

Rawdah Booking - The Complete Nusuk Permit Guide for UK Pilgrims

Step-by-step Rawdah booking guide — how UK pilgrims get a Nusuk permit, best time slots, what to do if slots are full, and tips for women.

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If you've landed in Madinah and you're refreshing the app like it owes you money, you're not alone. Rawdah booking can feel stressful, especially in the 2026 Umrah season when slots get snapped up fast. The good news? Once you know how Nusuk works *right now* (not the old 2022 screenshots), you can usually get a permit with a bit of timing and patience.

We're Noor Umrah Travels, and we've helped 2,000+ UK pilgrims travel for Umrah and ziyarah. Our Madinah ground team helps clients rebook missed slots weekly. So we're going to keep this simple, step-by-step, and honest. And yes, we'll tell you what to do when it says "no permits available".

If you want a hand with your Madinah stay (hotel distance really matters here), you can browse our [Umrah packages UK](#) and ask our team for a plan that fits your dates. No pressure. Just help.



What Is the Rawdah (Riyad ul-Jannah) and Why Permits Exist

First, let's get clear.

The Rawdah is also called Riyad ul-Jannah. It's the blessed area inside **Masjid an-Nabawi** in Madinah. Many people call it "the green carpet area". That's because the carpet there is green, not red.

It's special for a reason. The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ said: "Between my house and my pulpit is a garden from the gardens of Paradise." (Sahih al-Bukhari 1196; Sahih Muslim 1391). That's the Rawdah.

So why do permits exist?

- **Crowd control.** It stops dangerous pushing.
- **Fair access.** More people get a chance.
- **Time limits.** Staff can move groups safely.

In 2026, the main way to get in is a **Nusuk permit**. It's free. But you do need a slot.

One more thing. People mix up two visits:

- **Rawdah visit** (needs a permit).

- **Ziyarah / salam area** (often managed separately, and rules can change by crowd level).

We'll cover both. And we'll keep it practical.

For a full walkthrough of the app setup, our companion post helps a lot: [Nusuk App Guide – How to Register for Umrah from UK](#).

Rawdah Booking Step by Step on Nusuk (2026 Flow)

Here's the flow that works.

We'll write it like you're doing it right now on your phone. Some menu names can shift slightly. But the steps stay the same.

Before you start: 4 quick checks

- **Internet:** Use stable Wi-Fi or a local SIM/eSIM.
- **Phone time:** Set to auto time zone. Wrong time can hide slots.
- **Passport details:** Must match your visa details.
- **One account per person:** Don't create duplicates. It causes errors.

If you still need data, sort your phone first. It saves hours. Our UK pilgrims often use an eSIM, and this guide helps: [eSIM Saudi Arabia – Best SIM Card Guide for Umrah Pilgrims](#).

Step 1: Log in and confirm your profile

Open Nusuk and sign in.

Go to your profile and check:

- Name spelling (as on passport)
- Passport number
- Date of birth
- Nationality (British / UK passport holder)

Fix any typo now. Don't ignore it. A small mismatch can block a permit.

Step 2: Add dependants (family members) if needed

This is where many people slip.

If you're booking for a spouse, child, or parent, add them as a dependant first. Nusuk usually asks for passport details. Save each profile.

Tip from our Madinah team: add dependants **before** you search slots. It speeds things up when a slot drops.

If you're travelling as a family group from the UK, it can help to book your whole trip as one plan. That's why many families start with our main [Umrah packages UK 2026](#) page, then we tailor the Madinah nights around likely permit windows.

Step 3: Find the right permit type (Rawdah)

Now go to permits/appointments.

Look for something like:

- Rawdah (Riyad ul-Jannah)
- Prayer in Rawdah
- Visit Rawdah in Masjid an-Nabawi

Pick the Rawdah option. Not "Umrah permit". Different thing.

Step 4: Choose the person (you or dependant)

Select who the booking is for.

If you need multiple people, you may have to repeat the steps. Sometimes you can book as a group. Sometimes you can't. It depends on current rules.

Be ready to move fast. Slots can vanish in seconds.

Step 5: Pick date and Rawdah time slots

This is the make-or-break part.

You'll see available dates, then time slots. If you see a slot, take it. Don't overthink it. You can try to improve it later.

In our experience, these times tend to behave like this:

- **After Fajr:** often good for cancellations (we'll explain).
- **Midday:** can be quieter outside peak seasons.
- **After Isha:** popular, so it fills fast.

