



## Madinah al-Ilm Course Frequently Asked Questions

### Timetable

#### **Q. How long will we be in Iraq?**

We will be in Iraq for 2 weeks, starting in Najaf with 3-4 nights in Karbala and 1 night in Kadhmayn. There will also be a day trip to Samarra and Balad.

The itinerary will be confirmed nearer the course starting date, and you will be given a detailed timetable on arrival.

An online pre-travel briefing will be scheduled with all participants, and we can tackle any additional questions then.

#### **Q. Where will we be staying in Iraq?**

The Organising Team will ensure that we secure accommodation that caters to the needs of our participants and fulfills the Madinah al-Ilm course objectives/outcomes.

#### **Q. What will the course involve?**

The course is aimed to offer you a uniquely spiritual Ziyarah to the Holy Sites in Iraq alongside experienced mentors, featuring an interesting 8-day Islamic course in Najaf by senior English-Speaking scholars, visits of Maraj'i and Mujtahidin alongside some recreational activities. You can find further details in the itinerary you will be given.

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

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

### Expectations

#### **Q. What are the Organisers expectations from me?**

- We expect that you always display a positive and respectable manner with all involved.
- We expect that you attend all parts of the program and actively participate.
- We expect that you will use this time wisely and make the most of the opportunity
- We expect that you follow the guidelines & rules set out for you by the Organising Team
- Stay safe and ensure the safety of your fellow team members.



Further details on 'Behaviour and attitudes' that are expected from you are listed/ can be found in the Terms & Conditions. Please refer to this.

**Q. What is the dress code?**

You must dress modestly and maintain a respectful appearance at all times.

Please note that December-January is the winter season in Iraq, we therefore advise the participants to carry suitably warm clothes.

**Men:**

→ Outside the accommodation

Khanzus / Dishdashas are highly recommended for male participants.

In line with the location and aims of the course, we request that men refrain from wearing short-sleeved T-shirts, jeans and tracksuit bottoms. Tight-fitting clothes should not be worn at all.

→ Inside the Accommodation:

We request that you dress appropriately, keeping in mind that shorts, sleeveless tops, and tight-fitting clothes are not permitted.

**The dress code for women:**

→ Outside the accommodation:

Full hijab, ensuring that one's hair, arms, and feet are fully covered.

For this the women are required to

- Wear only dark-coloured scarfs and shelas.
- Wear an Abaya-Chador. The chador will be provided on the second day.
- Wear non-transparent socks.
- Wear hand socks/sleeves, which will be available for purchase in Iraq.
- Makeup and perfume must not be applied.

→ Inside the accommodation, we request that you dress appropriately, keeping in mind that shorts, sleeveless tops, and tight-fitting clothes are not permitted.

**NB:** Women 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 agreeing to abide by these. Please familiarise yourself with them.

In addition, the accommodation has its own rules; you will be briefed on these upon arrival. These rules must also be adhered to. If at any time you are unsure regarding any of the above, refer to your mentor and they will assist you.

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

We aim to be accommodating, where possible however you will need to liaise with your mentor on leaving the premises outside of the course schedule. request your

**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 safekeeping.

**Facilities**

**Q. Are Western toilets available?**

Yes, western toilets will be available at the accommodation, however we cannot guarantee that this is the case at every location we visit outside of the accommodation.

**Q. What facilities are there for washing clothes?**

Facilities for washing clothes will be available for both ladies and gents. Alternatively, paid laundry facilities may also be available. Ask your assigned mentor for guidance. You may prefer to bring your own washing liquid. We recommend that anyone that suffers from any skin condition 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 Organiser 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 dry or tinned foods such as packet soups, cereal bars, pot noodles, etc. as backup if you want.

**Q. How many people will there be per room?**

This will differ year on year, however, we shall ensure that you are comfortable. The accommodation provided will be on a group basis and can house anywhere from 2-4 persons in a hotel type setting to 15-20 in a dorm-style setting

**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. While we are travelling within Iraq, we advise that you drink the bottled water provided as we cannot verify the water safety at every location.

**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.

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

If you start to feel unwell, make sure the mentors are made aware and we can then facilitate the required care and advice.

**Miscellaneous Questions**

**Q. What should I bring with me on the trip?**

We have asked some past participants & mentors to compile an essentials & recommended packing list to make your packing & travel easy. [You can find this list here.](#)

**Q. How much money should I bring?**

Once you get to Iraq, accommodation, food, transportation, and all activities are covered. Please note- Visa for those holding European, UK & American Passports will cost \$50-75 which will need to be paid in cash upon arrival at the airport in Iraq. Please ensure you have the right amount of cash available.



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

We have found that approximately £200 or \$250 is usually sufficient to cover these additional expenses.

**Q. How will I exchange my money?**

There are exchange bureaus near the Haram and the Organisers can also exchange money for you. Approach your mentors with your requests.

**Q. How often will we get to go shopping?**

This will be specified in the timetable. If there is a need for further shopping time, you should 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 will media with me in it be used & saved?**

Images & videos of you will only be taken with your consent. These will then be used for promotional purposes unless you indicate otherwise. They will also be saved for future use. Upon registering, one of the terms that the participants can choose to agree or disagree to consent for photos and videos of them to be taken for informational and promotional purposes. They will also be saved for future use. If this is something you are not comfortable with, please ensure you have indicated this on the application form or feel free to let us know beforehand if you change your mind.

**Q. What is the role and duty of mentors?**

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

**Q. What is the role and duty of the teachers?**

The teachers will be conducting daily classes, giving spiritual and informative talks, introducing the shrines and holding miscellaneous non-lesson-based discussions. They will also be informally mixing with the participants to answer all of their questions and getting to



know them and their challenges better. This is one of the distinguishing features of the course.

If you have any further questions or require clarification on any of the issues, please email us at [MadinahBabCourse@world-federation.org](mailto:MadinahBabCourse@world-federation.org)

**\*\*We hope you have a wonderfully unique and spiritually uplifting experience inshAllah.\*\***