



MADINAH AL-ILM

COURSE • IRAQ

18TH
YEAR

Madinah Al-Ilm Course

Frequently Asked Questions

Timetable

Q. How long will we be in Iraq?

During the two-week course, you will spend 3-4 nights in Karbala, 1 night in Kadhmayn and the remaining in Najaf. You will also undertake a day-trip to Samarra and Balad.

This is the tentative itinerary, the final itinerary will be confirmed nearer to the course start date, and you will be handed a detailed timetable on arrival.

Q. Where will we be staying in Iraq?

Najaf: The accommodation will be in the Mujammah al-Alawi, the biggest Hawza seminary running under Grand Ayatollah Al-Sistani in Najaf al-Ashraf.

Karbala: Insha'Allah, you will be received as special guests of the Haram of Imam Husain (a). The accommodation in Karbala will be facilitated by the Atabah al-Husainiyah (The Haram of Imam Husain (a)).

Kadhmayn: The accommodation will be in hotel close to the Haram, which will be confirmed nearer the time.

Q. What will the course involve?

The timetable for the course is filled with lessons and workshops, visits of Maraje and personalities and Ziyarats of Holy Shrines.

The itinerary includes all the Ziyarats in Iraq:

- Imam Ali (a), Imam Husain (a), Imam al-Kadhim (a), Imam al-Jawad (a), Imam al-Hadi (a) and Imam al-Askari (a) and Hadhrat Abbas (a).
- **Najaf:** Masjid-e Kufa, Masjid-e Sahla, Masjid-e Hannana, House of Imam Ali (a), Shrines of Hadhrat Maytham al-Tammar and Hadhrat Kumail Ibn Zyad, Waadi al-Salaam and the graves of the great Prophets (a) and Ulema within the graveyard as well as inside the Holy Shrine.
- **Karbala:** All Atraf Ziyarats including Khaymagah and Maqam of Sahib al-Zamaan (atfs).
- **Kadhmayn:** Ziyarats of the Kadhmiyyah Holy Shrines and Ulema buried there.
- **Samarrah:** Ziyarats of the Askariyan Holy Shrines and the Holy Sirdaab.



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- **Balad:** Visit to the Shrine of Sayyed Muhammad (a).
- **Meeting with Maraje** including (but not limited to) Grand Ayatollah al-Udhma Sayyid Sistani.

Q. How often will we get to go shopping?

This will be specified on the timetable. If there is a need for further shopping time, you must first obtain permission from the organisers who will ensure that the extra shopping time does not clash with other activities on the timetable.

In previous years, we have found that the amount of time allocated for shopping has been more than enough.

Q. How often will we be going to the Haram?

Insha'Allah there will be an opportunity to visit the Haram daily.

Behaviour and Attitude

Q. What sort of behaviour and attitude is expected from me?

The behaviour and attitude that is expected from you can be summarised as follows:

1. Respecting and observing the rules and regulations of the course, and the culture and law of the Republic of Iraq.
2. Being willing to learn and improve.
3. Striving to be a model for others.
4. Being appreciative of the work of the organisers, mentors, and volunteers, and being patient with them.
5. Taking a keen part in all programs , including asking questions and taking notes.
6. Being punctual at all times. If there is a genuine reason for being late, you must inform your mentor.
7. Not leaving the premises or missing an activity without prior permission.
8. Refraining from interacting with the opposite gender.

Q. What is the dress code for girls and boys?

You must dress modestly and maintain a respectful appearance. December-January is the winter season in Iraq. We therefore advise the participants to carry warm clothes.



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Outside the accommodation, **boys** must not wear jeans, short sleeve t-shirts, or tracksuit bottoms (bearing in mind the local culture and the holy places that will be visited). Khanzus / Dishdashas are highly recommended for boys. Tight-fitting clothes, shorts, and sleeveless vests are not permitted.

The dress code for **girls** is full hijab (including non-transparent socks), ensuring that one's hair, arms, and feet are fully covered. Makeup and perfume must not be applied. Only dark coloured scarfs and sheilas are permitted. Girls are also required to wear hand socks/sleeves (these will be available for purchase in Iraq for those who do not have any) and an Abaya-Chador. The chador will be provided on the second day. Inside the accommodation, full hijab is not necessary but shorts, sleeveless tops, and tight-fitting clothes are not permitted. Girls are required to enter and exit Iraq in their abayas.

Q. Are there any specific rules which need to be followed during my stay?

Yes, the terms and conditions of the course form part of your application. Please note that you cannot apply for the course without formally accepting to abide by these rules.

In addition, the accommodation has its own rules; you will be briefed on these upon arrival. These rules must also be adhered to. The Hawza seminary's own specific traditions and culture must be respected as well.

Q. Will I be able to leave the premises as and when I wish?

You can request your mentors depending upon the schedule and availability.

Please note: In all cases, you can only request to exit during free time and return according to the time advised by the mentors.

Q. Will I be able to bring any hand-held games?

Hand-held games must not be brought onto the course. Any participant found using such devices will be asked to hand them over to the organisers for safe keeping.



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Facilities

Q. Are there Western toilets available?

Yes, western toilets will be available at the accommodation.

Q. What facilities are there for washing clothes?

Facilities for washing clothes will be available for ladies and gents both. Washing powder can be bought on site. Alternatively, paid laundry facilities will also be available.

Anyone who suffers from skin conditions should bring their own washing liquid.

Q. Will there be any place to store my valuables safely?

Upon arrival in Iraq, the organisers will take responsibility for safe keeping your passport. It is your responsibility to look after all your other valuables. The accommodation that you will be staying in is safe; however, please note that the organisers will **not** be held responsible for any items that are lost or stolen.

Q. Can I bring my own snacks?

Yes, you can bring your own snacks. If you think that you may not like some of the food provided, alternatives will **not** always be available, so you can bring packet soups, cereal bars, pot noodles etc. as backup if you want.

Q. How many people will there be per room?

The accommodation will be in the Hawza seminary that has a nice and vast dorm that can fit the entire group.

Q. Will we be drinking bottled water throughout the trip?

Bottled water will be provided throughout the trip. The drinking water that is available at the Haram and accommodation is safe to drink.

Q. What happens if I get sick?

The organising team will look after you. Healthcare facilities in Iraq are adequate and going to a doctor or a hospital can be arranged if necessary. However, you must bring your own personal medication.



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The most common sicknesses that arise on the trip are sore throat, dehydration, flu, diarrhea, vertigo and stomach bugs.

Miscellaneous Questions

Q. How much money should I bring?

Once you get to Iraq, accommodation, food, transportation, and all activities are covered.

Medical expenses, RT-PCR tests (if any), shopping, laundry, extra luggage charges etc, are **NOT** covered.

We have found that approximately £200 to \$250 is usually sufficient to cover these additional expenses. However, it mainly depends on the amount of shopping you would like to do.

Q. How will I exchange my money?

There are exchange shops near the Haram and the organisers can also exchange money for you

Q. What is the role and duty of mentors?

Mentors provide extra help and support on the course and ensure you get the most out of your trip.

If you have any further questions, please email us at MadinahBabCourse@world-federation.org