

Taif Day Trip from Makkah - The Complete Pilgrim's Guide (2026)

Planning a Taif day trip from Makkah? Routes, cable car, rose farms, costs in SAR and how to fit Taif into your Umrah trip without rushing.

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Planning a **taif day trip from makkah** is one of those ideas that sounds simple. Then you start asking real questions. How far is it? Is it worth it? Do we need ihram again? And what can we actually fit into one day?

We get asked this a lot by UK pilgrims. And to be honest, Taif can be the perfect “breather day” between Umrah days. It’s cooler up there. The views are stunning. And the history hits your heart in a different way.

Our team at Noor Umrah Travels runs Taif add-on trips most weeks in season. So we’ve seen what works. We’ve also seen what goes wrong (like leaving too late, or not planning for the miqat on the way back).

If you'd like help fitting Taif into your Umrah days, you can always speak to our team. Start with our main [Umrah Packages UK 2026](#) page, then we'll tailor the extras around your hotel and flight times.



Why Pilgrims Visit Taif

Taif feels like a reset.

Makkah is intense in the best way. But it's also hot, busy, and full of movement. Taif sits high in the mountains. So the air is cooler. Nights can even feel crisp.

For many pilgrims, a day in Taif helps with:

- **Rest:** your feet recover after Tawaf and Sa'i.
- **Heat:** you get a break from the lowland sun.
- **Reflection:** the seerah (life story of the Prophet ﷺ) feels very close there.
- **Family time:** kids often love the cable car and markets.

And look, it's also just beautiful. The Shafa mountains, the viewpoints, the farms. It's a different side of Saudi Arabia.

If you're also planning other short ziyarah days, our Makkah list helps a lot. See [15 Best Places to Visit in Makkah – Complete Ziyarat & Sightseeing](#) for ideas you can do without leaving the city.

The Story of Taif in the Seerah

This part is heavy. But it matters.

Taif is linked to one of the hardest moments in the seerah. After the loss of Khadijah (RA) and Abu Talib, the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) went to Taif seeking support and protection. He called them to Islam. He hoped for a hearing.

But the leaders rejected him. And the people harmed him.

We won't go into graphic detail here. But we will say this. When you stand in Taif, you remember that da'wah came with pain. You also remember that Allah's help can come after the darkest hours.

One of the most moving parts of this story is the Prophet's dua in distress. It's widely mentioned in seerah works. If you want a scholarly Q&A style summary, you can read a discussion on islamqa.info (please read with care and context).

And there's another moment many people forget. The Prophet (PBUH) was offered support against the people of Taif. Yet he chose mercy and hope for their future. That's a lesson you feel in your chest.

So yes, Taif is a "tour day". But for a pilgrim, it's also a day of reflection. Quiet. And sincere du'a.

If you're travelling on Umrah soon and want to keep your worship organised, it helps to know your core Umrah steps first. Keep [How to Perform Umrah Step by Step - The Complete Guide for UK Pilgrims](#) saved on your phone.

Getting There - Makkah to Taif Options

Getting up the mountain is half the fun.

The **makkah to taif distance** is about **85-95 km**, depending on your route and where your hotel is. In normal traffic, you're looking at **1.5 to 2.5 hours each way**.

The most famous route is the **Al Hada mountain road**. It's known for:

- Hairpin bends and steep drops.

- Viewpoints where drivers often stop for photos.
- Cooler air as you climb.

Now, here's the thing. If anyone in your group gets car sick, plan for it. Sit them in the front. Bring water. And keep the AC gentle.

Below is a simple comparison we use when advising clients.

Option	Typical time (one way)	Typical cost (SAR)	Rough cost (GBP)	Best for	Pros	Cons
Private taxi / private driver	1.5-2.5 hrs	500-900	£105-£190	Families, older parents, flexible stops	Door-to-door, stops when you want, easiest with kids	Costs more, price varies by season
Group ziyarah tour (shared)	2-3 hrs	150-300 per person	£32-£64	Solo travellers, budget trips	Cheaper, no need to plan stops	Fixed schedule, less time at each place
Bus / coach (when available)	2.5-4 hrs	60-150	£13-£32	Very budget travel	Lowest cost	Less direct, timings can be awkward for a day trip

Taxi Makkah to Taif cost: this is the one people ask first. In 2026, we're seeing most day-return private cars land in the **500-900 SAR** range. It depends on the vehicle size, day of week, and if you add Shafa stops.

