

Umrah During UK School Holidays - The 2026 Family Planning Guide

Umrah during UK school holidays — compare October half-term, Easter and summer 2026 options, real prices and how far ahead families should book.

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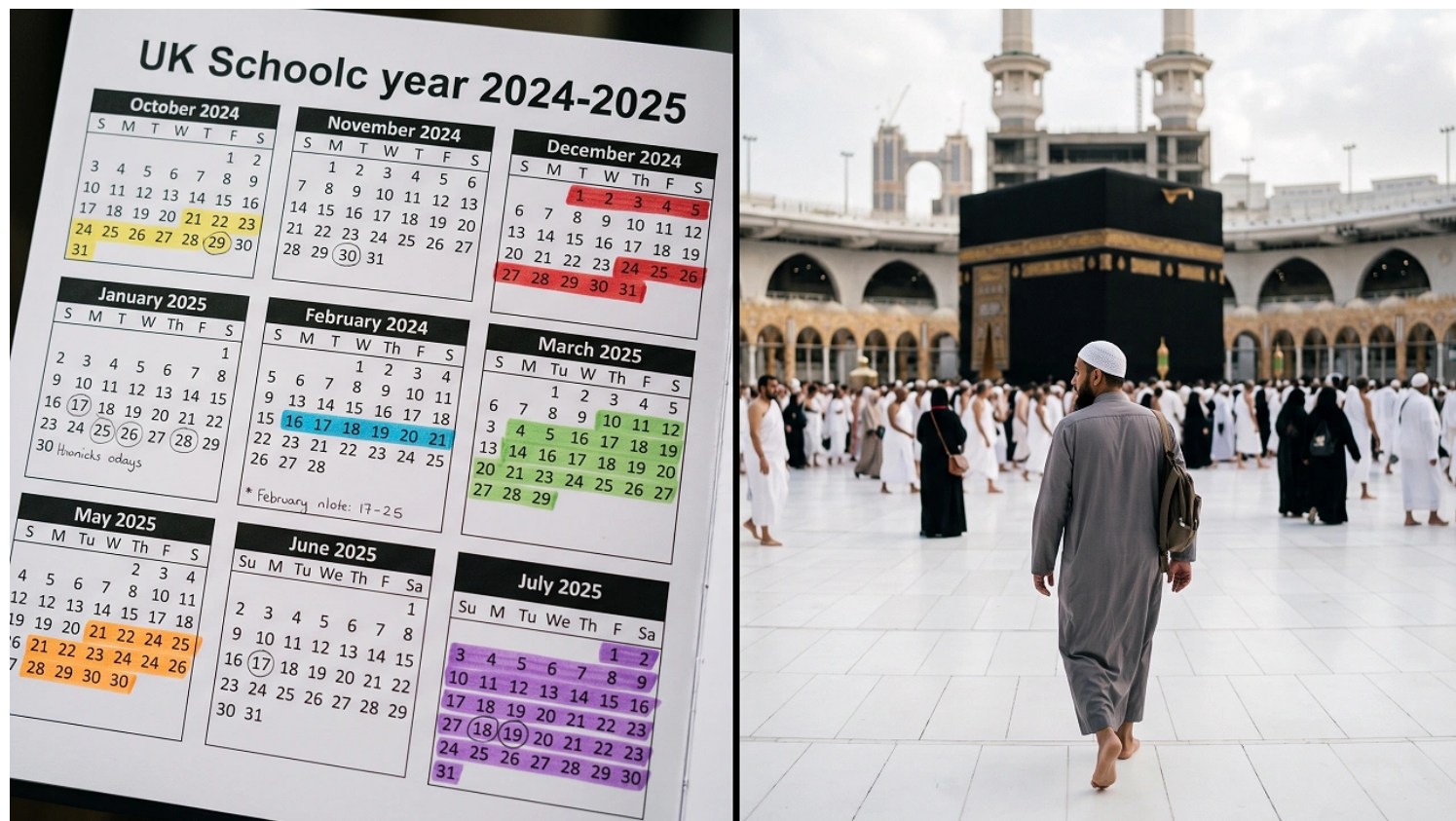
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Planning **umrah during school holidays** is one of the most common calls we get from UK parents. And we get it. You want your kids with you in Makkah and Madinah, but you also want to avoid stress with school, prices, and crowds.

