

How to contact Shabana Mahmood MP

Hajj Travel Information booklet

Updated Summer 2014

Telephone 0121 661 9440
Email shabana.mahmood.mp@parliament.uk
Write House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA

Come to an advice surgery

SOHO First Friday of the Month: 4pm - 6pm
Soho Health Centre
247-251 Soho Road
Birmingham
B21 9RY

ASTON First Saturday of the Month:
10am - 12noon
Broadway School
The Broadway
Perry Barr
B20 3DP

LADYWOOD Third Friday of the Month:
4pm - 6pm
Ladywood Community Centre
Saint Vincent Street West,
Ladywood, Birmingham
B16 8RP

NECHELLS Third Saturday of the Month: 10am - 12noon
Nechells Green Community Centre
Melvina Road
Birmingham
B7 4QU

For Muslims across the globe undertaking the Hajj is an incomparable spiritual experience. Sometimes it is accompanied by considerable stresses and strains caused by unscrupulous travel operators, a confused visa regime and complex health requirements. Dealing with these issues is an unwelcome distraction from the purpose of undertaking the pilgrimage. In the past four years I have received a number of complaints from local residents about trips that have unfortunately gone wrong—often at the last minute. I have written this booklet to pull together the information I have found out over the last few years. I hope this guide will provide a useful starting point for those setting off on the Hajj.



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Shabana Mahmood MP



How do I know if Shabana is my MP?

The constituency of Birmingham Ladywood covers Ladywood, Soho, Winson Green, Summerfield, Hockley, the Jewellery Quarter, City Centre, Aston, Birchfield, Newtown, Nechells, Digbeth, Highgate and parts of Small Heath and Bordesley Green. If you are not sure go to

<http://findyourmp.parliament.uk>



Member of Parliament for Birmingham
Ladywood Constituency
& Shadow Exchequer Secretary to the
Treasury

Covering the wards of Aston, Ladywood, Nechells and Soho

Booking your trip—dealing with travel agents

Your notes.....

TOP TIP

You must book your trip through a travel agency that is authorised by the Saudi government. This is because the Saudi government only issues Hajj visas to the authorised agencies.



It is likely your trip will include flights. Make sure the operator you book has a current ATOL licence. Do not take the operators' word for it! Go and check on the ATOL website <http://www.caa.co.uk/> and select check an ATOL.



Make sure the specific trip you have booked is covered by the ATOL scheme. You will know that it is covered because the tour operator will give you an ATOL Certificate as soon as you pay over any money for the holiday - even if this is only a deposit. This certificate will protect you if the company goes bust.



Make sure you get a written copy of the terms of the contract for the trip—this should include a detailed itinerary, details about transport connections including flights, an appropriate contact for the agency for you to use whilst on your trip.

LIST OF BIRMINGHAM AUTHORIZED AGENCIES FOR UMMRAH AND HAJJ SERVICES

| ALHIDAAYAH TRAVEL LIMITED | EDUCATIONAL HAJJ & UMRAH LTD | HIJAZ TRAVEL LIMITED | PAK TRAVELS LTD |
|---|---|---|--|
| 436 COVENTRY ROAD SMALL HEATH BIRMINGHAM B10 0UG TEL: 01217537890 AL-HIDAAYAH.TRAVEL | 119 PERSHORE ROAD EDGBASTON BIRMINGHAM B5 7NX TEL:08456027764 HAJJUMRAHUK.COM | 558 A COVENTRY ROAD BIRMINGHAM B10 0UN TEL: 0217738777 HIJAZTRAVEL.CO.UK | 530 COVENTRY ROAD SMALL HEATH BIRMINGHAM B10 0UN TEL:01217720542 PAKTRAVELS.COM |
| QIBLA HAJJ AND UMRA UK LTD | UMRAH AND HAJJ SPECIALIST LTD | ZAMZAM TRAVEL | |
| 50 PARKFIELD ROAD ALUM ROCK BIRMINGHAM B8 3AU TEL:01213279248 QIBLAHAJJANDUMRA.COM | 495 COVENTRY ROAD SMALL HEATH BIRMINGHAM B10 0JS TEL:01217665255 MARHABATOURS.CO.UK | 524 COVENTRY ROAD BIRMINGHAM B10 0UN TEL: 010277305101 ZAMZAMTRAVELS.ORG.UK | |

Source: Saudi Arabia Embassy Website, London Correct at time of going to print. You should check the Embassy website for further updates

Back my visa campaign



During last year's Hajj season the Saudi Government restricted the number of visas available and many people found out they would not be able to go and perform the Hajj. Some people told me they received full refunds from their agents but others told me they lost all or some of their money. I am meeting with a representative of the Saudi Government to raise these issues and to ensure that people don't get caught out again.



