Haram and the Kaaba. But there’s so much more. Every UK family we’ve helped leaves wishing they’d explored beyond the main mosque — and found the quiet, powerful moments in the mountains, museums, and markets. This city is a living museum of Islam. You’ll walk in the footsteps of prophets. You’ll see places where world-changing events happened. And you’ll make memories that last far beyond your Umrah trip.

We’ve organised the best places to visit in Makkah into four groups: sacred sites inside the Haram, historical Islamic sites, Hajj sites, and modern attractions. Whether you’re travelling solo or with family, you’ll find something unforgettable in every corner of this blessed city.

Sacred Sites Inside and Around Masjid al-Haram

Let’s start at the centre — the Haram itself. Even inside the mosque, there are many must-see sacred sites.

1. Masjid al-Haram and the Kaaba — The Heart of Makkah

Masjid al-Haram is the world's largest mosque and the birthplace of your Umrah journey. The **Kaaba** sits at its heart, the qibla for 2 billion Muslims. Every prayer here is worth 100,000 elsewhere (Ibn Majah 1406). Here, you'll also find **Maqam Ibrahim** (the Station of Ibrahim), the **Hateem**, the **Black Stone (Hajar al-Aswad)**, the **Zamzam Well**, and the hills of **Safa** and **Marwa**.

What to see: The Kaaba (circumambulate/tawaf), Maqam Ibrahim (pray 2 rakah behind it after tawaf), Hajar al-Aswad (Black Stone), the Hateem (semi-circular area), Zamzam coolers, Safa and Marwa (sa'i walk), and the vast prayer halls and terraces.

Practical info:

- **Distance:** You're already here – the centre of Makkah.
- **Time needed:** As long as your heart desires.
- **Difficulty:** Easy, but crowded after Isha and Fajr. Rooftop tawaf is quieter.
- **Cost:** Free.
- **UK tip:** Visit the rooftop at sunrise or late at night for peace and fewer crowds.

Want to make your tawaf truly special? See our tawaf dua guide for the exact supplications and etiquette. And for Sa'i, check our Safa and Marwa dua guide.



masjid al haram kaaba pilgrims performing tawaf makkah

2. Maqam Ibrahim — The Station of Ibrahim

Maqam Ibrahim is the golden glass structure near the Kaaba. It holds the stone with the footprint of Prophet Ibrahim (AS), left while he built the Kaaba with his son Ismail. This is mentioned in the Quran: "And take the Station of Ibrahim as a place of prayer" (Quran 2:125).

What to see: The sacred stone, visible through the glass.

Practical info:

- **Distance:** Just metres from the Kaaba.
- **Time needed:** 10-15 minutes.
- **Difficulty:** Easy, but can be crowded.
- **Cost:** Free.
- **UK tip:** Best viewed after Fajr or late at night to avoid crowds.

After tawaf, pray two rakah behind Maqam Ibrahim if possible (see full tawaf dua guide).

3. The Zamzam Well — The Miracle of Hajar

The **Zamzam Well** sits beneath the Haram, a miracle granted to Hajar (AS) and her son Ismail. Its water has quenched the thirst of billions for thousands of years. The well's story is linked to the Sa'i walk between Safa and Marwa.

What to see: Zamzam coolers are spread all around the mosque for you to drink, and there's a dedicated area for filling bottles.

Practical info:

- **Distance:** Inside Masjid al-Haram.
- **Time needed:** 10 minutes.
- **Difficulty:** Very easy.
- **Cost:** Free.
- **UK tip:** Take an empty bottle to fill and read our complete zamzam water guide for tips on bringing some home.

Historical Islamic Sites in Makkah

Makkah is rich with sites outside the Haram, each with deep Islamic meaning.

4. Jabal al-Noor and the Cave of Hira — Where Revelation Began

Jabal al-Noor is the Mountain of Light, and its crown is the **Cave of Hira**. Here, Angel Jibreel first revealed the Quran to Prophet Muhammad (SAW): اقْرَأْ بِاسْمِ رَبِّكَ الَّذِي خَلَقَ (Read! In the name of your Lord who created...) (Quran 96:1-5).