We've been arranging family Umrah trips from the UK for years, and in 2026 the pattern is still the same. Holiday weeks sell fast. Flights jump. Hotels near the Haram fill up. So if you're aiming for October half-term, Christmas, February half-term, Easter, May, or the summer break, it helps to plan like a pro.

If you'd like us to price up a few date options for your family, you can browse our [Umrah Packages UK 2026](#) page and then call our team. We'll tell you what's realistic for your budget and your children's ages.



The Term-Time Question First

Let's be honest. This is the big one.

Parents ask us all the time: "Can I take my child out of school for Umrah?" The truth is, UK schools and councils vary. A lot. So we can't give legal advice. But we *can* share what we see every week.

In general, schools follow Department for Education guidance on attendance. Headteachers can authorise leave in limited cases. Many families find Umrah isn't treated like an automatic "authorised absence". That's why most parents choose **umrah during school holidays** instead.

Will you be fined for term-time Umrah?

Sometimes, yes.

Some councils issue penalty notices for unauthorised absence. The amount can change by area and by year. Families often tell us they've seen figures in the range of **about £60 to £120 per parent, per child**, depending on when it's paid. In some cases, it can go further if absences continue.

So if you're thinking of term-time travel, speak to your school first. Get the policy in writing. And check your local council site on [GOV.UK school attendance and absence](#).

Why families still choose term-time (and why many don't)

We do see a few term-time trips. Usually it's for cost.

Term-time flights and hotels can be cheaper. That said, the savings aren't always as big as people expect. Not once you add the risk of fines, missed lessons, and the stress of asking for leave.

Also, term-time often means you're travelling when one parent can't get leave. Or you're rushing. That's not how you want to feel in the Haram.

If cost is your main worry, read our breakdown on [How Much Does Umrah Cost from UK? Complete Price Breakdown for 2026](#). It's a helpful reality check.

Your 6 School Holiday Windows Compared

This is the quick overview.

Below is the same table we talk families through on the phone. It's not perfect. School dates vary by council. But it's a strong starting point for 2026 planning.

UK holiday window	Makkah weather feel	Crowd level	Price direction (UK flights + hotels)	Our verdict for families
October half-term	Warm but manageable evenings	High	High	Best “balance week” if you book early
Christmas / New Year	Cooler nights, pleasant days	Very high	Very high	Great weather, but peak demand
February half-term	Cool and comfortable	Medium to high	Medium	Often the best value half-term
Easter holidays	Warming up, spring sun	High	High	Good for 10–14 days, watch Ramadan overlap
May half-term	Hotter days start	Medium to high	Medium to high	Solid week if you can handle heat

UK holiday window	Makkah weather feel	Crowd level	Price direction (UK flights + hotels)	Our verdict for families
Summer (6 weeks)	Very hot, especially daytime	High (varies)	Very high	Doable, but plan around heat and naps

If you want the month-by-month detail on heat, humidity, and what it feels like after Maghrib, keep our [Makkah Weather – Month by Month Guide for Umrah Pilgrims](#) open while you plan. It makes these choices much easier.

October Half Term

For many families, October is the sweet spot.

It’s still warm in Makkah. But it’s not the peak summer heat. And you can fit a short Umrah trip into one school week if you keep things simple.

In our bookings, **october half term umrah** demand is huge for 2026. Flights from London, Manchester, and Birmingham often rise first. Then hotels follow.

What October feels like in Makkah (with kids)

Days can be hot. Nights are better.

