THE HAJJ: the pilgrimage to Mecca

Before arrival in Mecca the pilgrim puts on ihram (consecration and pilgrim clothing) at one of the mawāliq (see box below), or before, even at the point of departure, and the appropriate intentions (an-niyyāt) are formulated.

Note: a day runs from sunset to sunset.

DAY 1: 8th DHI-QI‘A-AL-HIJjah
YAMAM AS-ṢUQAYKH (DAY OF DELIBERATION)

TAQAF al-QUDUM: the initial circumambulation of the Ka'bah is performed

Personal prayer is made (du'a)

Prayer is made at the station of Abraham (MADAMIR)

The pilgrim drinks the water of Zam zam

The pilgrim performs the SAI or course between ساف (SAFÁ) and مسح (MASHHÁ)

The pilgrim spends the night at میثأ (MISGHÁ)

DAY 2: 9th DHI-QI‘A-AL-HIJjah
YAMAM ARAFAT (DAY OF ARAFAT)

WUDU' is present, like the ablutions on the Day of Judgement and the ascent on the plain of Arafat or on the "Mount of Mercy" (Jabal 'Alμari)

Frequent reflection of the Almohad TAL'IB: "Here I am, O Lord..."

After sunset the FADH'il (prayer of the passing) or NAFHA' ("wind") takes place; this is a rapid departure for MUDZALIFAH

Night prayers (SuHA) are performed with the delayed noon prayer (SUHA') and performed near the MASH'AR al-HARAM, a station of the pilgrimage or MUDZALIFAH

The pilgrim spend the night at MUDZALIFAH

DAY 4, 5, 6, 7th, 10th, 11th DHI-QI‘A-AL-HIJjah
AYYAM AS-SA'IMAH (DAY OF BITING OR TAKING PROHIBITED)

The pilgrims pray at MUDZALIFAH and eat a day between sunrise and sunset before having the signs at each of the 3 JAMMÁT.

It is permissible to commemorate the Pilgrimage on the 8th day when the departure takes place by sunset.

A new course (Aqaba) is put on the ka'bah

Upon departure, a final circumambulation of the ka'bah is made. Taqaf at MUDZALIFAH (circumambulation of farewell)

DAY 3: 10th DHI-QI‘A-AL-HIJjah
YAMAM 'ARAFAT (DAY OF SACRIFICE)

The pilgrims pray the main prayer (SUHA') and visit MASH'AR AL-HARAM

The pilgrims cross 90 or 100 points at MUDZALIFAH to complete the JAMMÁT

They go to MUDZALIFAH and perform the AYYAM AS-SU'AH (6 days of sacrifice) at the JAMMÁT or Aqaba

The animal sacrifice is made between noon and 6. All meat from these sacs is bought, and the meat from half of the meat of the animal sacrifice is distributed among those who have performed the pilgrimage and the meat from the other half is distributed among the poor

The pilgrims return to Mecca and circumambulate the 6th or TAW'-YAMAM