



Hajj RIDE2021

Hajj Rider Interest Pack

The 'Once in a lifetime', 'Largest and Most Challenging' event in the Muslim fundraising calendar, of all time, IS BACK!

Be warned, due to Ramadan and Hajj nearing the winter months in the Western Hemisphere, this may well be the last time a journey like this is possible for the next 20 years. Further information will follow shortly.

REGISTRATION WILL CLOSE ON THE 25th JULY 2020

Table Of Contents

The Challenge	3
The Cause	4
Rough Itinerary	5
The Equipment	6
Essentials	6
What kind of bike can I ride for this trip?	7
Equipment Desirable	8
Support Vehicle	8
Comments	8
The Training	9
The Fundraising	10
Fundraising Tips	10
Fundraising From a Volunteer Perspective	11
The FAQ's	13
Who can take part?	13
How fit do I need to be?	13
I'm fairly fit, I don't intend to train much - can I still come?	13
Will I have to carry my main luggage during the ride?	14
What kind of meals should I expect?	14
Can I extend my time in Makkah after the ride?	14
What if I get ill or injured during the ride?	15

Will it not be difficult having so many people riding at once?

15

Will I be able to have a laugh?

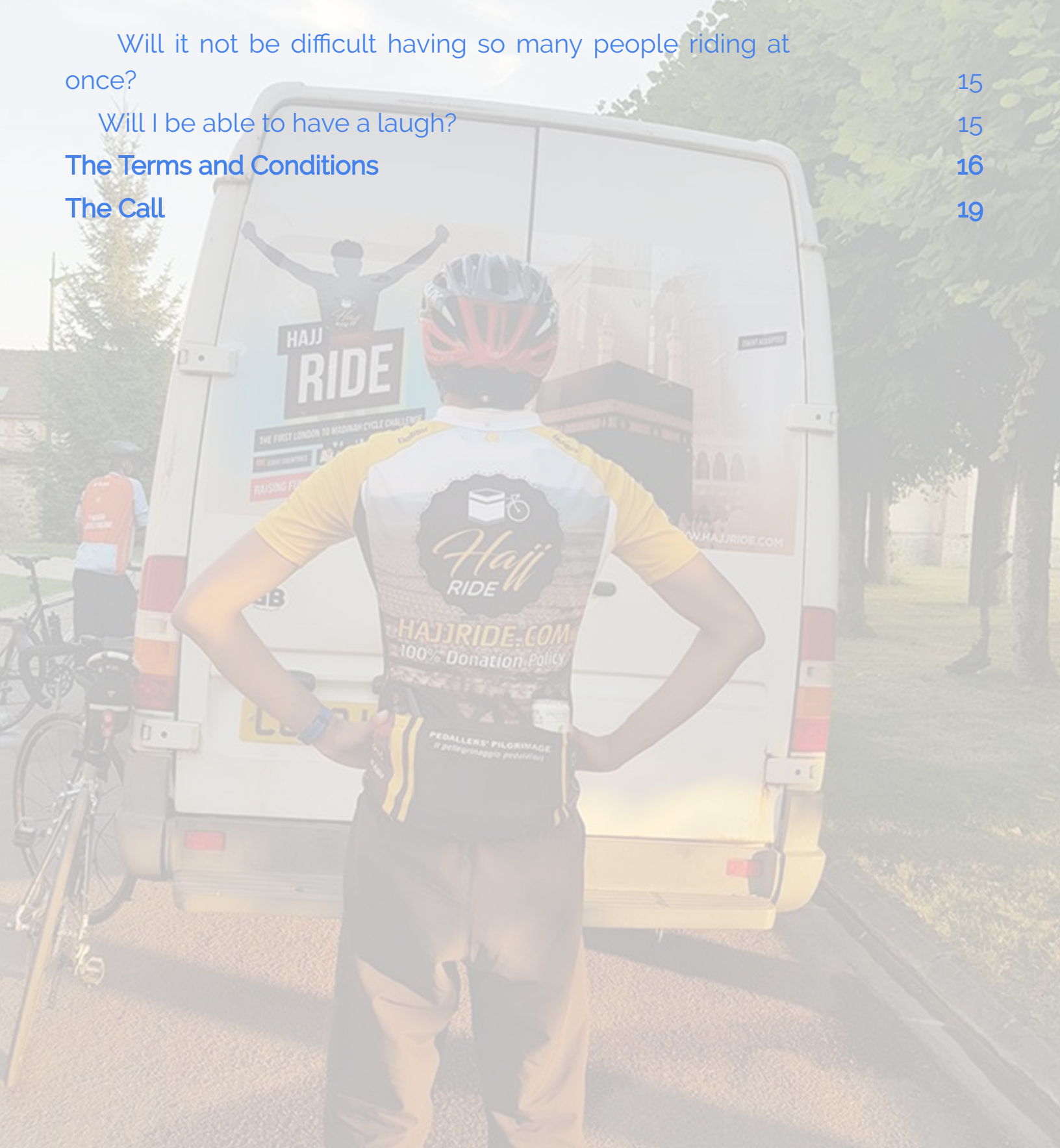
15

The Terms and Conditions

16

The Call

19



The Challenge

Hajj Ride is exactly as it sounds. It is a cycle ride from London in the United Kingdom, to Madinah in Saudi Arabia, to coincide with the Muslim pilgrimage of Hajj.

The Hajj itself is an act of worship that should remain separate and focused, this is the reason we cycle to Madinah and from there we renew our intentions and focus for the ultimate spiritual experience of the great Hajj pilgrimage.

The cycle ride from London to Madinah is making your journey to Hajj layered in intentions and rewards.

Firstly you will be travelling to answer the Call of your Lord to Hajj itself.

Secondly you will be travelling on a personal development experience that will give you the opportunity to grow and reshape your life in amazing ways.

Thirdly you will be raising awareness for the plight of the needy when a charitable cause is chosen.

Fourthly, this awareness will become an avenue to raise charitable funds to help those exact people you are waking the world to the awareness of their situation.

Fifthly, there is the added bonus of engaging and inspiring the young and the old, globally, to perform hajj themselves, to get fit and to broaden people's horizons.