If you're also planning travel from Makkah, your arrival time matters. This guide helps you time it:

[Makkah to Madinah – How to Travel by Train, Bus & Taxi.](#)

Step 6: Confirm and save the QR code

Once you confirm, Nusuk will show a permit with a QR code.

Do these three things right away:

1. Screenshot the QR code.
2. Save it to Favourites if the app offers it.
3. Keep the app logged in.

Sometimes the network near the mosque is slow. A screenshot can save your slot.

Step 7: Check the rules shown on your permit

Read the small text.

It often includes:

- Arrival window (for example, 30–60 minutes before)
- Gate or entry area
- What to bring (ID, phone)

And yes, staff do check. Be ready.

A quick word on “old app advice”

Ignore posts that talk about Tawakkalna screens for Rawdah. That flow is outdated for most pilgrims. In 2026, Nusuk is the main tool for Rawdah booking and permits.

If you want extra Madinah planning tips, we also recommend: [15 Best Places to Visit in Madinah – Complete Ziyarat & Sightseeing.](#)

Booking the Rawdah for Women (Timings, Entry, Tips)

Women's slots can look different.

Rawdah booking for women is still done in Nusuk. But the **timings and entry flow** can be separate. And it can change by season and crowd levels.

How women's Rawdah slots usually work

- Women often have **set windows** during the day and evening.
- Some days show fewer slots. That's normal.
- Entry points can be directed by staff on the day.

Now, here's the thing. Many sisters get stuck because they only check at "nice" times. Like after breakfast. That's when everyone checks.

Our strongest tip: **check just after Fajr**. It's one of the best times for last-minute cancellations to appear. We've seen it again and again.



Practical tips for sisters (from our on-ground team)

- **Wear easy footwear.** You may queue longer than expected.

- **Keep your phone charged.** Bring a small power bank.
- **Go early.** Aim to arrive 30–45 minutes before your slot.
- **Keep your group small.** Two or three is easier than ten.

If your hotel is far, it makes this harder. A 12-minute walk can turn into 25 minutes in crowds. That's why choosing a stay near the mosque matters. Our hotel guide is here: [Best Hotels Near Masjid Nabawi Madinah – Complete Guide for Umrah Pilgrims](#).

Can women visit the Rawdah?

Yes. With a valid permit slot.

And if you're going with elderly parents, we'll cover that soon. It needs a bit of planning.

No Slots Available? 6 Fixes That Actually Work

Don't panic. Seriously.

"Permit not available" is common. It doesn't always mean you've missed your chance. It often means you're checking at the wrong time.

Here are six fixes we've seen work in real life, including for UK pilgrims already in Madinah.

1) Check just after Fajr (cancellation wave)

This is the tip we repeat the most.

People miss their slot. Plans change. Phones die. Staff mark no-shows. Then cancellations can open up. We often see new Rawdah time slots appear **just after Fajr**.

Set an alarm. Check for 3–5 minutes. That's it.

2) Check around midnight (system refresh)

Another common window is just after midnight Saudi time.

Not every night. But often enough to be worth trying.

Do it calmly. Don't spam the app for an hour. You'll burn out.

3) Switch days, not just times

Most people only change the time slot.

Change the date too. Try:

- Weekdays over weekends
- Two days ahead instead of tomorrow
- Your last day (many forget to check it)

And if your Madinah stay is short, consider adding a night. Even one extra night can change your odds. If you're still planning your trip, start from [Planning Umrah? Read This Complete Umrah Guide Before Booking Your Trip](#) and build Madinah nights into the plan.

4) Use two phones (but one account)

This sounds small. It helps.

Keep Nusuk logged in on your phone. Also log in on a spouse's phone. Use the same account. Then refresh on one while the other is ready to confirm. But don't create two accounts for one person.

We've seen duplicate accounts cause booking errors. It's a pain to fix.

5) Improve your connection near the mosque

Sometimes the app shows nothing because of weak data.

If you're in Madinah:

- Try hotel Wi-Fi
- Try mobile data
- Step away from dense crowds for a minute

It's not "magic". It's just signal.

6) Build a longer Madinah stay (the honest workaround)

This is the truth.

A 1-night Madinah stay is risky for Rawdah booking. A 2-3 night stay gives you more "checks" and more chance to catch a cancellation.

