

## Makkah

Element of Hajj	Image
<b>Makkah</b> The Hajj starts and finishes at the holy city of Makkah. This city houses the Ka'aba and was Muhammad's birthplace. Around 2 million pilgrims make the Hajj every year.	
<b>Muhammad's connection to the Hajj:</b>	
<b>Ihram</b> Pilgrims enter Makkah in a state of ihram, or ritual cleanliness. They wash and pray before they enter, and wear white, unsewn cloth, to represent equality and submission to God.	
<b>Muhammad's connection to Ihram:</b>	
<b>Tawaf</b> Pilgrims circle the ka'aba, containing the black stone, 7 times. They kiss or touch the black stone if they are able, or indicate it, as they pass. Tawaf shows obedience to God.	
<b>History/ mythology of the black stone:</b>	
<b>Safar and Marwa</b> Pilgrims walk between these hills 7 times. After they have performed this they drink water from the holy well of Zamzam.	
<b>Connection with Hajar, Ismail and Ibrahim:</b>	
<b>Plain of Arafat</b> Pilgrims pray on this plain from midday until sunset. They acknowledge their sins, ask for help in avoiding sins in future, pledge to end sinful acts and offer their regrets to God. They aim to achieve a completely pure heart.	
<b>Muzdalifah</b> At Muzdalifah pilgrims collect at least 49 stones or pebbles which they will throw the next day at three stone pillars. Over two days they must hit each pillar with seven pebbles.	
<b>Mina</b> At Mina, a place between Arafat and Makkah, three pillars symbolize the temptation to disobey God. Pilgrims throw the stones collected at Muzdalifah. Each pillar represents the temptation of Ibrahim, Hajar and Ismail to disobey God in sacrificing Ismail.	