Multiple intentions for multiple rewards, Insha'Allah (God Willing).

The Cause

The cause for this ride is yet to be finalised alongside of the charitable partners.

The ride will have a central cause and no individual drives or causes will be accepted.

Hajj Ride is upon unity of cause, direction and movement. We will not even begin this challenge if there is not a fully verifiable and lofty calling to suffer the agony for.

Previously Hajj Ride was allocated to Syrian Medical efforts and Rohingya Refugees in an emergency appeal. Over £300,000 was raised and thousands benefitted from the awareness, assistance and prayers generated.

On the authority of Abu Huraira (Ra) from the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) who said, " Whoever relieves a believer's distress of the distressful aspects of this world, Allah will rescue him from a difficulty of the difficulties of the Hereafter... Allah is helping the servant as long as the servant is helping his brother..."

— (Recorded in Muslim)

Rough Itinerary

The final details will be released to the successful applicants.

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For now, there will be a few group training rides between the launch that is happening now in 2020, and Ramadan 2021 before the Hajj Ride itself. These will be obligatory to attend, the team will be tested and trained to face the conditions similar to the event itself. The training sessions will be structured into 'long weekends'. This is all the information on this section of the itinerary for now.

The ride itself will begin within 1-2 weeks after Ramadan 2021 and the journey alone will last between 6-7 weeks. The route is yet to be disclosed as the options must be considered in the geo-political situation of the time of the ride departure.

After this, riders will spend approximately 1 week in Madinah before entering Ihram and heading to Makkah where they will be able to perform Umrah and Hajj, Insha'Allah.

Upon return there will be one weekend where we will require all the riders to have a post ride 'meet up' to discuss the delivery of the charitable funds, review the event after a little reflection.

The Equipment

Essentials

The following list contains essential equipment required for the bike trek. Please consider your own personal kit list for the entire trip i.e. personal medication, toiletries, phone chargers and general clothing.