An anonymised story from last season: a UK couple with a tight schedule had **no slots for two days**. They kept checking after Fajr, like we told them. On their **last night**, a slot opened for the next morning. They got in, prayed two rak'ah, and left in tears. They messaged our team right after. We still remember it.

If you're travelling from Makkah by train, timing is even easier. Here's the detailed rail guide: [Makkah to Madinah – Complete Distance and Haramain High Speed Railway Guide for UK Pilgrims](#).

Your Rawdah Visit on the Day (Gate, Timing, Salam)

This part should feel calm.

Your permit is booked. Now you just need to arrive right, enter right, and make the most of those minutes.

Which gate for Rawdah and Bab as-Salam

Gate directions can change. Staff will guide you.

That said, many pilgrims ask about **Bab as-Salam** (the Gate of Peace). It's a common route for giving salam. People also mention Gate 37 in conversation. But don't lock your plan to a gate number you saw online.

Use this rule instead:

- Follow the permit instructions first.
- Then follow the mosque staff and signs on the day.

It's smoother. And you won't waste time arguing with a queue.

How early should you arrive?

Arrive early. Always.

We suggest:

- **30-45 minutes before** your slot if you're close by.
- **45-60 minutes before** if your hotel is further away.

Also plan wudu (ablution) time. Toilets can be busy.

How long do you get inside the Rawdah?

It varies by crowd level.

Most people get a short window. Often it feels like 5–15 minutes. Sometimes less. So go in with a simple plan.

Don't try to do "everything". You can't.

What to pray inside (keep it simple)

Many people aim for two rak'ah.

That's a good goal. Keep your du'a short and from the heart. And be mindful of others.

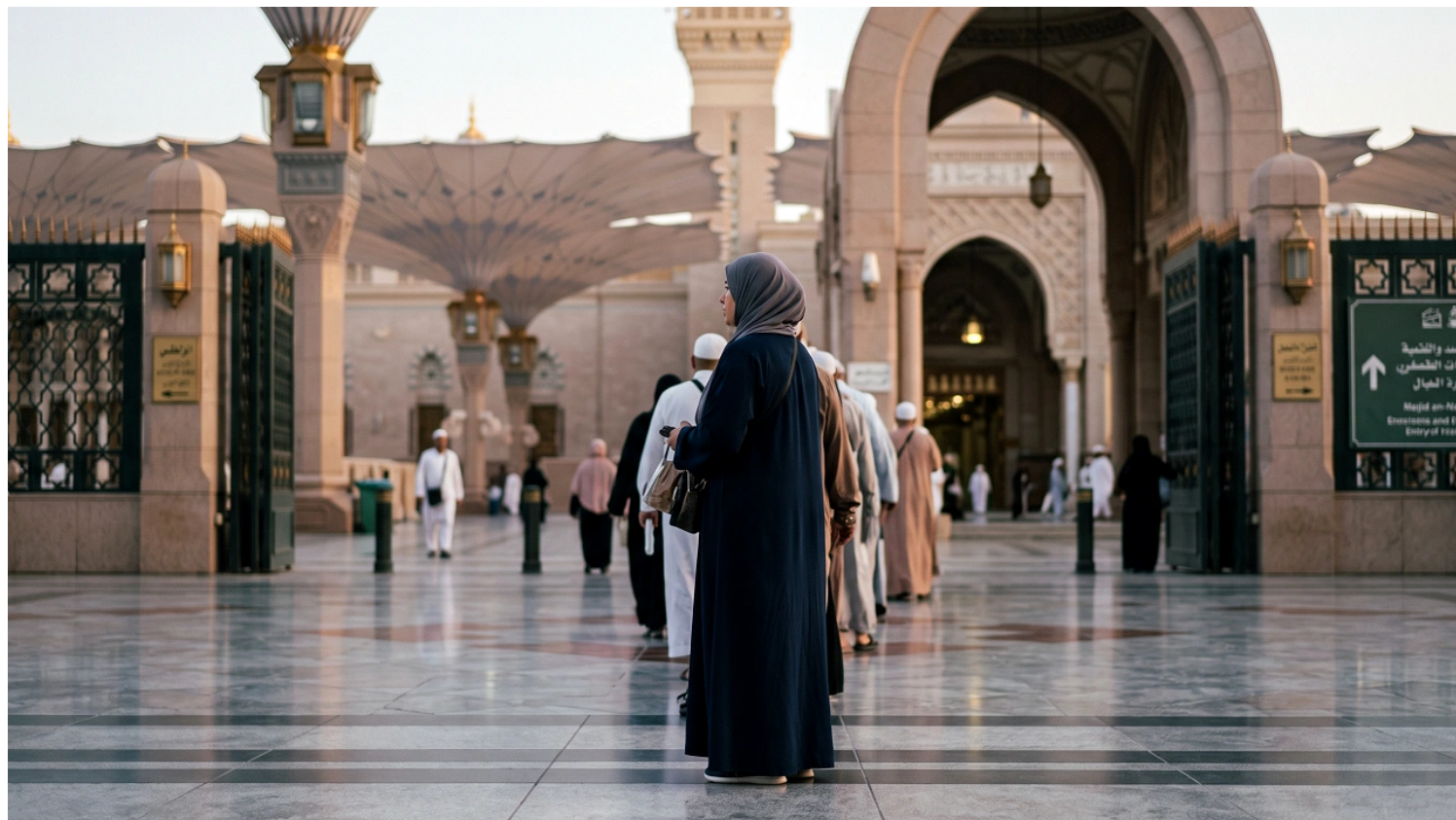
If you want structured du'a for Umrah and the holy places, our list is here: [Complete Umrah Dua List with Arabic, English and Transliteration](#).