Want to convert SAR to GBP quickly while you plan? Keep our [Saudi Arabia Currency Guide for UK Pilgrims - SAR to GBP Exchange Rates](#) open. Rates change, but it helps you budget.

If you're coming from the UK and still sorting flights, it's worth reading [Flights to Jeddah from UK – Airlines, Routes & Cheap Flight Tips](#). A smoother flight day makes every ziyarah day easier.



The Ihram Question – Coming Back from Taif

This is the part many pilgrims miss.

If you're doing Taif just as sightseeing, and you're not planning another Umrah, then you don't need to enter ihram on the way back.

But if you plan to do **another Umrah** after Taif, you must think about the **miqat** (the boundary where you must be in ihram before entering the Haram area for Umrah). This matters. A lot.

Taif is outside the miqat line for people coming from that direction. The miqat linked to Taif is **Qarn al-Manazil** (also called **As-Sayl al-Kabeer**).

So what should you do?

If you want to perform a second Umrah after Taif

Plan one of these options with your driver:

- **Option A (common):** Stop at or near **Qarn al-Manazil** on the way back, make ghusl if possible, put on ihram, and make intention.
- **Option B:** If your hotel in Makkah is easier, you can prepare in advance (ihram clothes ready, unscented items packed), then enter ihram at the miqat stop.

And please don't wing it. We've had clients call in a panic because they "forgot" and crossed back in normal clothes while intending Umrah. It turns into stress and extra fiqh questions. You don't need that on your trip.

For the rules in simple UK-friendly wording, read [Ihram Rules for Umrah and Hajj - Complete Guide for Men and Women](#). It clears up scent, nails, hair cutting, and what breaks ihram.

Also, if you're unsure how long your whole Umrah day will take, this helps you plan energy. See [How Long Does Umrah Take? Complete Duration Guide](#).

Top Things to Do in Taif

Taif has options for every pace.

Some people want views and tea. Others want markets and shopping. And some want to chase the rose season. Here are the stops we find work best for a **taif day trip from makkah**.

1) Al Hada cable car (Telefric Al Hada)

This is the headline stop for many families.

The **taif cable car** runs in the Al Hada area. It's a scenic ride over the valley. On a clear day, the views are unreal.

Our practical tips:

- Go earlier if you can. Late afternoon can get busy.
- Bring a light layer. It can feel cool up there.
- Keep snacks for kids. Queues happen.

And yes, people call it "telefric Al Hada" too. Same thing.

2) Taif rose farms and rose factories (seasonal)

This is Taif's signature.

Taif rose farms are most famous in spring. The roses are used for rose water and perfume. If you've ever smelled real Taif rose, you know it's different. It's soft, not sharp.

What to expect:

- Small farms with rows of roses.
- Simple factory shops selling rose water, oils, soaps.
- Quick tours in some places, often in Arabic.

One common mistake we see is going out of season and feeling let down. So plan your timing. We'll cover seasons below.

3) Taif fruit market (and fruit stalls)

Come hungry. Seriously.

The **Taif fruit market** vibe is old-school. You'll see pomegranates, figs, grapes, and local honey. Prices vary. So it's worth walking a bit before you buy.

Quick tip from our drivers: carry small notes in SAR. It makes buying fruit much easier.

If you're still planning what to do in Makkah and Madinah too, keep both guides handy. Here's [15 Best Places to Visit in Madinah – Complete Ziyarat & Sightseeing](#) for your Madinah days.



4) Masjid Abdullah ibn Abbas

This is a calm stop.

Masjid Abdullah ibn Abbas is one of the well-known masajid in Taif. Many visitors stop to pray and reflect. Keep it simple. Dress modestly. And give the place its respect.