Own Bike - Details below.

Helmet x 2

Lights - front and rear (a minimum specification will be mentioned)

Water Bottles and cage

Spare inner tubes x 12 and spare tyres x 2

Spare bike chain

Puncture repair kit - including bike pump

Suitable light wearing bike shoes

Water proof light cycling jacket

Cycling Jersey x 3 (Event Jerseys will be provided as extra to this list)

Padded cycling shorts/bib shorts - Important for a comfortable ride

3/4 Length pants to wear above padded shorts (Awrah and shape of awrah must be covered at all times)

Passport and Travel Documents

TIP: If you are after cheap cycling clothes, Sports Direct do a very good range of clothing which are more than adequate in quality for the trip. You'll also find eBay a good place to purchase cycle accessories eg. lights, tubes, etc.

What kind of bike can I ride for this trip?

We strongly advise you get a road bike (Drop handle racer) for this trip. They are lighter and faster.

You may also ride a cyclocross bike - they are heavier so you will need to be more fitter to compensate for the extra weight.

Mountain bikes are unsuitable for this ride.

Make sure your bike is in good condition for the ride.

Check brakes, gears and tyres etc. **BEFORE** each ride. A full service at your local bike shop before the main tours and ride is strongly advised.

Equipment Desirable

Small Ruck Sack or Bike Pouch (for small snacks during ride)

Energy Bars x2 per day

Dates (good carb source)

Vaseline/Shammy Cream - This potentially could be essential to stop chafing and saddle sores.

Sunglasses and cycling gloves

Snood Cycling cap (underneath helmet to keep wind/rain out)

Support Vehicle

PLEASE NOTE: Any goods or bicycles damaged or lost during transportation will not be the responsibility of the organisers, any sponsors or any individual other than the owner themselves.

Road Bike/ Cyclocross Bike - We will have a large van as a support vehicle which will be used to transport luggage, equipment, survival essentials, etc.

On the way back from the destination the bicycles will be transported back via road and ferry in the van. The Van will also be used to transport any riders who may have an injury during the ride.

Comments

This list is not exhaustive and shows a rough guideline of what you will require. With your training schedule, you will learn what your body and bike requires and when and how to apply the products and tools that suit you best.

The Training

The harder you train, the easier and more enjoyable you will find the event. The more benefit you will draw and the more peaceful your Hajj Insha'Allah.

There will be strict minimum cycling requirements for all members of the team. Our experienced members will assist you in a bespoke training schedule for you. While this is an amazing benefit, you will bare in mind that failure to comply or achieve a minimum requirement may see you forfeit your place on the team. Depending if or when this occurs, you will not be refunded an according amount to the timeline and organisational costs incurred. However, your hajj package will still be maintained, although you may require to book yourself a flight from an appropriate point.

Training will require 150-300 miles of cycling to be performed within one week. Some rides may reach in excess of 100 miles in one day. YOU MUST BE MEDICALLY FIT AND HEALTHY AND ALL RISK IS ON YOUR OWN SELF.

This section has no specifics as each person will require individual assessment and planning.

The Fundraising

Fundraising Tips

If you are new to fundraising, it can be quite a scary thing. The key factor in all of this is to purify your intentions, make du'ā' and just try your best, Allāh will do the rest inshā'Allāh. You can also remember that our actions (if we do try) or inactions (if we don't) will be a matter of life and death for many people.

Don't forget, you will get the reward of all the good that comes from every penny of it, Bi'idhnillāh (By the Permission of Allah).

“Whoever directs to good will get the reward of that good”

— Reported in Sahih Muslim

As mentioned in an earlier quote, helping the needy is a means of helping ourselves, as it brings barakah, Allāh's assistance and removes calamities from our lives amongst other benefits.