Giving salam to the Prophet ﷺ

This is a big moment for many pilgrims.

When you reach the area near the Prophet's grave, people give salam. Keep your voice low. Don't push. And don't raise your hands in a way that blocks others.

Also, don't film it. It ruins the moment. And it can cause issues with staff.



Etiquette Inside the Rawdah (Keep It Calm)

This matters a lot.

The Rawdah is not a place to “win a spot”. It’s a place to worship Allah.

Here are the key Rawdah rules we remind our groups about:

- **No pushing.** Even if you’ve waited days.
- **No shouting.** Keep your voice low.
- **Phones away.** A quick photo is tempting. Try to skip it.
- **Make space.** Pray, make du’a, then move on.
- **Respect staff.** They’re keeping people safe.

And look, we’ll say it plainly. If you see someone elderly or in a wheelchair, let them through. You’ll never regret that.

If you’re also doing Makkah and Madinah in one trip, it helps to know the pace of each city. For the Makkah side, our step-by-step Umrah guide is here: [How to Perform Umrah Step by Step - The Complete Guide for UK Pilgrims](#).

Timing Your Madinah Stay Around the Permit (Stay Length vs Chances)

Stay length changes everything.

We’ve seen UK pilgrims book flights and hotels first, then try Rawdah booking later. That can work. But it’s harder if you only have one night in Madinah.

Here’s what we’ve learned from doing this week after week.

Our rule of thumb for 2026

- **1 night:** possible, but risky.
- **2 nights:** much better.
- **3+ nights:** best for families and women’s slots.

Why? More nights means more chances to catch a slot after Fajr or midnight.

Stay length vs permit chances (simple table)

How long you stay in Madinah	What Rawdah booking feels like	Who it suits	Our tip
1 night	High stress, few checks	Solo travellers with flexible timing	Check just after Fajr and around midnight
2 nights	Realistic chance	Most couples	Be open on dates, not only “perfect” slots
3 nights	Much easier	Families, women’s groups	Book early, then try to improve your slot later
4+ nights	Best odds, calmer pace	Elderly parents, first-timers	Keep one day light for rest and ziyarah

Hotel location matters too. A hotel that’s 300–600 metres from the mosque makes a big difference. Especially for women and elderly parents. Use our Madinah hotel guide here: [Best Hotels Near Masjid](#)



How to plan your whole route (UK → Jeddah → Makkah → Madinah)

If you're building your trip from the UK, the travel chain matters.

For flights, this guide helps you pick routes and timing: [Flights to Jeddah from UK – Airlines, Routes & Cheap Flight Tips](#).

And if you want a simple starting point, our team usually recommends browsing [Umrah packages UK 2026](#) first. Then we adjust Madinah nights around your priorities.

Booking Rawdah for Family Members and Elderly Pilgrims

Family bookings need a bit more care.

Here's what we see most with UK families: one person books themselves, then realises they forgot mum and dad. Don't do that.

Can I book Rawdah for my elderly parents?

Often, yes. But you'll need to add them as dependants in Nusuk.

