# Pilgrimage | The Haram at Mecca and the Ka’ba

'The Ka'ba is the qibla of Islam.'

The Ka'ba is the qibla (direction of prayer) of Islam. It is also at the heart of the Hajj and everyone who visits the Haram at Mecca has to circumvent the Ka'ba seven times as part of the prescribed pilgrimage ritual. The Ka'ba has many names in the Islamic tradition, among them: al-Masjid al-Haram (The Sacred Mosque, referring to the mosque within the precinct of the Ka'ba) and al-Bayt al-Atiq (the Ancient House). The Ka'ba is an almost square structure: 9.29 m on its north side, 12.15 m on its west, 10.25 m on its south side, and 11.88 m on its east side. It is 15 m high and has only one access door on the east face that is 2 m above ground level.



**Name:**
Ceramic tile panel

**Dynasty:**
Hegira 1087 / AD 1676 Ottoman

**Details:**
Museum of Islamic Art
Cairo, Egypt

**Justification:**
A tile panel showing a ground-plan for the Holy Mosque at Mecca with the Ka'ba in the centre.

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**Name:**
Painting

**Dynasty:**
Hegira early 12th century / AD early 18th century Ottoman

**Details:**
Uppsala University Library
Uppsala, Sweden

**Justification:**
A topographical painting of the Haram shown with details of entrances, minarets and the surrounding sites.

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**Name:**
Astronomical instrument: Qiblanuma

**Dynasty:**
Hegira 1151 / AD 1738 Ottoman

**Details:**
Museum of Turkish and Islamic Arts
Sultanahmet, Istanbul, Turkey

**Justification:**
A compass (qiblanuma) that determined the direction of prayer (qibla) and the correct route to Mecca.

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**Name:**
Prayer rug

**Dynasty:**
Hegira 1217 / AD 1802 Ottoman

**Details:**
Burrell Collection, Glasgow Museums
Glasgow, Scotland, United Kingdom

**Justification:**
Pilgrims traded prayer rugs while travelling, or offered them as votive gifts to mosques.



**Name:**
Prayer rug

**Dynasty:**
Hegira 12th century / AD 18th century Ottoman

**Details:**
Museum of Mediterranean and Near Eastern Antiquities (Medelhavsmuseet)
Stockholm, Sweden

**Justification:**
Pilgrims traded prayer rugs while travelling, or offered them as votive gifts to mosques.

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