**Hajj**

Hajj is one of the f pillars of Islam, and Muslims believe that Allah wants them to go on p to Makkah at least once in their lifetime. Hajj takes place during one m each year, and brings together 2-3 m Muslims in one place, with the intention of w Allah. This is a very powerful religious e . Taking time out from daily life to concentrate totally on the spiritual s most Muslims’ f .

Muslims change into i , which for men is made up of three w pieces of cotton without seams, for women, five pieces of fabric. Ihram symbolizes p and h before Allah. Everyone looks e when they dress in ihram, no matter whether they are rich or p . This reminds Muslims that they are all equal before Allah, and will be treated equally when they come before Allah on the Day of J .

Pilgrims begin by walking around the K , the first place of worship, which stands in the middle of the Great M in Makkah. After circling the Ka’bah s times, pilgrims begin a set trail that will take them several miles around the holy sites. The route is long and c , so completing it for Allah is a great achievement.

At certain points on their journey, Muslims perform r with special meanings. They throw p at three stone pillars, to remind them of the need to battle with the d . They drink water from the well of Z , to remember that Allah will p all that is needed for them, as he did for others in ancient times. For some, the most powerful part of hajj is when they join others on Mount A to pray to Allah on the very spot where Muhammad preached his last s . A final importance act is cutting of their h as a sign of symbolic purity. Muslims then sacrifice an animal like the prophet A did; this day is known as Eid-ul-Adha, and is c by Muslims around the world.

For most Muslims, this is such an intensely spiritual experience that they feel that their life has c . Some choose to add the name ‘Hajji’ as part of their name to symbolize their religious t and many become more focused on their religious, carrying out their religious d with more zeal.

Others might go to Makkah at a different time of the y to hajj; this sort of pilgrimage is called umrah.

Million pebbles equal ihram five provide poor strengthens month duties sermon celebrated white pilgrimage seven Arafat experience Abraham devil Mosque purity Judgement faith year challenging worshipping changed humility Ka’bah Zamzam rituals hair transformation