

FAQ: Madinah al-Ilm and Bab al-Ilm Summer Short Courses / Iran Summer Camp

Q: What sort of behaviour and attitude is required of participants applying for this camp?

A: The behaviour and attitude of those wishing to participate in the summer camp programme is:

1. A willingness to learn & improve oneself.
2. Respect for the rules and regulations of the summer camp as well as the country you are visiting.
3. Striving to be a model for others.
4. Appreciation for the work of those volunteering to make your trip as comfortable as possible as well as being patient with them.

Q: What is the dress code required for both Girls and Boys?

A: The dress code for boys is that it is preferable for them to wear kanzus, however long sleeve shirts and trousers are also allowed. T-Shirts, jeans, and shorts are **not** permitted. For all visits to Maraje and other great personalities, students are expected to wear respectable clothing. The dress code for girls full hijab ensuring that hair, arms, and feet are covered. Hand socks are **highly** encouraged and Iranian Chadors will be provided upon arrival.

Q: Are there Western toilets available to use?

A: There are western style toilets available only in some places, including the Haram in Qum, the hotels in Tehran and other weekend destinations. The organisers also try to ensure that the hotels in Mashhad, for both boys and girls contain English toilets. The girls' hawza also contains one western toilet however the majority of toilets will be eastern style.

Q: What facilities are there for washing clothes?

A: Facilities for washing clothes will be made available; however we strongly suggest that undergarments and socks be hand washed as these cannot be washed by the launderette. There are washing facilities also available for girls at their hawza.

Q: Will I be able to leave the Hawza, to go out as and when I wish?

A: Participants will only be able to leave the Hawza with the permission and at times, supervision of a mentor. Madinah boys will have free time located during their daily timetable and will be able to leave the hawza during these times only. However, Baab boys and all girls will not be able to leave the hawza.

Q: Are there any specific rules or codes which need to be practiced during my stay at the Hawza?

A: There will be a set of rules and guidelines given to each participant to agree to when they apply. In addition the Hawza itself has its own rules that participants will be briefed on upon their arrival. The Hawza's own specific tradition and culture **should** be respected.

Q: How much money would be advisable to take for the whole trip?

A: The trip is an all-inclusive trip and items like accommodation, food and transportation are all covered.

Things such as phone calls, laundry, shopping and extra luggage charges are not covered. £200 should be sufficient to cover all these additional expenses.

Q: How will I exchange my money?

A: The best place to exchange money is at the airport at the time of your arrival. There are money exchange places in Qum which can be visited; however, as stated the best place is at the airport. Please note there will NOT be access to money exchange facilities in Tehran, Mashad, Isfahan, and Hamadan.

Q: Will there be any place to store my money and valuables safely?

A: Yes you can give your valuables to the Qum Office for safekeeping. Please note the Qum Office will not be responsible for items that not submitted to them for safe keeping.

Q: What are phone and email facilities like? How often will I be able to phone home and use the internet?

A: There are **limited** phone and internet facilities. Timings allotted for both will be subject to the timetable and will be determined upon arrival. Please also note that it will not be possible to obtain and use an Iran SIM during the course of the trip and this has also been highlighted in the rules and guidelines.

Q: What will the food be like?

A: Participants will be treated to a variety of traditional Iranian and Indian cuisine as well as fast food (i.e. pizza, burgers etc.).

Q: How many people will there be per room?

A: This will be determined closer to the time of the trip as it can range from 4 to 8 per room.

Q: What is the role and duty of mentors?

A: The mentors are present for their advice, guidance, to ensure students' physical and spiritual wellbeing and to ensure you get the most out of your trip.