Most families tell us the best routine is:

- Rest after Dhuhr (midday). Keep the room cool.
- Do Tawaf (circling the Kaaba) later in the evening.
- Keep Sa’i (walking Safa and Marwah) for cooler hours.

And yes, you’ll still sweat. That’s normal.

How long should you go for?

One week can work.

But you need a tight plan. If you’re wondering what’s realistic, our [How Long Does Umrah Take? Complete Duration Guide](#) breaks it down in a simple way.

For many UK families, a 7–10 day trip is the calm option. If you want a ready-made plan, look at our [7 Days 4 Star Umrah Package](#). It’s a popular “half-term length” choice.

Our “book-by” rule for October half-term

Here’s the thing. October sells early.

In our experience, if you want good flight times and decent hotel distance, you should aim to book **by June**. Sometimes even May. Especially for a family of 4 or 5.

Want to see live options? Start with [October Umrah Packages](#). Then tell us your nearest airport and your children’s ages.

Christmas Holidays

Christmas is busy. Very busy.

christmas holidays umrah trips are popular because parents can take leave, kids are off, and the weather in Makkah is kinder. But you’re also competing with global travel demand and New Year crowds.

Why families love December Umrah

It’s the weather.

Cooler evenings mean you can do more together. You can push the buggy without feeling like you’re melting. And older kids cope better in the Mataf area (the Tawaf zone) when it’s not extreme heat.

If you’re choosing dates, check [December Umrah Packages](#) early. December flight prices can jump fast in the UK.

What crowds are like around New Year

Expect packed prayer areas.

Also expect longer waits for lifts in tower hotels. That’s a small detail, but it matters with kids. We often suggest:

- Choose a hotel with easy walking access, even if the room is smaller.
- Plan one “big worship” session per day, not three.

- Keep snacks and water on you at all times.

For hotel ideas close to the Haram, our team often shares options from this post: [Best Hotels Near Haram Makkah – Complete Guide for Umrah Pilgrims](#).

How long is best in Christmas holidays?

10–14 days fits well.

It gives you time to settle in, do Umrah calmly, and still enjoy Madinah. If you want a longer stay, our [14 Days 4 Star Umrah Package](#) is a strong family option.

February Half Term

February is underrated.

For many families, **umrah during school holidays** in February is the best mix of comfort and value. It's short. It's cooler. And it's often less chaotic than December.

Why February can be better value

UK travel demand is usually lower than Christmas.

So you sometimes get:

- better flight times at a fairer price
- more hotel choice near the Haram
- less pressure on family rooms

To check options, start here: [February Umrah Packages](#).

A real family scenario we see a lot

A Birmingham family we helped last year had two children (ages 7 and 10). They only had one week off. They wanted Madinah too. We planned:

- Fly UK → Jeddah
- 3 nights Makkah (Umrah on night 1)
- Train to Madinah (Haramain High Speed Railway)

- 3 nights Madinah
- Fly home from Madinah (or back via Jeddah)

It worked because February weather helped. And because they didn't over-pack the schedule. If you're thinking of doing the train with kids, read [Makkah to Madinah – Complete Distance and Haramain High Speed Railway Guide for UK Pilgrims](#).

Easter Holidays

Easter gives you breathing space.

With two weeks off, you can slow down. That's a gift in Makkah. You can do Umrah, rest, and still have time for Madinah without feeling rushed.



Easter Umrah packages and spring crowds

easter umrah packages are popular across the UK.

So prices often rise, but not always as sharply as summer. It depends on airline routes and hotel stock. If you want to compare dates, start with [April Umrah Packages](#). Many Easter breaks fall into late March or April.

Ramadan overlap notes for 2026/2027

This matters. A lot.

Ramadan shifts each year. So Easter can sometimes overlap with late Sha'ban or Ramadan, depending on the year and moon sighting. If your dates might touch Ramadan, expect:

- higher hotel prices near Masjid al-Haram
- more crowding after Asr and at night
- a different family routine (late nights, slower mornings)

If you're considering Ramadan, read [Umrah in Ramadan – Is It Worth It? Guide & Ramadan Umrah Packages](#). It will help you decide with open eyes.

