



# HAJJ 2022



SPECIAL COVERAGE

**1,000,000**

Domestic and international pilgrims will perform Hajj this year. Pilgrims from foreign countries are allowed back after two years of COVID-19 restrictions saw the annual pilgrimage limited to Saudi residents.



Pilgrims allowed to perform Hajj will need two doses of a COVID-19 vaccine, a booster and a PCR test taken within 72 hours of arrival. International pilgrims are expected to constitute 85 percent of total attendance.

## THE HAJJ GUIDE

Understanding the significance of a once-in-a-lifetime pilgrimage

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**H**ajj is an annual religious pilgrimage to the holy city of Makkah undertaken yearly by millions of Muslims worldwide. It occurs in the 12th month of the Islamic lunar calendar, called Dhul Hijjah, between the eighth and 13th days of the month.

This year, Hajj takes place from July 7-12. Taking part in the pilgrimage at least once in a lifetime is a major obligation for all able-bodied Muslims of financial means, and between 2 million and 3 million people take part in the ritual each year.

This year, 1 million pilgrims will flock to the holy city, 85 percent of them traveling from abroad for the first time following a two-year pandemic hiatus.

To ensure a smooth and safe journey for pilgrims, the Saudi government has announced a series of entry restrictions. Pilgrims who wish to perform Hajj must be under 65 years old and fully vaccinated against COVID-19 with a booster. They must also present a negative PCR test taken 72 hours before departure. Priority will also be given to those who have yet to perform the ritual.

Following Prophet Muhammad, for 14 centuries, pilgrims began their journeys in a spiritual state of purity and devotion, also known as Ihram, which is the combined sacred act of Niyah and Talbiyah necessary to perform Hajj. It is the innate intention to commit an act of worship, while Talbiyah is a special prayer said in supplication to attain Ihram.

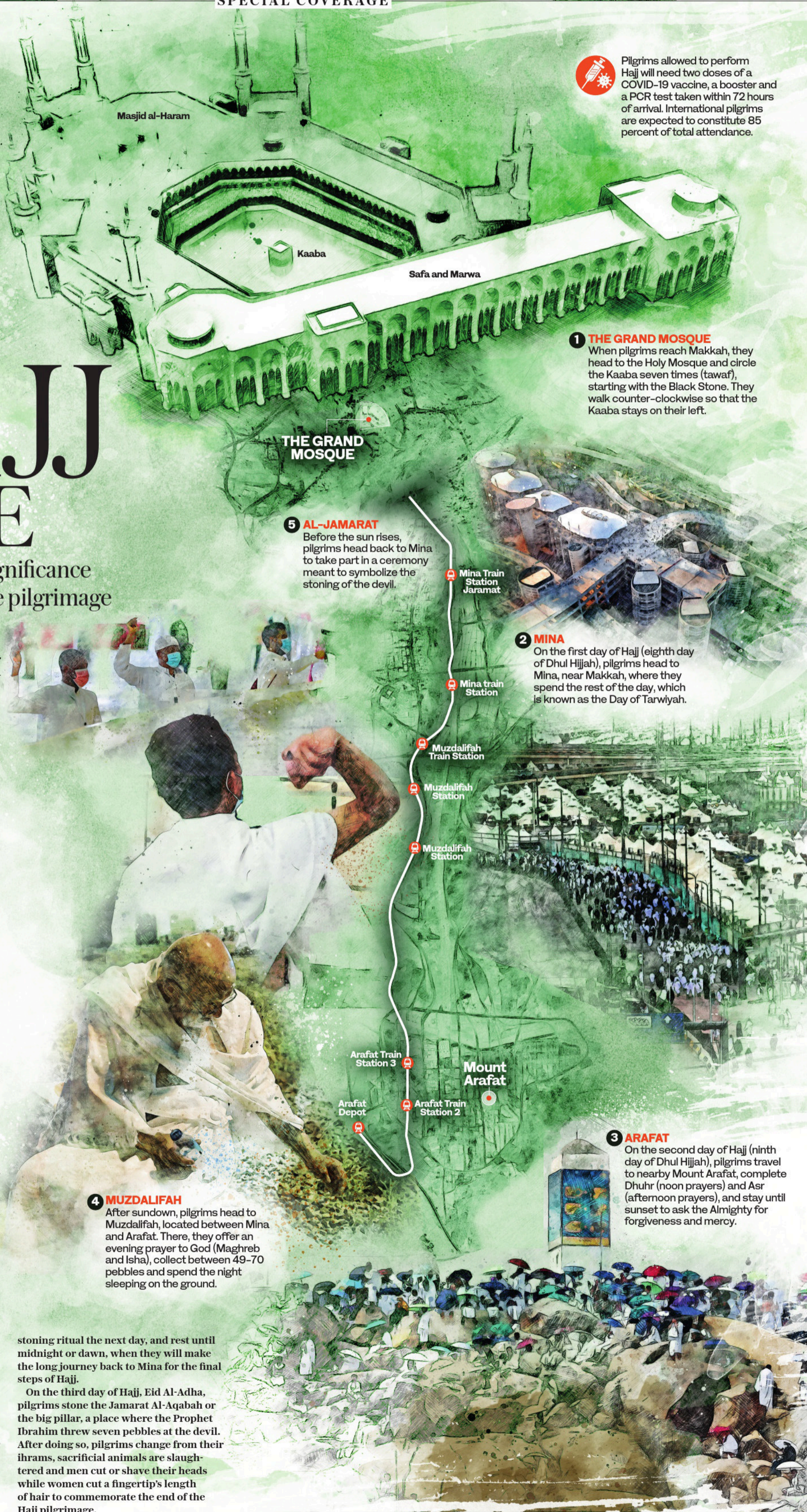
After entering Makkah, pilgrims perform the welcome tawaf, circling the Kaaba seven times in a counterclockwise direction, starting at the Black Stone. They then head to the hills of Safa and Marwa, where they perform saee, which is the act of going back and forth between the two hills seven times.