What to see: The rocky mountain, 600 steps to the cave. The view from the top is stunning — you'll see all of Makkah.

Practical info:

- **Distance:** 4km from the Haram.
- **Time needed:** 1-2 hours (climb + visit).
- **Difficulty:** Moderate. 600 steps. Not suitable for elderly or those with mobility issues.
- **Cost:** Free.
- **UK tip:** Go at dawn, wear trainers, take at least 2L of water. Don't attempt in midday heat. For families, consider viewing from the base if the climb is too much.



jabal al noor cave of hira makkah where first quran revelation was received

5. Jabal Thawr — The Cave of the Hijrah

Jabal Thawr is the mountain where the Prophet (SAW) and Abu Bakr (RA) hid for three days during the Hijrah to Madinah. Allah protected them with a spider's web at the cave's mouth. Quran says: "Do not grieve; indeed Allah is with us" (Quran 9:40).

What to see: The cave (Ghār Thawr) at the top of a steep mountain. The climb is longer and harder than Jabal al-Noor.

Practical info:

- **Distance:** 10km south of the Haram.
- **Time needed:** 2-3 hours round trip.
- **Difficulty:** Hard. Not for children, elderly, or those with health issues.
- **Cost:** Free.
- **UK tip:** Hire a taxi to the base. Start before sunrise. Take snacks and water.

6. Jannat al-Mualla Cemetery — The Resting Place of the Prophet's Family

Jannat al-Mualla is Makkah's most historic cemetery. It's where Khadijah (RA), the Prophet's beloved wife, is buried. Many close family members and Sahaba are also buried here. It's a place of deep reflection for every Muslim.

What to see: The simple, unmarked graves behind high walls. You can make dua for the deceased from the entrance or, for men, inside during open hours.

Practical info:

- **Distance:** 1km from the Haram (walkable in 10-15 minutes).
- **Time needed:** 15-30 minutes.
- **Difficulty:** Easy, but limited visiting hours.
- **Cost:** Free.
- **UK tip:** Men may enter; women should visit from outside. It's quietest after Fajr or Asr.



jannat al mualla cemetery makkah resting place of khadijah ra

7. Masjid Aisha (Masjid Taneem) — The Miqat for a Second Umrah

Masjid Aisha, also called Masjid Taneem, is the closest Miqat boundary for those who want to perform another Umrah while staying in Makkah. Aisha (RA) assumed ihram here after finishing her main Umrah.

What to see: A large mosque with clean wudu and changing areas. Pilgrims come here to don ihram and make niyyah for another Umrah.

Practical info:

- **Distance:** 7km from the Haram.
- **Time needed:** 30-45 minutes (including travel).
- **Difficulty:** Very easy.
- **Cost:** Free.
- **UK tip:** Taxi fare is about 5-10 SAR. See our ihram rules guide before you go.

8. Masjid al-Jinn — Where the Jinn Accepted Islam

Masjid al-Jinn marks where a group of jinn heard the Prophet (SAW) recite Quran and embraced Islam. This event is mentioned in Surah Al-Jinn (Quran 72:1).

What to see: A small, white mosque tucked in a busy street, often missed by pilgrims.

Practical info:

- **Distance:** 1km north of the Haram (about 15 minutes' walk).
- **Time needed:** 10-15 minutes.
- **Difficulty:** Easy.
- **Cost:** Free.
- **UK tip:** Visit right after a prayer; it's on the way to Jannat al-Mualla.

9. The Birthplace of Prophet Muhammad SAW

Tradition says the Prophet (SAW) was born here. It's now the site of **Maktabat Makkah al-Mukarramah** (Makkah Library). The original house is gone, but the location is known.

What to see: The building and plaque marking the site, close to King Abdul Aziz Gate.

Practical info:

- **Distance:** Very close — just outside the Haram's southern end.
- **Time needed:** 5-10 minutes.
- **Difficulty:** Very easy.
- **Cost:** Free.
- **UK tip:** Best visited as part of a walking ziyarat tour.

