

Umrah for Orphans 2018

The Journey



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Registered Charity Number 1160490



Umrah for Orphans is a pioneering programme that we started in 2015. Every year we take hundreds of Palestinian orphans and widows to the holy lands of Makkah and Madinah shareef on this blessed pilgrimage.

It is part of the psycho-social support – which ranges from education and welfare to spiritual guidance – that we provide in our orphans and childcare programme.



Sahl ibn Sa'd reported: The Prophet (Peace and Blessings Upon Him), said: **"The one who cares for an orphan and myself will be together in Paradise like this,"** and he held his two fingers together to illustrate.

- Hadith

Since our pilot Umrah for Orphans project in January 2015, we have taken more than **1,700** Palestinian orphans – including disabled orphans – and widows on Umrah.

In January 2018, **346** orphans made this special journey of emotion and discovery. Among them were **250** children from Jordan (inset photo above) and, for the first time, **96** Palestinian orphans from Al Quds (Jerusalem).

MADINAH

In the blessed city of Madinah, the orphans from Al Quds first visited Masjid al Nabawi. The Palestinian orphans from Jordan made the trip to Madinah after going to Makkah shareef.

Masjid ul Nabawi is the second holiest site in Islam after Masjid al Haram in Makkah. It is on the site of the mosque built by the Prophet (sallallahu alaihi wassalam) next to his house where he settled after his *Hijrah* (migration) from Makkah.

For the orphans, it radiates a strengthening of that special and exclusive bond they have with the Prophet (sallallahu alaihi wassalam), who was himself an orphan and bestowed a great status on orphans and those that look after them.



"I felt great during my stay in Al Masjid Al Nabawi. And when I first set foot in the Masjid, I was really honoured.

You see, I pray regularly now. Before I came here, I wouldn't care much about praying, but now, after I learned the importance of praying, I repented.

Allah wants to test us in this life: we need to pray, to fast, and to obey Him."

- Eyad



MIQAAT

Arriving at Bir Ali Mosque in Dhu'l-Hulayfah, the orphans prepared themselves to go into the state of *Ihram*. They prayed 2 Rakat Nafal for *Ihram* before reciting the *Talbiyah* – “*Labayk Allahumma labbayk*” (Here I am at your service, O Allah here I am).

After boarding their coaches, they continued to recite the *Talbiyah* on their way to Makkah to perform Umrah.

MIQAAT (an Arabic word which means ‘a stated place’) is where those setting out for Umrah or Hajj stop over to assume the state of *Ihram*.

IHRAM The sacred state in which Muslims carry out Umrah or Hajj. *Ihram* begins once the *Talbiyah* is first recited and remains until the Umrah is completed.

CLOTHING *Ihram* also refers to the special clothing that must be worn during Hajj or Umrah. For men, it is two large pieces of unstitched cloth which are universal in appearance, so no one can be distinguished from their wealth or social status. Women must wear clothing that completely conceals them except for their hands and face.



KA'ABA

After Esha (night) prayers, the orphans made their way towards the Muthaaf to perform Tawaf. They circled the Ka'aba seven times, with many of them having the blessed opportunity to touch Hajr e Aswad (the Black Stone).

The group then made their way towards Sa'ee where they would walk between Mount Safa and Marwah seven times. This copies the actions of Hajra (alaihis salaam), the wife of the Prophet Ibrahim (alaihis salaam), in which she rushed seven times between Safa and Marwah to see if she could find any water for her infant child Ismail (alaihis salaam).

Sa'ee

The area between Mt Safa & Marwah

Muthaaf

The area around the Ka'aba

Tawaf

Circumambulating (completing a circle around) the Ka'aba anti-clockwise seven times



HALAQ Cutting of the hair.

Having almost completed their Umrah at this stage, all that remains for the orphans is the *Halaq* after which they come out of the state of Ihram.

Completely shaving the head is not compulsory but is Sunnah. However, halaq means that the hair has to be cut in some form, either partly or by fully shaving the head.





As with our previous Umrah for Orphans trips, the parties included Palestinian orphan girls and some of their mothers. Their inclusion is part of our ongoing commitment to provide equal opportunities and psycho-social support to the orphans in our childcare programmes.

For the 2018 journey, there were **50** orphan girls and 20 mothers.

عمرة الأرامل والبنات الأيتام (٣)

WIDOWS & ORPHAN GIRLS (3)

2018 م - 1439 هـ

HADITH

"A giver of maintenance to the widows and the poor is like a giver in the way of Allah (swt), an utterer of prayers all night and fasting during the day."

- Bukhari

The orphans have made multiple Umrahs for their family members and their late fathers. They also constantly made duas for the donors who so kindly sponsored them for this blessed journey.

Islamic Help would like to thank all its supporters for making our Umrah for Orphans such a special programme. May Allah reward you for bringing such blessed joy into these orphans' lives.



"I now feel more optimistic about life. My religion has taught me that life has a bright side that we should all embrace, that there are good people in the world, too, and that we should believe in God and pray to Him regularly."

- Qusay



REACHING PEOPLE IN NEED



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