May Half Term

May is a practical choice.

It's still a one-week window for most families. And it can sometimes price better than peak summer. But the heat starts to build.

What May feels like in Makkah

Hot days. Warm nights.

With children, we suggest a simple rule: don't fight the sun. Work around it. That means:

- Do Umrah later in the evening if you can.
- Keep a midday rest in the hotel.
- Use Zamzam water often.

If you want to plan May dates, check [May Umrah Packages](#) early. Family rooms can be the first to go.

May half-term vs Easter: which is better?

It depends on your family.

If you need cooler weather, Easter often wins. If you want a simpler one-week trip, May can be easier. Also, May sometimes has slightly calmer flight demand than Easter. Not always. But often.

The Six-Week Summer

Summer is the toughest season. But it's also the most flexible.

For many parents, **summer holidays umrah** is the only option that fits work and school. You can go for 10, 14, 21, or even 28 days. That's a different kind of trip.

Is Makkah too hot in August for kids?

It can be. Yes.

In July and August, daytime heat in Makkah can be intense. Kids feel it fast. So you need a heat plan.

Here's what works in real life:

- **Early morning worship:** Fajr, then Tawaf soon after.
- **Midday rest:** back to the hotel before the peak heat.
- **Evening Sa'i:** the Safa-Marwah area is indoors and cooler.
- **Hydration:** water, Zamzam, and simple salts if needed.

And don't be shy about using wheelchairs for elderly parents. Or even for a tired child after a long day. It's common.

July vs August: what we see with prices

Both can be pricey.

But the pattern we often see is:

- Late July spikes due to UK travel demand.
- August can stay high, especially around popular flight days.

To compare, check [July Umrah Packages](#) and [August Umrah Packages](#). If you're flexible by even 2–3 days, it can change the total a lot.



Make summer easier: pick the right hotel distance

This is a big deal.

In summer, a “15-minute walk” can feel like forever with kids. So we often recommend staying closer, even if it costs more. You’ll save energy. And tempers. (Trust us, we’ve seen it happen.)

If you want to compare 3-star vs 4-star vs 5-star distances, start with our main [Umrah Packages UK 2026](#) page. Then look at [4 Star Umrah Packages](#) if you want a better balance for families.

How Far Ahead Families Should Book Each Window

Booking early saves money. It also saves arguments.

When families leave it late, they often end up with odd flight times, long stopovers, or hotels that are too far for little legs. So here’s our 2026 lead-time guide, based on what we see with UK school holiday demand.

Window	Ideal booking time	What happens if you wait
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October half-term	May-June 2026	Flight prices jump first, then hotel distance gets worse
Christmas / New Year	August-September 2026	Family rooms sell out, only premium options left
February half-term	October-December 2026	Less choice on direct flights and good timings
Easter	December 2026-January 2027	Popular hotels near Haram fill, prices creep up weekly
May half-term	January-February 2027	Flights become awkward, short stays get costly
Summer	February-April 2027	Peak fares, limited seats, long walks from hotel

Now, here's the thing. You don't need to lock everything in a year ahead. But you do need to start watching the market early. If you want us to do that with you, use our [Contact Us](#) page and tell us:

- your city (London, Manchester, Birmingham, etc.)
- your preferred holiday window
- your hotel level (3, 4, or 5 star)
- kids' ages (buggy? school-age? teens?)

Making a 7-Day Family Umrah Work

Yes, a week can work.

But it needs calm planning. And you need to accept one truth: you can't do everything. That's fine. Your Umrah is still valid. Your reward is still with Allah.

A realistic 7-day plan (Makkah + Madinah)

This is the outline we often suggest for half-term trips.

