

Know your rights guide for TRAVELING TO HAJJ

labbayka allāhumma labbayk

With expanded travel bans and heightened scrutiny at ports of entry in 2025–2026, traveling for Hajj requires extra preparation. This guide covers what to expect at TSA and CBP, how to protect your devices, what you can bring back, and what to do if you are stopped or questioned.

I. BEFORE YOU TRAVEL

- **Share your itinerary.** Give travel plans, passport, and visa details to someone you trust who is not traveling with you.
- **Memorize key numbers.** Know the phone number of a lawyer and at least one trusted contact.
- **Carry your documents.** Bring physical and digital copies of your passport, visa, I-20, I-94, and proof of U.S. status.
- **Plan for your children.** Designate someone you trust. Consider legal options like temporary guardianship.
- **Be prepared for screening.** Anticipate the possibility of enhanced or secondary inspection.

II. PROTECT YOUR DEVICES

- **Encrypt and back up.** Save your data to a secure cloud, then erase sensitive files and login info before you go.
- **Use a strong password.** Turn off fingerprint and face unlock so you cannot be forced to unlock with biometrics.
- **Travel light.** Consider leaving your primary device at home and bringing a temporary one.
- **Print your boarding pass.** You will not need to unlock your phone at the gate.
- **Power down at the border.** Shut your device fully off before reaching the checkpoint.

III. AT SECURITY

- **Wear your hijab.** You have the right to wear hijab during screening. Request a private room and a same-gender officer for pat-downs.
- **TSA cannot target you.** TSA cannot select you for extra screening based on race, ethnicity, or religion.
- **CBP has limits.** CBP can ask about citizenship and your trip. They cannot strip search without reasonable suspicion.
- **CBP cannot target you** based on race, ethnicity, or religion. They cannot ask personal questions

without cause about family, job, politics, or religion (if you are a U.S. citizen) or hold you for prolonged secondary screening without allowing an attorney present.

IV. RETURNING HOME

- **Zam Zam in checked bags.** Pack Zam Zam water in checked luggage — airlines do not allow liquids over 3.4 oz in carry-on.
- **Declare your dates.** Dates are generally allowed but must be properly stored, declared, and presented to CBP.
- **Inspect your sand & food.** Sand must be clean and free of organic matter. Dried foods are subject to inspection.
- **Declare items over \$10,000.** All items received, gifted, or purchased abroad — including currency and gold — must be declared.
- **Be ready for questions.** Be prepared for enhanced or secondary screening upon return.

V. IF YOU ARE STOPPED

- **Stay calm and silent.** Politely say: “I wish to remain silent. My attorney will contact you.” Never give false information.
- **Ask for a supervisor.** You have the right to ask to speak with a supervising officer at any point.
- **Document everything.** Write down the name, agency, and badge number of every officer. Note flight number, date, and airline.
- **Do not sign anything.** Do not sign any document before speaking with a lawyer. Request a receipt if your device is taken.
- **Call CAIR Philadelphia.** Report the incident at pa.cair.com/report — our civil rights team can document and provide legal help.

V. CAN I BE DENIED ENTRY?

- **U.S. CITIZENS** cannot be denied entry for refusing to provide passwords, device access, or for refusing to answer questions unrelated to citizenship or identity.
- **LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENTS** who have maintained their status cannot be denied entry. Only answer questions establishing identity and residency. Never voluntarily give up your green card or sign an I-407 form.
- **NON-CITIZEN VISA HOLDERS** may be denied entry for refusing to cooperate. Comply with orders or risk denial of entry.