

Memoirs of a Hajji

For Muslims who have not yet been for Hajj, the biggest thing that connects them to the Hajj each year is someone who they know who has been invited to the House of God. Thinking of them each day performing the various rites and counting the days to their return. But the best part is always visiting them upon their return to hear from their mouth themselves about their blessed journey. Even Muslims who have been for Hajj many times before will love to go and visit a new Hajji who has just returned eager to hear how they found the whole experience. There is something very spiritual and wonderful in hearing Hajjis recount how their trip was; to, describe the two noble cities, what they felt when they first saw the Ka'bah, what was Arafat like, did they really get the best sleep in Muzdalifah, was Madinah just as peaceful and what was their best memory and so much more.

1. You can perhaps pretend that you are going for Hajj for the first time and find a family member who has been for Hajj in the last 5 years. Write a whole list of questions you would like to ask them. We have provided some below to get you started.

 2. You can then try and find a family member who went for hajj perhaps 20 or 30 or even 40-50 years ago. Think of the kind of questions you would ask them to get a feel for how different things might have been back then. We have provided you with some questions to get you started
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Interview questions for someone who has recently been for Hajj

- 1) What year did you go for Hajj?
- 2) Which month was Hajj in when you went?
- 3) How old were you and did any family members join you?
- 4) Did you travel as a group or on your own?
- 5) Did you mingle / meet with Muslims from other countries?
- 6) What kind of preparations did you make beforehand?
- 7) How much did it cost?
- 8) How long was your journey from home to Makkah/Madinah? (depending where they went first)
- 9) How did you feel when you first entered Makkah and Madinah
- 10) How did you feel when you first saw the Ka'bah?
- 11) What was the best thing about the haram in Makkah?
- 12) How many days did you have before the days of Hajj started?
- 13) What was your full duration in Saudi Arabia?
- 14) How did you travel in between the sites of Hajj?
- 15) What do you do about food?
- 16) What was your best moment during the Hajj?

- 17) What was your most emotional moment?
- 18) How did you feel when you went to Madinah?
- 19) What was the most difficult rite of Hajj?
- 20) Can you share some other special moments or stories with me about your Hajj journey?

Interview questions for someone who went for Hajj many many decades ago

(you can ask all the above questions plus more – examples below)

- 1) How did you travel to Saudi Arabia?
- 2) How long did you stay for?
- 3) What kind of things did you have to take with you?
- 4) What did Mina look like?
- 5) What did the plains of Arafat look like?
- 6) What did Madinah look like?
- 7) How did the people treat you when you were there?
- 8) What was the accommodation like when you went?
- 9) How much money did you take?
- 10) How much did your whole Hajj cost?
- 11) What were the sources people from around the world travelled in?
- 12) How busy or crowded was it when you went?
- 13) What was the tallest building at that time?
- 14) What other things were very different back then?
- 15) How much zamzam and khajoor did you bring back? How did you bring it back?
- 16) What gifts did you bring back for family and friends?
- 17) Can you share stories and special moments of your trip?