If you're doing Taif between Umrah days, this masjid stop can feel like a spiritual "pause button".

5) Shafa mountains and viewpoints

Shafa is for the views.

The **Shafa mountains** area has viewpoints and cooler air. Some families like to sit with tea and just look out over the hills. It's also a good place for photos at golden hour.

But don't over-pack your day. Pick one or two main areas. Then enjoy them.

6) Baboons on Al Hada road (yes, really)

People always ask about this. And yes, there can be **baboons on the Al Hada road**.

You might see them sitting by the barriers. Sometimes they approach cars if people feed them.

Please don't feed them. It can get messy fast. Keep windows up if they come close. (Trust us, we've seen it happen.)

A Realistic Half-Day Itinerary and a Full-Day Itinerary

Timing makes or breaks the day.

Here's the "formula" we use for most clients: **leave after Fajr, back before Isha**. It keeps the day calm. It also keeps you safe from late-night mountain driving.

We'll give you two plans. Pick the one that matches your energy.

Half-day Taif (best if you're tired or travelling with elders)

This is the "taste of Taif" plan.

1. **Depart Makkah:** around 7:00–8:00am
2. **Al Hada viewpoint stop:** 15–20 mins
3. **Taif cable car:** 60–90 mins (including queue)
4. **Quick lunch/tea:** 45–60 mins
5. **Return to Makkah:** aim to arrive 2:00–4:00pm

It's simple. It's light. And it still feels like you went somewhere special.

Full-day Taif (best if you want roses/markets and views)

This is the classic day trip.

1. **Depart Makkah:** 6:30–7:30am (after Fajr)
2. **Al Hada road photo stop:** 15 mins
3. **Taif cable car:** 90 mins
4. **Masjid Abdullah ibn Abbas:** pray + short visit
5. **Fruit market:** 30–45 mins
6. **Rose farm/factory (seasonal):** 45–60 mins
7. **Shafa viewpoint:** 30–60 mins
8. **Return to Makkah:** arrive before Maghrib or early evening

Now, here's a real example. A family we helped last season had two kids and a wheelchair user. They wanted "everything". We trimmed it down to cable car + masjid + one viewpoint. They came back smiling, not exhausted. That's the goal.

If your base in Saudi is busy already, keep your main Umrah plan tidy. Our [Planning Umrah? Read This Complete Umrah Guide Before Booking Your Trip](#) helps you map worship, rest, and travel days in a way that feels human.

What Taif Costs (SAR and GBP)

Let's talk money. Plain and simple.

Costs change by season. They also change by how you travel. But you can still budget well for a **taif day trip from makkah**.

Typical cost items

- **Private car / taxi:** 500–900 SAR total (about £105–£190)
- **Group tour seat:** 150–300 SAR per person (about £32–£64)
- **Cable car tickets:** often around 60–120 SAR per person (about £13–£26)
- **Meals and tea:** 30–80 SAR per person (about £6–£17)
- **Rose products:** 20–200+ SAR (about £4–£43), depending what you buy

Two quick notes:

- Card is accepted in many places, but cash still helps in markets.
- Always agree taxi price before you set off.

For a deeper Umrah budget (hotels, flights, visa, transport), read [How Much Does Umrah Cost from UK? Complete Price Breakdown for 2026](#). It helps you see the full picture.

And if you're picking the right style of trip, start at [Umrah Packages UK 2026](#). Then add Taif as a calm extra day, not a rushed one.

Want a quick example budget for a family of four?

- Private driver: 750 SAR
- Cable car: 80 SAR x 4 = 320 SAR

- Food: 60 SAR x 4 = 240 SAR
- Small rose gifts: 150 SAR

Total: about **1,460 SAR** (roughly **£310**, depending on rate).

If you want to keep costs lower, a shared tour plus fewer purchases makes a big difference.

When to Go (Taif Weather and Rose Season)

Taif is known for cool air.

That's why locals escape there in summer. And it's why pilgrims love it after a few hot days in Makkah.

