08 Oct 2020

**Umrah 2020/1442H: some restrictions eased for pilgrims**

A staged approach to ease current restrictions is planned

- This updates the news item of 1 Jul 2020

Hajj, the annual pilgrimage to Makkah (Mecca), in Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is one of the largest gatherings of its kind in the world.

Permission to perform Umrah (normally year-round) was suspended in March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. From June 2020, a limited number of pilgrims from various nationalities who already resided in Saudi Arabia, were able to perform Hajj [1].

On 23 September 2020, plans to gradually allow other pilgrims, including visitors from outside the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to perform Umrah at limited capacity during the pandemic were announced [2].

An official Ministry of Hajj and Umrah app has been launched as part of the registration procedure to perform Umrah.

The Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office currently advises British nationals against all but essential travel to Saudi Arabia.

**Resources**

- Hajj and Umrah factsheet
- The Council of British Hajjis

**References**

1. Saudi Press Agency, Ministry of Hajj and Umrah: Hajj 1441H Is Decided to Take Place This Year with Limited Number of Pilgrims from All Nationalities Residing in Saudi Arabia. 22 June 2020. [Accessed 1 July 2020]