Pilgrims then travel to Mina, about five kilometers from the Grand Mosque in Makkah, on the eighth day of Dhul Hijjah, also known as Yom Al-Tarwiyah, where they will stay and fill their day and evening with prayers and rest.

On the second day of Hajj, pilgrims travel to Mt. Arafat, 20 kilometers away. The day is devoted to prayer and supplications as they observe duhr (noon) combined with asr (afternoon) prayers until sunset.

The Day of Arafat, which "atones for the sins of the preceding and coming (Muslim) year," is considered the most critical day for pilgrims and Muslims around the world.

After sunset, pilgrims descend from Mt. Arafat and travel to Muzdalifah for isha (night) prayers, collect pebbles no larger than the size of a fingertip ahead of the



Masjid al-Haram

Kaaba

Safa and Marwa

**1 THE GRAND MOSQUE**

When pilgrims reach Makkah, they head to the Holy Mosque and circle the Kaaba seven times (tawaf), starting with the Black Stone. They walk counter-clockwise so that the Kaaba stays on their left.

**5 AL-JAMARAT**  
Before the sun rises, pilgrims head back to Mina to take part in a ceremony meant to symbolize the stoning of the devil.

Mina Train Station Jaramat

**2 MINA**  
On the first day of Hajj (eighth day of Dhul Hijjah), pilgrims head to Mina, near Makkah, where they spend the rest of the day, which is known as the Day of Tarwiyah.

Mina train Station

Muzdalifah Train Station

Muzdalifah Station

Muzdalifah Station

Arafat Train Station 3

Mount Arafat

Arafat Depot

Arafat Train Station 2

**4 MUZDALIFAH**  
After sundown, pilgrims head to Muzdalifah, located between Mina and Arafat. There, they offer an evening prayer to God (Maghreb and Isha), collect between 49-70 pebbles and spend the night sleeping on the ground.

**3 ARAFAT**  
On the second day of Hajj (ninth day of Dhul Hijjah), pilgrims travel to nearby Mount Arafat, complete Dhuhr (noon prayers) and Asr (afternoon prayers), and stay until sunset to ask the Almighty for forgiveness and mercy.

stoning ritual the next day, and rest until midnight or dawn, when they will make the long journey back to Mina for the final steps of Hajj.

On the third day of Hajj, Eid Al-Adha, pilgrims stone the Jamarat Al-Aqabah or the big pillar, a place where the Prophet Ibrahim threw seven pebbles at the devil. After doing so, pilgrims change from their ihrams, sacrificial animals are slaughtered and men cut or shave their heads while women cut a fingertip's length of hair to commemorate the end of the Hajj pilgrimage.