Here are 5 pointers that may be helpful to you:

1. Send out an appeal message to all your contacts to donate inshā'Allāh. Email/Facebook/WhatsApp/Text and using other social networks are all good ways. Write something brief about the cause, how we will help and request donations. Make it personal and add your fundraising page link with any other donation options. - You are a means for others to earn rewards and save lives so don't see it as a nuisance to people but we should be considerate inshā'Allāh. *Always remember, personal calls are most effective*

2. Charity starts at home, we should raise awareness amongst our family and ask them to donate, you will be surprised. They are quite generous Bi'idhnillāh.
3. Ask your friends. When you know each other, they are more likely to donate, Bi'idhnillāh.
4. Those that are working, have we told our work colleagues about the importance of assisting our Ummah? Try to ask them for donations, you might be surprised how many people end up donating.
5. Be creative, there's so many avenues we can take to raise. Eg. Arrange collections, events, bake sales, money box at certain places, etc. Remember, the main thing is that we make the efforts sincerely and according to the sunnah, it's not always about the amount raised. Please let us know if you require any further advice or support.

Fundraising From a Volunteer Perspective

One of a Muslim UK charity's top fundraisers Eman Ali gives us his insight and some advice into how to fundraise and meet your target...

When it comes to fundraising with a group of friends, I can become very competitive and so can my friends, which is just as well as it has help us hit if not exceed our target sooner.

The most efficient way to raise money is to develop a charity webpage. That way, the sky is the limit in terms of targeting people for sponsors.

Hajj Riders will all set up an online charity page and the charity will already be set up on the site. It's important to provide everyone with details for why you are doing the challenge and provide some background to the cause that you are raising the funds for.

Once you have made the whole world aware, be sure to update your contacts on how the fundraising is going but don't over do it to annoy them!

I usually send out a reminder email a few days before doing the main trainings or challenges and then send an update email after completing that stage.

Also try to secure as many verbal pledges as possible, that way you can bug these sponsors as much as you want until they actually donate. You may have to be quite cheeky to secure the verbal pledges but its all for a worthy cause.

A good away around this is to arrange a get together with a group of friends and then when you feel it is appropriate, mention your charity challenge and be blunt and pose the question "So are you going to sponsor me?". Believe me, without doing this you probably won't raise as much. People are so busy these days that they may see your email and intend to sponsor you but then get side tracked and totally forgot. I hope you can pick up a few ideas from this, Happy fundraising! Eman

If you require further fundraising materials, posters, sponsorship forms etc. please contact the team.

All Hajj Riders will make a fundraising plan with our dedicated and experienced team. Communal events will be set up and many opportunities shared. All we ask is your best effort.

The FAQ's

Who can take part?

Any male individual over the age of 18, but you must ensure you can physically take on this challenge. The maximum number of people that can attend is 20 (16 riders and 4 support members).

Unfortunately we do not have the facilities in place to take women who are able to travel with a mahram. Hajj requires a mahram to accompany a female.

How fit do I need to be?

As a guide you will have to reach a very good level of fitness. It is essential that you physically train for this event to avoid putting your body under too much strain.

Please see the training section for some basic information on the level at which you should train for this ride.

I'm fairly fit, I don't intend to train much - can I still come?

No. There have been instances previously where some riders didn't train much for the ride, as such they struggled badly during the first 30 miles. This results in the group was held up for hours or days, just so the rider could catch up.

This isn't fair on the rest of the group and I reiterate the importance of training consistently leading up to the ride. If you haven't trained sufficiently you will not enjoy the journey, IF YOU ARE ALLOWED TO ATTEND.

Will I have to carry my main luggage during the ride?

No. The support vehicle will transport your main luggage from one day point or accommodation to the next. However, please ensure you have an easy access pack or rucksack available for the 'slot' you will be given and you should learn to always have something to carry the essentials you require during the ride.

Please ensure your luggage is locked. We cannot be held responsible for any lost or stolen luggage.

Maximum weight and size of luggage is exactly the same as if you were boarding a plane. One 20kg suitcase. One 10kg carry on luggage. Apart from this you will have your bike box and spares separately.

What kind of meals should I expect?

Anything and everything. Some days it will be just shredded wheat or Weetabix with milk and simple pasta meals for lunch. Dinner duty rotations will be arranged and all members of the team will be expected to work as a unit.

