Umrah Visa Guidelines

For Pilgrims Travelling from the United Kingdom

2026-27 Season (1448 AH) | October 2026

"What if the biggest obstacle in your Umrah is not the distance, the cost, or the crowds, but a single mistake in visa processing and bookings?"

Important note: Visa rules, fees and deadlines are set by the Saudi Ministry of Hajj and Umrah and can change. Confirm every point on the official Nusuk platform or with a licensed operator before applying.

Article 1

Definitions

The following terms, wherever they appear in these Guidelines, have the meanings assigned to them below:

Term	Meaning
Guidelines	These Umrah Visa Guidelines for pilgrims travelling from the United Kingdom.
Kingdom	The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.
Ministry	The Saudi Ministry of Hajj and Umrah.
Umrah	The lesser pilgrimage to Makkah, performed outside the Hajj season.
Pilgrim	Any person who applies to enter the Kingdom in order to perform Umrah.
Nusuk	The official digital platform of the Ministry for Umrah visa applications, bookings, Umrah permits and Rawdah slots.
Umrah Permit	The digital permit booked on Nusuk that allows the Pilgrim to perform rituals at the Grand Mosque in Makkah.
BRN	The Booking Reference Number issued by Nusuk and linked to the visa application.
Licensed Operator	A travel operator attested by the Saudi authorities to arrange visas and Nusuk-compliant packages.
Season	The 2026-27 (1448 AH) Umrah season, as set out in the calendar in Article 4.

Article 2

Visa and Nusuk Permit

1. Two separate things are required for Umrah. The **visa** gives permission to enter the Kingdom. The **Nusuk permit** gives permission to perform the rituals at the Grand Mosque in Makkah, and to visit the Rawdah in Madinah.
2. Registration on Nusuk is compulsory. Nusuk processes Umrah visa applications, bookings and Rawdah slots, and is used to manage crowds at the holy places.
3. Umrah may not be performed without a permit. A visa alone is not enough.
4. Under the "no booking, no visa" rule, a valid visa must be supported by confirmed bookings (see Article 4).

Article 3

Visa Types That Allow Umrah

Visa type	Who it suits	Key points
Dedicated Umrah visa	Pilgrims who use a licensed operator, and those from countries not on the eVisa list	Usually arranged through a licensed operator. Official fee about £160-180 plus mandatory medical insurance.
Tourist eVisa	Citizens of eligible eVisa countries, which includes UK passport holders	Allows Umrah outside the Hajj season and travel across the Kingdom. Reported cost about £110.
Saudi ETA (UK passport holders)	British passport holders	Introduced 1 July 2026, replacing the Electronic Visa Waiver. Reported as multiple entry; covers Umrah outside the Hajj season.
Transit, visit and work visas	Holders already travelling to or in the Kingdom	Reported as accepted for Umrah in the 2026-27 season, but a Nusuk permit is still required.

Article 4

What's New in the 2026-27 Season

1. **No booking, no visa.** The visa application must be accompanied by confirmed accommodation and transport bookings made on Nusuk. The system issues a BRN linked to the application.
2. **Shorter entry window.** Entry into the Kingdom must be made within 30 days of the visa issuance.
3. **Nusuk registration is compulsory** for all pilgrims, whatever their nationality or visa type.

Season calendar

Milestone	Date
Visa issuance begins	31 May 2026
Entry to Makkah and permits begin	1 June 2026
Final day to issue Umrah visas	9 March 2027
Last date for pilgrim entry	23 March 2027
All pilgrims must depart Saudi Arabia	7 April 2027

Planning tip: Dates are tied to the Islamic calendar and the Hajj period and can be adjusted by the authorities. Confirm the latest deadlines with your operator or on Nusuk before booking flights.

Article 5

Who Can Apply, and How

UK pilgrims may use either of two routes.

Route A: Licensed operator. This is the traditional and most common route. The application is made through a travel operator attested by the Saudi authorities. The operator handles the visa and arranges hotels and transport. The Ministry maintains a list of attested operators.

1. **Route B: Direct on Nusuk.** Recent reports say the UK and USA are serviced countries on the official Nusuk Umrah website, which lets pilgrims register, book a package including the visa, and pay online.
2. Pilgrims eligible for the Tourist eVisa or Saudi ETA may apply for those on the official Saudi platforms and then book the Nusuk permit separately.

