

# Pilgrimage | Pilgrimage Routes and Holy Sites along the Way

'Every year Muslim pilgrims converge on Mecca from all corners of the Muslim world.'

The Qur'an says: 'And proclaim to mankind al-Hajj. They will come to you on foot and on every lean mount; they will come from every deep and distant mountain highway. (XXII: 27–8)' Every year Muslim pilgrims converge on Mecca from all corners of the Muslim world. The upkeep of the pilgrimage routes, the rest stations, reservoirs and watchtowers, were the responsibility of the local Muslim governors or rulers.



**Name:**  
Astrolabe

**Dynasty:**  
Hegira 417 / AD 1026–7 Umayyads of al-Andalus

**Details:**  
National Museums of Scotland  
Edinburgh, Scotland, United Kingdom

**Justification:**  
For pilgrims astrolabes were indispensable tools for orientation and navigation.



**Name:**  
Astrolabe

**Dynasty:**  
Hegira 459 / AD 1067 Taifa kingdom of Banu Dhi'l-Nun (Dhu'l-Nunids)

**Details:**  
National Archaeological Museum  
Madrid, Spain

**Justification:**  
Al-Andalus was an important centre for the production of astrolabes which were indispensable to travellers on pilgrimage. This example was made in Toledo and is in the collection at Madrid Museum.



**Name:**  
Planispheric astrolabe

**Dynasty:**  
Hegira 614 / AD 1217–18 Almohad

**Details:**  
Batha Museum  
Fez, Morocco

**Justification:**  
Astrolabes were also used for determining the time of prayers.



**Name:**  
Prayer rug

**Dynasty:**  
Hegira 13th century / AD 19th century Ottoman

**Details:**  
St. Mungo Museum for Religious Life and Art, Glasgow Museums  
Glasgow, Scotland, United Kingdom

**Justification:**

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

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**Name:**

Distance marker (milestone)

**Dynasty:**

Hegira 66–86 / AD 685–705 Umayyad

**Details:**

Museum of Turkish and Islamic Arts  
Sultanahmet, Istanbul, Türkiye

**Justification:**

Milestones marked the distance from one post to the next on the pilgrimage routes. Part of the text reads: 'From here to Damascus is 109 miles'.

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**Name:**

A pilgrim's flask

**Dynasty:**

Hegira 8th century / AD 14th century Mamluk

**Details:**

Jordan Archaeological Museum  
Amman, Jordan

**Justification:**

A flask was the one essential item carried by most pilgrims to hold drinking-water on the long journey.

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