

Umrah Supplement # 5

Guide for Repeat Visitors

Background

1. Umrah supports the goals of believers at every stage of their journey to Allah (SWT).
 - It opens the doors to faith, inspiration, and awe with Allah (SWT)
 - It presents the opportunity to make amends with Allah (SWT)
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 - It assists one in elevating rank and station with Allah (SWT)
2. For the repeat visitor, it is not uncommon to take the journey for granted and overlook its true potential.
 - For some, it can shift from “journey of a lifetime” to a recurring family vacation, an opportune layover, a display of self-righteousness, and/or an opportunity to publish on social media.

Making Sense of the Invitation

1. A visit to Allah’s home requires an invitation.
 - Each individual trip to the *Haramayn* requires a unique **invitation** from Allah (SWT), which is actively sought through (1) supplication, (2) yearning, (3) and planning.
 - Each **invitation** is a sign of His love.
2. A sign of progress or a sign of need?
 - The **repeat visitor** may therefore think that perhaps they are more beloved to Allah (SWT), as they are repeatedly receiving invitations to His home, while others are not.
 - If/when this thought settles in, one should adopt and internalize the following attitude:

What lesson(s) must Allah (SWT) be trying to teach me? With others, He brings them to His home once and they are forgiven, their lives are forever changed, and the objective is met. Here I am, repeatedly being called back to His home to receive yet another cleansing, be given yet another reminder. When is it that I will finally take heed of Allah (SWT) and become a true servant of His?
 - The true reason for any of Allah’s invitations are known to Him alone. It may be to reward us, or it may be to rectify us. In either circumstance, we should welcome the opportunity with humility and open arms.

Note: Most believers (throughout history) have received no more than one invitation in their lifetime. The opportunity to repeatedly visit the Haramayn is unique to this era, and the believer should be immensely grateful for the support Allah (SWT) has given the struggling ummah (community) of Rasulallah (S).

Revisiting Our Purpose & Goals

1. Approaching Umrah as a needed “reset”, while important, may only have a temporary effect.

- The **repeat** visitor should instead seek more enduring goals when visiting the *Haramayn*, which may differ from the goals of first-time visitors.

Note: It is acceptable to have multiple goals, and the primary goal of Umrah (e.g., fulfilling a sunnah, attaining Allah’s forgiveness, etc.), will always remain.

2. The repeat visitor should view each journey as a growth opportunity.

- One’s **focus** should be on spiritual growth and advancement, and the **seeking of**:
 - Higher station and rank before Allah (SWT)
 - A deeper relationship with Rasulallah (S).

3. Below are select goals and approaches the repeat visitor may consider (while recognizing the actual list is exhaustive); preparation is required.

- **Learn** from enthusiasts of the past
 - Study the travels of our scholars and mashai’kh, and the fervor with which they would approach the blessed cities of Makkah and Madinah.
 - Implement the *aadaab* (etiquettes) of the *Haramayn*, as exemplified by the pious before us. This includes expressions of humility, neediness, and determination.
- **Create** an immersive experience
 - Cover the seerah *in depth* (pre-trip), and link this preparation with immersive experiences at sites not often visited (see: Umrah Supplement, Guide to Visiting Sites).
- **Become** a close friend of Rasulallah (S)
 - Recognize that the *sahabah* (companions) who *frequently* visited the Prophet (S) are those whose names we remember today, who the Qur’an places its attention on, and who took the most from Rasulallah (S). With repeat greetings of Rasulallah (S) in the noble *rawdah*, our companionship with him should also evolve.
- **Be mindful** of “*ghayrah*”, or competing intentions
 - Limit indulgences that are widely available (e.g., hotel amenities, food options, shopping). These may serve as a needed attraction for first-time visitors, but the repeat visitor should recognize that only Allah (SWT) is worth pursuing in His home. Seeking to fulfill any other desire only competes with this.