Carbs are king! You may also purchase your own food from shops or restaurants if they are suitable.

Can I extend my time in Makkah after the ride?

Again, you are most welcome to extend your stay after the ride as long as you like in accordance to visa restrictions and with our tour operator. Please note that you are responsible for any accommodation and costs outside the stated itinerary.

What if I get ill or injured during the ride?

If you fall seriously ill or suffer a critical injury, we will transport you to the nearest hospital. However, you will bear the cost of any hospital treatment.

If your injury or illness doesn't require a visit to the hospital, we will transport you to the accommodation or travel in the support vehicle until the ride of the day is complete.

Will it not be difficult having so many people riding at once?

We will split the group based on fitness levels. All participants will rendezvous for afternoon and evening meals at designated stop points.

Will I be able to have a laugh?

Of course you can. We want you to have fun but you must understand there will be brothers from all different backgrounds and no doubts not everyone may understand your humour.

The ride will get difficult and we may become hungry and agitated but we must have the patience and forbearance to behave as best we can according to the Sunnah.

The Terms and Conditions

- 1 A completed registration form is compulsory.
- 2 The registration cost of the ride is £5000 to £8000 (Subject to adjust depending on sponsors). Participants must pay £1000 upon approval of entry to confirm their place (after registration interview has been passed) and the full amount by the set deadline.
3. Participants must also commit to raising a minimum amount of sponsorship money (£40,000) over the year.
4. Participants must be at least 18 at the commencement of the ride to be eligible.
5. Should participants have to cancel or be withdrawn, the £1000 fee is non-refundable (Nor are any of the Hajj/transportation costs depending on the time/situation of the requested refund and the amounts paid).
6. Should participants not be able to take up their place on the ride, all donations or sponsorship already paid to The Charity can only be refunded directly to the donor on receipt of a written request (letter or email) from them and at the will of the charity.
7. Whilst we endeavour to follow the itinerary provided, there may be exceptional circumstances when this is not possible. We reserve the right to cancel or modify the itinerary as necessary. Due to the nature of the rides and the advance planning necessary, changes may have to be made and organisers reserve the right to do so. Should a material change be necessary, organisers will inform participants as soon as is reasonably possible.

8. All transfers to and from the appropriate start point for the ride is entirely the responsibility of the participant.

9. Participants over the age of 45 or with any ongoing medical condition which may be affected by taking part e.g. a heart complaint, epilepsy or asthma, must provide a medical certificate from their doctor.

10. All participants take part at their own risk. The organisers unable to accept liability for any injury or death, loss or damage to property however arising, or for cancellation of the event for any reason outside of its control.

11. It is compulsory to wear a helmet during the duration of the ride. Awrah (naval to knee) must be covered with baggy clothing.

12. The organisers reserve the right to use any photographs or videos taken of participants on behalf of AICC or the charity.

13. ACCEPTANCE OF RISK:

Your booking is accepted on the understanding that: You are aware that the ride, in addition to the usual dangers and risks inherent, has certain additional dangers and risks, some of which may include:

- Physical exertion for which you may not be prepared for unless you have invested time in training for the event.
- Weather extremes subject to sudden and unexpected change
- Remoteness from normal medical services.
- Evacuation difficulties if you are disabled.

14. By agreeing to the Terms and Conditions in this form, participants are confirming that to the best of their knowledge their general state of health is good and they take full responsibility for their health and personal well being. It should be noted, regardless of the age of participant, that every care should be made to ensure that they are fit enough to take on the challenge.

15. This list of Terms and conditions is not exhaustive and an individual contract upon acceptance will be in addition or will supersede any point intended to do so by HAJJRIDE (through AICC) or The Charity

16. Failure to meet training or fundraising targets may lead to exclusion from the ride.

The Call

This is not a case of if you accept the challenge, It is a case of answering The Call of Hajj.

It is also a way to see if YOU are Called to His (SWT) House!

REGISTER NOW

Register to become a Hajj Rider for 2021

[Learn more](#)