1. Have you or any of your family experienced any frustrations or difficulties organising your Hajj or Ummrah trip?

YES

NO

2. Have you experienced any of the following problems?

☐ Difficulty obtaining VISAs on time

☐ Trouble finding a registered travel agent

☐ Difficulty finding reasonably priced vaccinations ☐ Travel agents not delivering what they promised

3. Please give details of any issues you faced:

EMAIL

FULL NAME

MOBILE

TELEPHONE

ADDRESS

POSTCODE

Please post to: FREEPOST RTHE-BRKL-ZYUL, Shabana Mahmood MP, Birmingham B1 3HS Shabana Mahmood MP may contact you using details you provide. Please write to her if you do not wish to be contacted

GETTING A VISA



Visa applications should be dealt with only through a Hajj & Ummrah visa services agents



To do the Hajj you need a Hajj visa. Hajj visas are not valid for work or residency.



Hajj visas will not be issued to individuals who have performed Hajj in the last five years.



Applicants must fill in an application form, provide 2 passport-sized photos and have a current passport which is valid for 6 months



Pilgrims need a meningitis immunisation certificate. (Pilgrims must have their immunisation at least ten days before travelling)



All females should be accompanied by a Mahram (husband, father, uncle, adult son, brother or nephew.) The accompanying Mahram must be at least **17 years old**.



All non-UK passport holders must have permanent residency in the UK.



Children can accompany their parents on the Hajj. Children and women under 45 must be accompanied by a Mahram.

Each authorised agent will be given a specific number of Hajj visas for the season.

Health & Vaccinations

Checklist and useful contacts

Don't forget...



The Saudi Ministry of Health has established a number of requirements that must be met by visitors to obtain an Entry Visa for Hajj and Ummrah in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for each Hajj season (2013 requirements below) Check the updated regulations here: <http://www.moh.gov.sa/en/healthawareness/hajj/Pages/default.aspx>



meningitis
Visitors from all countries: are required to submit a certificate of vaccination with the quadrivalent (ACYW135) vaccine against meningitis issued no more than 3 years and no less than 10 days before arrival in Saudi Arabia. Any accompanying children under 2 years, will need two vaccinations 3 months apart to obtain adequate protection against the disease.



flu
The Saudi Ministry of Health recommends that international pilgrims be vaccinated against seasonal influenza before arrival into the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, particularly those at increased risk of severe influenza diseases, including pregnant women, children under 5 years, the elderly, and individuals with underlying health conditions such as HIV/AIDS, asthma, and chronic heart or lung diseases.



MERS-COV Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus
MERS-COV—since July 2013 the Saudi Ministry of Health recommends that elderly (above 65 years of age) and those with chronic diseases (e.g. heart disease, kidney disease, respiratory disease, diabetes) and pilgrims with immune system deficiency, terminal illnesses, pregnant women and children

PUBLIC HEALTH ENGLAND recommends pilgrims ensure that their routine immunisations are up to date. This includes MMR, tetanus and polio.

FURTHER INFO

- Health Portal of the Saudi Ministry of Health
<http://www.moh.gov.sa/en/HealthAwareness/Hajj/>
- Public Health England Factsheet
<http://tinyurl.com/pcvsp9g>



Check passport in date and has six months left when on the Hajj



Find authorised travel agent



Check travel agent on Saudi authorised list



Check travel agent ATOL protected



Check received ATOL certificate for trip



Check have written contract from agent



Check have contact details for agent when on the Hajj



Check for latest advice from Saudi Ministry of Health



Go to the GP and check your immunisations are up to date



Get meningitis vaccination and certificate



Get supplies of regular medication to take and a first aid kit



British Embassy
PO Box 94351
11693
Saudi Arabia

Email Consular.Riyadh@fco.gov.uk
Telephone +966 (0) 11 4819 100

Correct at May 2014 to check—

<https://www.gov.uk/government/world/organisations/british-embassy-riyadh>

Foreign Office
<https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/saudi-arabia/safety-and-security>
Health—National Travel Health Network and Centre
http://www.nathnac.org/travel/factsheets/Hajj_Umrah.htm
Hajj Organisations
Association of British Hujjaj [Pilgrims] UK
<http://www.abhuk.com/>
The Council of British Hajjis
www.the-cbh.org.uk
Department of Business
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/hajj-and->