Then try to book slots that match their energy. Early morning can be cooler. But it can also be busy. Mid-morning can be calmer some days.

Tips for elderly parents (real-world, not theory)

- **Wheelchair plan:** Arrange it before you leave the hotel.
- **Keep medicines on you:** Not in the hotel safe.
- **Don't rush the queue:** Arrive early instead.
- **Pick the closest hotel you can afford:** Distance is the real “hidden cost”.

If you're comparing budgets, it can help to choose a package level that keeps you close to the mosque. For example, many pilgrims start with our [4 star Umrah packages](#) because they often balance distance and cost well.

What if our family can't get the same slot?

This happens a lot.

If you can't match everyone:

- Prioritise elderly parents first.
- Take any available slot, then try to improve it later.
- Split into pairs (one carer per elder).

And yes, it can feel unfair. But it's still better than pushing to stay together and losing the slot.

What happens if someone misses their Rawdah appointment?

Usually, the permit is marked as missed.

Then you may have to wait before rebooking. The waiting period can vary. So try not to miss it.

Our simple prevention list:

- Set two alarms.
- Leave the hotel early.
- Keep your QR screenshot ready.

If you're staying further out, consider changing hotels for Madinah. Our guide can help you pick: [Best Hotels Near Masjid Nabawi Madinah – Complete Guide for Umrah Pilgrims](#).

FAQ



How do I book the Rawdah?

You book it in the Nusuk app by selecting the Rawdah permit and choosing a date and time slot. Make sure your profile details match your passport. Then confirm and save the QR code. If you're stuck on setup, our [Nusuk app guide](#) is the fastest fix.

Is Rawdah booking free?

Yes, Rawdah booking is free in Nusuk. You're booking a time slot, not buying a ticket. That said, you still need internet access and a working app login. So keep your phone charged and connected.

How many days before can I book Rawdah on Nusuk?

It depends on the current release window in Nusuk, and it can change in busy periods. Some weeks you'll see dates further ahead. Other weeks you won't. Our tip is simple: book the first decent slot you see,

then try to improve it later.

Why are there no Rawdah slots available on Nusuk?

Most of the time, it's because demand is high and slots have been taken. It can also be due to your connection, app glitches, or checking at peak times. Try the two windows we see work most: just after Fajr and around midnight Saudi time. Also switch dates, not only times.

How long do you get inside the Rawdah?

It varies with crowd levels and staff flow. Many pilgrims feel they get around 5-15 minutes. Sometimes it's shorter. So keep your plan simple: two rak'ah, a short du'a, then move on calmly.

Can women visit the Rawdah?

Yes, women can visit with a valid permit slot. Women's time slots can be different from men's, and they can change by season. Arrive early and follow staff directions on the day. And if you're trying to get a slot, checking just after Fajr often helps.

What is the best time slot for Rawdah booking?

For many UK pilgrims, early morning can feel calmer and cooler, especially outside peak weeks. But the "best" slot is the one you can actually get and attend on time. If you're staying close to Masjid Nabawi, you'll have more flexibility. That's why hotel choice matters.

Can I visit the Prophet's grave without a permit?

Rules and access routes can change based on crowd control. Some areas are managed by staff flow, and sometimes permits are tied to specific visits. So follow the official guidance shown in Nusuk and the on-site staff instructions. If you're unsure, ask a mosque steward politely.

Can I do Rawdah booking for my parents on my phone?

Often yes, if you add them as dependants in Nusuk with their correct passport details. Then book each person's permit as allowed by the app. Try to get your elderly parents the easiest slot first. After that, work on the rest of the family.

What happens if I miss my Rawdah slot?

Usually it's marked as missed, and you may not be able to rebook straight away. The waiting period can vary. So treat the slot like a flight time. Leave early, keep your QR code ready, and don't rely on last-minute taxi plans.

Final thoughts (and a calm reminder)

Rawdah booking can test your patience. But it's also a lesson in it.

Do the steps right. Check at smart times. And keep your heart soft.

If you're still planning your 2026 trip and you want Madinah nights that give you a real chance at the Rawdah, you can start with our [Umrah packages UK](#) and tell us your dates. We'll advise you honestly, based on what we're seeing on the ground.

May Allah accept your ziyarah, your du'a, and your journey. Ameen.

Helpful official reference: For the latest official updates, you can also check the Saudi Ministry portal: haj.gov.sa.