

Ahlan wa Sahlan

Sean Murphy,
Minister Counselor for Consular Affairs

Hello, I'm Sean Murphy, Minister Counselor for Consular Affairs for the U.S. Mission to Saudi Arabia. On behalf of Mission Saudi Arabia, I'd like to welcome all pilgrims coming for this year's Hajj pilgrimage. مرحباً بكم و حجاً مقبول و سعياً مشكور

About 20,000 Muslims from the United States are expected to be among the two million pilgrims gathering to perform the rituals of Hajj this year. We have worked hard to prepare for your arrival!

Before you arrive, we encourage you to visit travel.state.gov/hajj, where you'll find tips about traveling overseas to Hajj, and specific information about Saudi Arabia. You'll also find details about the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program, or "STEP".



By enrolling in STEP, you'll receive email messages with news and information affecting U.S. citizens in Saudi Arabia, and alerts in the case of a crisis. After Hajj, you can enter future trips abroad in the system too.

In addition to enrolling in STEP, we also encourage you to follow our Mission American Citizens Services Twitter account [@KSA_ACS](https://twitter.com/KSA_ACS) for medical, safety, and other pilgrimage information.

We hope that you will have a trouble-free Hajj, as thousands of other pilgrims do each year. However, if something does go wrong, our staff is here to provide you appropriate consular services. You can find out more about how we can assist by visiting our website.

Once you arrive in Saudi Arabia, if you need emergency assistance, please contact the U.S. Consulate in Jeddah or the U.S. Embassy in Riyadh. We'll have officers on duty standing by 24/7 for emergencies.

Throughout the Hajj, we encourage you to make a communication plan and keep in touch with your loved ones back home. Doing so reassures them, and it allows our embassy and consulate staff to focus on helping people in need of emergency assistance.



Again, welcome to Saudi Arabia and as they say here, Ahlan wa Sahlan. We wish you a safe journey and Hajj Mubarak.



Welcome to Saudi Arabia HAJJ 2018

U.S. CONSULATE GENERAL JEDDAH
U.S. Department of State



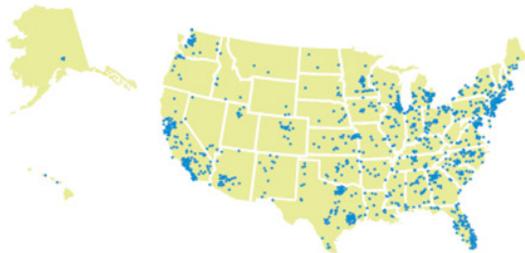
How to reach us on the web:

[@KSA_ACS](https://twitter.com/KSA_ACS)

travel.state.gov

step.state.gov





American Muslims live throughout the United States, from Alaska to Hawaii, from East Coast to West.

2,100 Muslim congregations and 2.6 million adherents were reported in 592 counties in the United States.

Source: 2010 U.S. Religious Congregations and Membership Study

Sources:

- Pew Research Center “New estimates show U.S. Muslim population continues to grow”
- IP Publication American Muslims

Emergency Contact information for U.S. Citizens

- Saudi local police: 911
- U.S. Consulate General Jeddah: (966) (12) 667-0080
- U.S. Embassy Riyadh: (966) (11) 488-3800
- U.S. Consulate General Dhahran: (966) (13) 330-3200
- U.S. Department of State, Washington, D.C. From the U.S. & Canada: (888) 407-4747; From Abroad: +1(202) 501-4444

U.S. Citizens and the Hajj

- As of 2018, the Pew Research Center estimates 3.45 million Muslims live in the United States, or approximately 1.1% of the total population.
- In 2017, approximately 20,000 Americans performed Hajj, of approximately 2.3 million pilgrims total.
- The Hajj terminal in Jeddah, completed in 1982, was designed by an American Muslim, Fazlur Rahman Khan, whose designs include Chicago landmarks the Hancock and Willis (Sears) Towers.
- Approximately 50 Hajj tour providers have offices in the United States and facilitate the participation of U.S. citizens and Lawful Permanent Residents in Hajj every year.

Tips for a Successful Hajj



- Always carry contact information for your U.S. travel agent and its Saudi representatives, your hotel, and your travel group.



- Keep your Saudi identification card and wristband issued by your Hajj travel agent with you at all times.



- Keep travel documents (U.S. passport or “green card”) secure during your trip. Make copies, including pages with Saudi visas, to keep separate.



- Stay safe and keep track of your valuables in crowded areas, such as the Grand Mosque in Mecca and in Medina.



- Carry hand sanitizer, treatments for colds, diarrhea, and anything else you might need. Stay hydrated, rest, and use protection from the sun.



- Do not overstay your Hajj visa. Penalties for overstays may include fines, detention pending deportation proceedings, and bans on returning to Saudi Arabia in the future.



- Photography at the Holy Mosque at Mecca or at the Prophet’s Mosque at Medina is forbidden. Please exercise good judgment and respect the rules of each site.