Hajj Sites You Can Visit in Makkah

These places are central to Hajj, but you can visit them during Umrah season too.

10. The Plain of Arafat — Where Hajj Reaches Its Climax

The **Plain of Arafat** is where over 2 million gather on 9th Dhul Hijjah. The Prophet (SAW) said, "Hajj is Arafat" (Tirmidhi 889). Here, he delivered his Farewell Sermon. **Jabal ar-Rahmah** (the Mount of Mercy) stands at its centre.

What to see: The wide, empty plain, and the white pillar on Jabal ar-Rahmah.

Practical info:

- **Distance:** 20km east of the Haram (about 30 minutes by taxi).
- **Time needed:** 1 hour (longer during Hajj).
- **Difficulty:** Very easy outside Hajj season.
- **Cost:** Free.
- **UK tip:** Combine with Mina and Muzdalifah in one trip. See our Hajj vs Umrah guide for full details.



plain of arafat makkah where hajj reaches its climax jabal ar rahmah

11. Mina — The City of Tents

Mina is where pilgrims stay in vast white tents during Hajj. It's famous for the Stoning of the Jamarat, symbolising the rejection of evil.

What to see: The tent city and the Jamarat Bridge (a multi-level structure for stoning the pillars).

Practical info:

- **Distance:** 8km from the Haram (15-20 minutes by taxi).
- **Time needed:** 30-45 minutes.
- **Difficulty:** Easy when not during Hajj.
- **Cost:** Free.
- **UK tip:** Visit off-season to see the scale. Ask your hotel to help arrange a taxi or group tour.

12. Muzdalifah — The Night Under the Stars

Muzdalifah is the open plain where pilgrims spend the night after Arafat, collecting pebbles for Mina. It’s peaceful, especially outside Hajj.

What to see: The vast, open land between Arafat and Mina — quiet, spiritual, and humbling.

Practical info:

- **Distance:** Between Arafat and Mina (20-25 minutes from Haram).
- **Time needed:** 20-30 minutes.
- **Difficulty:** Easy outside Hajj.
- **Cost:** Free.
- **UK tip:** Combine this with Arafat and Mina for a complete Hajj sites tour.

Modern Attractions and Shopping in Makkah

Makkah isn’t just history — it’s a world-class city with modern wonders and shopping.

13. Abraj al-Bait and the Makkah Clock Tower — The Icon of Modern Makkah

Abraj al-Bait is the iconic complex towering over the Haram, home to the **Makkah Clock Tower** — the tallest clock tower on earth. It’s a symbol of modern Makkah and a hub for visitors.

What to see: The Clock Tower Museum (Islamic exhibits and observatory deck), luxury hotels, the giant shopping mall, and unbeatable views of the Haram.

Practical info:

- **Distance:** Right beside the Haram.
- **Time needed:** 1-2 hours (more if you shop or eat).
- **Difficulty:** Very easy. Fully accessible.
- **Cost:** Mall is free, museum and observatory may charge (about 150 SAR in 2026).
- **UK tip:** Perfect for family rest days. Try the food court for international and halal UK favourites.



makkah clock tower abraj al bait modern attraction near masjid al haram

14. Makkah Museum (Al-Zaher Palace) — 4,000 Years of History

Makkah Museum (also called the Museum of the Two Holy Mosques) is packed with ancient relics, old keys to the Kaaba, historic kiswa pieces, and detailed models of the Haram expansion.

What to see: Artefacts, ancient Qurans, and architectural models with English explanations.

Practical info:

- **Distance:** Umm al-Joud area, about 15 minutes by taxi from the Haram.
- **Time needed:** 1 hour.
- **Difficulty:** Very easy; accessible for all.
- **Cost:** Usually free.
- **UK tip:** Ask your hotel to arrange a group visit. Photography is allowed in most areas.

15. Makkah Malls and Shopping — Gifts, Abayas and Perfumes

Makkah's malls rival any in the world. **Al Diyafa Mall**, **Makkah Mall**, **Abraj al-Bait Mall**, and the bustling **souqs** near the Haram are perfect for gifts and souvenirs.

