

# Umrah Supplement # 1

## Salah Whilst Traveling

### Shortening Prayer

A believer becomes a *musaafir* (traveler) when they leave their home and intend to travel at least 48 miles. As such, the following applies to anyone traveling for umrah:

- The fard prayers that contain 4 rak'ah (Dhuhr, Asr, Isha) are reduced to 2 rak'ah.
  - If one is praying their fard salah individually or with a group of travelers (e.g., on the plane or at an airport layover), they will reduce their prayer to 2 rak'ah.
  - If one is joining a congregation and the Imam is praying 4 rak'ah, they will pray the complete 4 rak'ah with the congregation (as is the case in Masjid Al-Haram and Masjid An-Nabawi).
- The sunnah prayers are downgraded whilst actively traveling (i.e., ok if not performed).
  - The 2 raka'ah of sunnah before Fajr is highly regarded and rewarded, and should ideally not be missed even when actively traveling.
  - When stationary (e.g., in Makkah and Madinah), it is recommended to perform all of the sunnah prayers.
- The 3 rak'ah of witr after Isha prayer are *wajib* (required) and should be performed even as a traveler.

### Wudu on Plane / At Airport

Performing wudu on a plane or in the airport can be technically challenging. Hence, one may consider the following:

- Perform only the 4 *fard* (required) components of wudu, which include (1) washing the face (2) washing the hands and forearms up to and including the elbows (3) wiping at least ¼ of the head (4) washing the feet.
  - The above need only be performed once (not three times).
  - Step 4 can be replaced by wiping over approved wudu socks, or *khuff*. For instance, if one performs a complete wudu (including washing the feet) at home or in their hotel, then puts on wudu socks, they only need to wipe once over the top of these socks in order to refresh their wudu. This can be repeated as needed for the duration of travel (up to 72 hours).

### Salah on Plane

Salah must be performed at its assigned time, even when traveling and on a plane.

- One can estimate the salah time by either (1) looking out the window and assessing the time of day (2) using mobile apps (e.g., HalalTrip) that provide an estimate of salah timings during one's specific flight.

- It is advisable that one, prior to travel, also look up current salah times at their gateway, layover, and destination. This can be searched online (e.g., [www.islamicfinder.org](http://www.islamicfinder.org)).

As *qiyam*, or standing, is a requirement for the *fard* prayer, one must ideally perform salah while standing on a plane. Given current airlines rules, however, this is usually not possible.

- If it is not possible to perform the prayer standing, one may perform salah in their seat. In this case, they will gesture with their head for ruku, and gesture slightly more when performing sajdah. A surface (e.g., pillow or tray table) is not needed, as the gesturing is minimal.
- Many scholars are of the opinion that any seated *fard* prayers on a plane need to be repeated after arrival at one's final destination. This can be discussed with one's local scholar/mufti prior to traveling.
- As supererogatory (non-*fard*) prayers can be performed seated and in any direction (as evidenced by *ahadith* of the Prophet [S]), one can perform *nafl* prayers in their seat. This includes voluntary tahajjud prayers, and the 2 raka'ah that is recommended prior to entering the state of Ihram.