



إيسيسكو  
ICESCÖ

Heritage Centre  
in the Islamic World

## Hajj routes program to and from Makkah and historical mosques in the Islamic world







**Haji** is an annual Islamic pilgrimage to Makka, Saudi Arabia, the holiest city for Muslims. Hajj is a mandatory religious duty for Muslims that must be carried out at least once in their lifetime by Muslims.

Islam originated with Muhammad's mission in Mekka and Medina at the start of the 7<sup>th</sup> century CE, these two holy cities are evidence of the early moments of Islam: the birth of Prophet Muhammad, his early days of preaching the message of Islam, the emergence of the Muslim community, the emigration, and the development of the first Islamic state. Today many people each year transverse the world in order to visit them particularly Makkah as part of Hajj. This has happened from time immemorial

**The Two Holy Mosques:** The Grand Mosque with the Kaaba in Mekka, and the Prophet's Mosque with the tomb of the Prophet in Medina; the two represent the starting point of the Mosque as an institution since the dawn of Islam.

The routes to and from Mecca is an important event for Islam it has led to major urban expansions because cities and metropolises rose that were associated with pilgrims in all countries of the world that Islam reached;

This unleashed integrated heritage system launched by Islam throughout the world, and Makkah and Medina constituted its starting point and shelter through the paths of Hajj.

The Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) and the Saudi National Commission for Education, Culture and Science have launched an integrated programme aimed at celebrating, profiling and promoting the heritage of the pilgrimage routes. This emanating from the fact that the Hajj is the cornerstone of the Islamic world. It represents one of the important manifestations of Islamic heritage both intangible and tangible.



## Strategic objectives

- To make Hajj routes and historical mosques in the Islamic world an important pillar of Islamic heritage.
- To ensure that the Islamic heritage is a fundamental reference for the history of humanity.
- To document the heritage of Islam, and what has been presented and continues to be presented to the world
- Presenting pilgrimage routes to and from Makkah Al-Mukarramah, as a global heritage, with its individual, collective, creative and diplomatic dimensions.

## Expected achievements



- Inscription of «Hajj routes to and from ancient and contemporary Makkah, including historical mosques» on the lists of the World Tangible, Intangible Cultural and Natural Heritage of ISESCO and UNESCO;
- Establishing the Hajj Routes Museum, which will be integrated into a tourist route visited by pilgrims and Umrah performers, throughout the year. A museum exhibition will travel around the world in places of international importance.
- Establishment of a global centre (Centre for Hajj Routes and Historic Mosques) at ISESCO to manage the entire system, including the conservation and maintenance of historical mosques and sites associated with Hajj routes and support related development.