What to buy: Abayas, attar (perfume), prayer mats, dates, miswak, Qurans, Zamzam bottles.

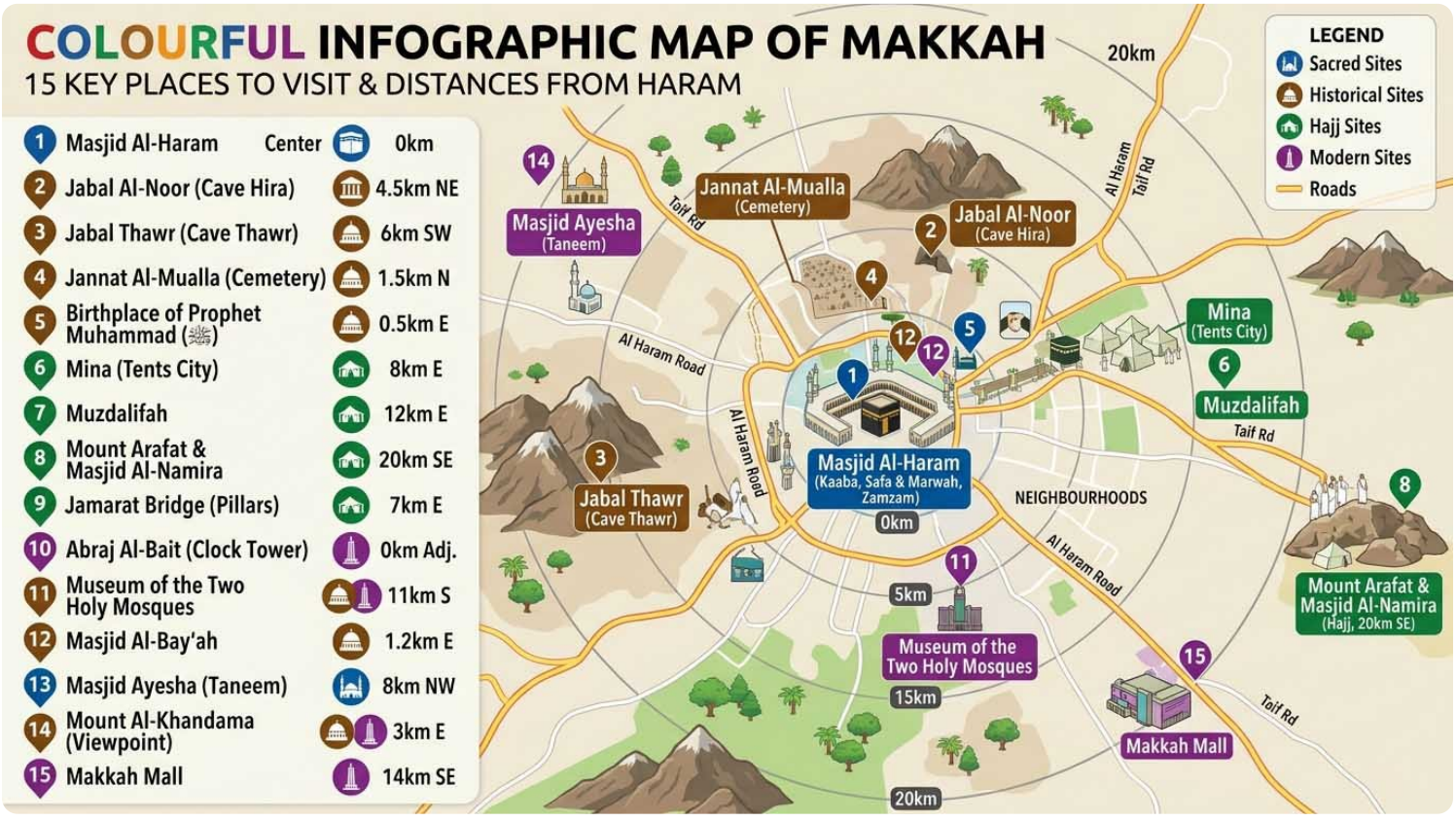
Practical info:

- **Distance:** All within 10-15 minutes of the Haram by taxi or on foot.
- **Time needed:** 1-2 hours (per mall).
- **Difficulty:** Very easy, fully accessible, open late (until midnight).
- **Cost:** Varies. Bargain at souqs.
- **UK tip:** Buy dates and Zamzam last – they’re heavy. See our Umrah packing list for space-saving tips.