Article 6

Documents Required

1. A valid original passport with blank pages and at least 6 months' validity from the date of entry.
2. A recent passport-size photograph meeting the background requirements.
3. For children, a birth certificate, and for couples and families travelling together, a marriage certificate where requested by the operator.
4. A hotel booking in Makkah and/or Madinah with a Nusuk-approved provider.
5. A confirmed transport booking, for example Haramain train tickets or a licensed transport service.
6. A return flight ticket within the permitted Umrah window.
7. Vaccination certificates (see Article 7).
8. Medical insurance, usually included in the visa fee.

9. Biometric or fingerprint registration, where required.

Article 7

Health Requirements

1. All pilgrims must be vaccinated against meningitis (ACWY), usually at least 10 days before travel.
2. Polio vaccination may also be required for traveller from some countries, health requirements can change quickly, so check current vaccine policy with your agent.
3. Pilgrims with chronic illness should have a medical check-up before travel and carry medicines with a prescription.

Article 8

Step-by-Step Application Process

1. **Check dates and passport.** Make sure the passport has 6 months' validity and plan travel dates, because the visa is valid for only 30 days after issue.
2. **Choose your route.** Select an attested operator like Dua Travels for a direct package.
3. **Arrange travel and accommodation.** Use Nusuk-approved hotels and transport so that a BRN is issued.
4. **Submit documents.** Provide the passport copy, photo, vaccination records and anything else requested.
5. **Pay the fees.** Visa, insurance and package fees are paid before issue. Keep every receipt.
6. **Receive your e-visa.** Processing can be quick once bookings are verified, but allow more time in busy periods.
7. **Get your Umrah permit.** Download the Nusuk app, register, and book the permit and a Rawdah slot if visiting Madinah.

Article 9

Costs

Item	Approximate cost
Dedicated Umrah visa fee (included medical insurance)	£130-160 (Depends on nationality)
Mandatory airport transfer fee	£55
Official visa total	£185-215
Tourist eVisa (where eligible)	£90
Economy Umrah package	Starts around £795 per person

Visa fees are a small part of the total. Most of the cost is flights, hotels, transport and local expenses. Package prices tend to rise closer to Ramadan 2027 and Holiday season, so booking early gives the best choice of economy options. All figures are approximate and should be confirmed with your agent.

Article 10

Women and Families

1. Saudi authorities have relaxed the older mahram rules and allow women to travel in groups to perform Umrah without a mahram or male guardian.
2. Requirements can vary with age, nationality and operator policy, and some operators may still prefer or require family travel. Verify the current rule for your case before booking.

Article 11

Nusuk Permits and the Rawdah

1. Book the Umrah permit in the Nusuk app before going to the Grand Mosque. The permit is digital.
2. Rawdah visits in Madinah are booked through Nusuk and are generally limited to once a year per person.
3. Slots can fill weeks in advance, especially in Ramadan and school holidays, so register early.
4. Arrive about 30 minutes before your slot and keep your phone charged.

Article 12

Common Mistakes to Avoid

1. Booking through an unlicensed agency. Check the operator against the official Ministry list.
2. Booking flights first. Confirm the visa schedule and reservations before buying tickets.
3. Missing the entry window. The visa expires if you do not enter on time.
4. Overstaying the permitted stay or the last day of the Season.
5. Skipping vaccinations. Missing certificates can cause entry problems.
6. Assuming a visa alone is enough. Umrah cannot be performed without a Nusuk permit.

Frequently Asked Questions

Can I do Umrah on a tourist visa?

Yes, outside the Hajj season, you can perform Umrah on Tourist Visa.

What is the maximum stay?

The Maximum stay allowed on Umrah Visa is of 180 days.

Can I visit other cities with an Umrah visa?

Dedicated Umrah visas are generally issued for Makkah, Madinah and Jeddah. The tourist eVisa allows wider travel in the Kingdom.

Can I perform Umrah more than once?

Yes. You can perform Umrah more than once, during for stay in the Holy Land.

What happens if I perform Umrah without a permit?

Access to the Grand Mosque area may be restricted and penalties may be imposed under Saudi enforcement rules.

Final Provisions

1. Umrah is a spiritual journey that should be performed with proper arrangements. Understand the difference between the visa and the Nusuk permit, book through approved agents like Dua Travels, keep your paperwork, and respect the seasonal deadlines.
2. Rules, fees and deadlines are determined by the Saudi Ministry of Hajj and Umrah and are subject to change. These Guidelines are for general information only and were prepared in October 2026.
3. Check the official Nusuk platform or a licensed operator before applying. UK pilgrims should also read the UK Government's foreign travel advice for Saudi Arabia, and should book only with ATOL-protected, reputable providers.