1. **Day 1:** Fly UK → Jeddah. Transfer to Makkah. Rest.
2. **Day 2:** Perform Umrah (Ihram, Tawaf, Sa'i, haircut). Keep it simple.
3. **Day 3:** Salah in Masjid al-Haram. Light rest. Short shopping only.
4. **Day 4:** Travel to Madinah (train is easiest for many families).

5. **Day 5:** Masjid an-Nabawi. Rawdah if booked. Gentle day.
6. **Day 6:** More prayers, quiet family time, optional ziyarat.
7. **Day 7:** Fly home.

If you want step-by-step ritual detail, keep our guide open: [How to Perform Umrah Step by Step - The Complete Guide for UK Pilgrims](#).

Two small tips that make a big difference

These sound basic. But they save families.

- **Don't start Umrah hungry.** Feed the kids first. Even if it's a snack.
- **Pick one meeting point.** In crowds, agree a spot if you get split.

Also, sort your mobile data before you fly. It helps with maps, Nusuk, and WhatsApp. Our [eSIM Saudi Arabia – Best SIM Card Guide for Umrah Pilgrims](#) is a quick read.



FAQ

Can I take my child out of school for Umrah?

Sometimes, but it depends on your school and local council. Many schools only approve leave in limited cases, and Umrah may not be classed as authorised absence. Speak to your headteacher early and ask for the policy in writing. If you want to avoid the stress, most families choose **umrah during school holidays**.

Will I be fined for term-time Umrah?

You might be. Some councils issue penalty notices for unauthorised absence, and families often mention ranges around £60-£120 per parent, per child, depending on payment timing. Rules vary, so check your school and your council guidance. For official UK info, use the GOV.UK attendance page linked earlier.

Is October half term a good time for Umrah?

Yes, for many families it's one of the best weeks. The weather is warmer than winter but usually easier than peak summer. Crowds and prices can be high, though. In our experience, booking by June gives you far better choice for flights and hotels.

How much is Umrah in the summer holidays?

Summer is often one of the most expensive times because UK flight demand is high and family rooms sell quickly. The final cost depends on your city, hotel star level, and how close you stay to Masjid al-Haram. Compare months using [July Umrah Packages](#) and [August Umrah Packages](#). Then check our cost guide for a full breakdown.

Is Makkah too hot in August for kids?

It can be very hot in August, especially in the daytime. Many families still go, but they change the routine: early morning Tawaf, midday rest, and evening Sa'i. Keep water and snacks on you, and don't push long walks. Staying closer to the Haram helps a lot in summer.

When should I book umrah during school holidays for 2026?

As early as you can, especially for October half-term and Christmas. October is often best booked by May-June, and Christmas by August-September. February half-term can sometimes be booked later, but the best flight times still go first. If you want us to check live options, start from [Umrah Packages UK 2026](#) and message our team.

Is Christmas a busy time for Umrah?

Yes, it's one of the busiest periods of the year. You'll see more crowds, higher hotel prices, and less choice for family rooms near the Haram. The weather is a big plus, though. If you can travel slightly before or after the New Year peak, it can feel much calmer.

Which school holiday is cheapest for Umrah?

It changes year to year, but February half-term is often a strong value week. May half-term can also be reasonable if demand is lower. Summer and Christmas are usually the most expensive. If you're flexible by a few days, you can sometimes save a lot on flights.

How long is Umrah with kids — can we do it in a week?

Yes, a week can work if you keep the plan simple. Many families do 3-4 nights in Makkah and 3-4 nights in Madinah. The key is rest, especially after travel days. For timing detail, see our [How Long Does Umrah Take? Complete Duration Guide](#).



Final thoughts (and a simple next step)

Umrah during school holidays is doable for most UK families. But it rewards early planning. Pick your window, accept the trade-offs, and build a calm routine around your children.

If you're ready to lock dates, our team can price up options across 3-star, 4-star, and 5-star stays. Start with [Umrah Packages UK 2026](#), then message us via [Contact Us](#) for a free quote. We'll keep it straightforward.

May Allah accept your Umrah, protect your family, and make it easy. Ameen.