15 Places to Visit in Makkah — Quick Reference Guide

#	Place	Category	Distance from Haram	Time Needed	Difficulty	Cost
1	Masjid al-Haram & Kaaba	Sacred Site	0 km	As long as needed	Easy	Free
2	Maqam Ibrahim	Sacred Site	0 km	10-15 min	Easy	Free
3	Zamzam Well	Sacred Site	0 km	10 min	Easy	Free
4	Jabal al-Noor & Cave of Hira	Historical	4 km	1-2 hrs	Moderate	Free
5	Jabal Thawr	Historical	10 km	2-3 hrs	Hard	Free
6	Jannat al-Mualla Cemetery	Historical	1 km	15-30 min	Easy	Free
7	Masjid Aisha (Taneem)	Historical/Miqat	7 km	30-45 min	Easy	Free
8	Masjid al-Jinn	Historical	1 km	10-15 min	Easy	Free
9	Birthplace of Prophet Muhammad SAW	Historical	0.5 km	5-10 min	Easy	Free

#	Place	Category	Distance from Haram	Time Needed	Difficulty	Cost
10	Plain of Arafat	Hajj Site	20 km	1 hr	Easy	Free
11	Mina	Hajj Site	8 km	30-45 min	Easy	Free
12	Muzdalifah	Hajj Site	15 km	20-30 min	Easy	Free
13	Abraj al-Bait & Clock Tower	Modern	0.1 km	1-2 hrs	Easy	Free/Museum ticket
14	Makkah Museum	Modern	5 km	1 hr	Easy	Free
15	Makkah Malls & Shopping	Modern	0.1-5 km	1-2 hrs	Easy	Free/Shopping



15 places to visit in makkah map infographic with distances from haram

How to Plan Your Makkah Ziyarat as a UK Pilgrim

So, how do you fit all these places to visit in Makkah into your Umrah trip? Our team at Noor Umrah Travels has helped thousands of UK pilgrims do just that. It’s easier than you think — and it genuinely transforms your experience. Here’s how we suggest you do it.

A Suggested 3-Day Makkah Ziyarat Itinerary for UK Pilgrims

- **Day 1 — Sacred Sites:** Start with Masjid al-Haram (tawaf, sa’i, Zamzam). Visit Maqam Ibrahim, then walk to Masjid al-Jinn and Jannat al-Mualla. Take your time — these are moments you’ll remember forever.
- **Day 2 — Historical Mountains:** Early taxi to Jabal al-Noor (Cave of Hira). If you’re fit, climb to the cave. Return to your hotel for rest, then visit the Makkah Museum in the afternoon.
- **Day 3 — Hajj Sites and Modern Makkah:** Half-day tour to Arafat, Mina, and Muzdalifah. Spend your afternoon at the Clock Tower Mall — relax, shop, and enjoy the view.

Most UK Umrah packages give you 3-5 free days in Makkah. Use those days wisely. If you want a guided ziyarat tour, Noor Umrah Travels can arrange it for you and your family. Just ask — it’s what we do best.

Practical Tips for UK Pilgrims Visiting Makkah Attractions

1. **Use Careem or Uber** — both are cheap and safe in Makkah. Drivers are used to UK visitors.
2. **Start early** — visit mountains before 8am to beat the heat.
3. **Pack smart** — always carry water, sunscreen, and wear comfortable trainers.
4. **Weather matters** — May to September is brutally hot. Plan outdoor trips for early morning or visit in cooler months (November-February). Perfect for UK families on half-term or Christmas break.
5. **Free entry** — most sites are free. Only the Clock Tower Museum charges a ticket.
6. **Let us help** — Noor Umrah Travels can include ziyarat tours in your package.
7. **Charge your phone** — you’ll want photos at every site. Power banks are a lifesaver.