Taif weather: what UK pilgrims usually feel

- **Winter (Dec-Feb):** cool and sometimes cold at night. Pack a light jacket.
- **Spring (Mar-May):** one of the best times. Comfortable days, cooler evenings.
- **Summer (Jun-Aug):** still warm, but often far better than Makkah. Great for a heat break.
- **Autumn (Sep-Nov):** pleasant and calmer. Good for day trips.

If you're planning your whole trip around weather, also check [Makkah Weather – Month by Month Guide for Umrah Pilgrims](#). It helps you decide when Taif will feel most “worth it”.

Taif rose season

Rose season is usually in **spring**. Many farms peak around **March and April**, but it can shift year to year.

So if roses are your main reason, tell us your dates. We'll advise if it's a good match. If you're still choosing months, you can also browse our seasonal pages like [April Umrah Packages](#) and [March Umrah Packages](#).



FAQ

How far is Taif from Makkah?

The **makkah to taif distance** is about **85-95 km**. Drive time is usually **1.5 to 2.5 hours** each way. It depends on traffic and stops on the Al Hada mountain road. If you leave early, the ride feels much smoother.

Is Taif worth visiting during Umrah?

Yes, for many people it is. Taif gives you cooler air, mountain views, and a calm day between Umrah days. It also has deep seerah links that many pilgrims find moving. But if you're already exhausted, keep it short and simple.

How much does a taxi from Makkah to Taif cost in 2026?

For a same-day return, we usually see **500-900 SAR** for a private car. Bigger vehicles can cost more. Prices jump in peak seasons and weekends. Always agree the full day price before you start.

Do I need ihram to return from Taif to Makkah?

Not if you're only sightseeing. But if you intend to perform another Umrah after Taif, then you must enter ihram at the miqat. From the Taif direction, the miqat is **Qarn al-Manazil (As-Sayl al-Kabeer)**. If you're unsure, read [Ihram Rules for Umrah and Hajj - Complete Guide for Men and Women](#) before you go.

What is the Taif cable car?

The Taif cable car is the **Telefrik Al Hada** gondola ride in the Al Hada area. It takes you over the mountain valley with wide views. It's one of the most popular family stops on a Taif day trip. Go early to avoid queues.

When is the best time to visit Taif?

Spring is a favourite, especially if you want rose farms. Summer is also great because Taif is often cooler than Makkah. Winter nights can be cold, so pack a layer. If you're choosing Umrah months, our [Best Time to Perform Umrah 2026: Cheapest, Coolest & Least Crowded Months](#) can help you plan around heat and crowds.

What happened to the Prophet in Taif?

The Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) went to Taif seeking support and calling its leaders to Islam. He was rejected and harmed by the people. He responded with patience and mercy, and he turned to Allah in sincere du'a. This story is a key part of the seerah and is remembered by pilgrims who visit Taif.

Can you do Taif in half a day?

Yes, if you keep your stops focused. A half-day plan usually means Al Hada viewpoint + cable car + a quick meal, then back to Makkah. It works best if you leave early and avoid too many markets. For most families, half-day is easier than you think.

Are there baboons on the Al Hada road?

There can be, yes. You may see baboons sitting near barriers or pulling up near parked cars. Don't feed them, and keep windows mostly closed. If you stop for photos, stay aware of your surroundings.



Final thoughts from our team (and a gentle plan)

Taif doesn't need to be rushed.

If you want our honest take, **is Taif worth visiting** comes down to one thing. Do you have a spare day where your body needs a break? If yes, Taif is often the best day trip from Makkah.

Keep it simple:

- Pick half-day or full-day.
- Leave after Fajr. Come back before Isha.
- Sort the miqat plan if you want another Umrah.

If you'd like us to arrange a Taif add-on with a trusted driver (and help you avoid the ihram/miqat mistakes), reach us via [Contact Us](#). We'll fit it around your hotel, your energy, and your Umrah days.

May Allah accept your Umrah, protect your journey, and bring barakah in every step. Ameen.