If you want to make the most of your trip, check our Umrah packages — we’ll help you plan every detail.

Common Mistakes UK Pilgrims Make When Visiting Makkah Attractions

We’ve seen these mistakes too often — here’s how to avoid them and have a blessed ziyarat.

1. Staying only inside the Haram and missing the incredible history all around you.
2. Climbing Jabal al-Noor in the afternoon heat — go at dawn, trust us.
3. Wearing sandals for mountain climbs — trainers are essential for safety.
4. Leaving shopping until the last day, only to find your luggage is already full.
5. Not realising Masjid Aisha is where you go for a second Umrah — many UK pilgrims miss this chance.
6. Trying to visit Hajj sites during Hajj season — they’re restricted; go during your Umrah trip.
7. Not making dua at blessed places — don’t just take photos, take spiritual moments too.



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FAQ — Frequently Asked Questions About Places to Visit in Makkah



faqs about places to visit in makkah for uk muslims

Can non-Muslims visit Makkah?

No. Makkah is only open to Muslims. Saudi law strictly prohibits non-Muslims from entering the city. If you're travelling with non-Muslim family members, they can stay in Jeddah or Taif while you visit Makkah.

Is it safe for women to visit Makkah attractions alone?

Yes. Makkah is one of the safest cities for women. The Haram and main sites have 24-hour security. For mountain visits, go as part of a group, especially in the quiet hours. Most UK Umrah packages include guided ziyarat trips for women.

What is the best time of year to visit Makkah from the UK?

The most comfortable months are November to February — cooler at 20-30°C. Summer (June-September) is very hot (over 45°C). Ramadan is spiritually ideal but extremely busy. UK school holidays are especially popular.

How many days do you need to see everything in Makkah?

You can visit the main 15 places in 3 to 4 days if you plan well. Most UK Umrah packages give you 4 to 7 nights in Makkah, enough for Umrah plus 2-3 days of ziyarat. Use our suggested itinerary above for your visit.

Are the mountains Jabal al-Noor and Jabal Thawr safe to climb?

They're safe with care, but require moderate fitness. Jabal al-Noor has about 600 rocky steps and takes 1-2 hours. Jabal Thawr is steeper and takes 2-3 hours. Not suitable for elderly or those with mobility issues. Always wear proper shoes, bring water, and start early to avoid heat.

Is there an entrance fee for any Makkah attractions?

Most Islamic and historical sites in Makkah are free. Masjid al-Haram, cemeteries, mosques, and mountain sites cost nothing. The Clock Tower Museum and observatory may charge a fee. Malls are free to enter.

Can elderly or disabled pilgrims visit Makkah attractions?

Masjid al-Haram is wheelchair accessible with lifts and ramps. Free wheelchairs are provided. Mountain sites are not accessible for wheelchairs or those with mobility issues. The Clock Tower, malls, and museum all have step-free access. Most elderly pilgrims enjoy taxi tours of historical sites.

What should you wear when visiting places outside the Haram in Makkah?

Wear modest clothing everywhere. Men: loose clothes covering knees and shoulders. Women: abaya and headscarf. For mountain climbs, wear trainers or sturdy shoes. Bring a light jacket for museums and sunscreen/hat for outdoors.

Download: Free Makkah Ziyarat Checklist PDF - Click to Download

Conclusion

Makkah is more than just rituals inside the Haram. Every mountain, mosque, and street tells a part of our faith's most important story. Make your Umrah more than a checklist. Let every visit — to the Cave of Hira, Jannat al-Mualla, or the Clock Tower — become a precious memory. May Allah bless your journey and bring you back to these sacred places to visit in Makkah again and again. Noor Umrah Travels is honoured to help UK pilgrims experience all of this. Ready to book? Speak to our Umrah team today and get a free quote. May your Makkah ziyarat be accepted and rewarded. Ameen.

Written by Noor Umrah Travels Team — Trusted UK Umrah and Hajj travel specialists who have guided thousands of UK pilgrims through these sacred sites.

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