**Things you can do in Dhul-Hijjah if you are not going for Hajj**

Don't lose heart if you are not going on Hajj. There's a lot you can do to earn Allah's blessings.

*Lifestyle*

The foundations of Islam rest upon the 5 pillars - Tawhid, Prayer, Fast, Zakat, and Hajj – which are obligatory for Muslims no matter what. However, it is also true that since Islam is a religion for all of the humanity hence it makes sure that in times of trials and tribulations one must not feel burdened by religious duties. In the [Quran](http://www.islamicfinder.org/quran/22%3A27) the Lord says:

*“And proclaim to the people the Hajj [pilgrimage]; they will come to you on foot and on every lean camel; they will come from every distant pass” (Quran 22:27).*

Indeed, [Hajj is the most pivotal act that can be performed in this blessed month](https://www.islamicfinder.org/iqra/beyond-the-rituals-the-origin-of-hajj-and-importance-of-every-act-performed-in-it/), but for those Muslim brothers and sisters who, for any reason, cannot take part in this blessed act, there are countless other activities that they can indulge themselves in to reap the rewards of this month and please the Almighty Allah. Following are a few ways to keep one close to their Creator during these days, even if one is not partaking in Hajj:

**Do plenty of Dhikr (and Takbeer)**

Remembering Allah is one of the most important things one can do in these blessed days, as through [Dhikr](https://www.islamicfinder.org/iqra/10-easy-ways-to-earn-sawab-in-a-minute/) one acknowledges Allah and submits oneself wholly to Him. Dhikr is one of the most praiseworthy acts in the eyes of Allah, and one which can also garnish excellent rewards for the believers.

Reciting Takbeer during this time is Sunnah, albeit a forgotten one, thus one should make a habit of reciting Takbeer as often as they can. The Prophet (PBUH) said:

*“Know that whoever revives my practice when it has died out after me will have a reward similar to those who act upon it without detracting from his reward in the slightest, and whoever innovates misguidance displeasing to Allah and His messenger will have a sin similar to those who act upon it without detracting from their sins in the slightest” (Tirmidhi 2677).*

**Seek repentance**

One of Allah’s (SWT) most favorite actions is that of seeking sincere repentance, which not only brings a believer closer to Allah but cleanses their soul.

*“…And beg Allah to forgive you all, O believers, that you may be successful” (Quran 24:31)*

The act involves laying one’s sins before their Lord and asking for His forgiveness. It involves the will to give up one’s sins and a promise to Allah that one will never return to them, as well as a sincere desire to earn Allah’s blessings by adhering to what He loves. Repentance not only raises one’s stature with Allah but also leads to success in this life and the hereafter, as highlighted in the following verse:

*“And [saying], "Seek forgiveness of your Lord and repent to Him, [and] He will let you enjoy a good provision for a specified term and give every doer of favor his favor. But if you turn away, then indeed, I fear for you the punishment of a great Day” (Quran 11:3).*

**Stand in night prayers**

Abu Hurairah narrates the following Hadith:

*“… to offer salatul tahajjud (late-night prayer) during one of its [Dhul Hijja] nights is like performing the late night prayer on the night of power. [i.e. Lailatul Qadr]” (Tirmidhi).*

This offers a perfect opportunity to utilize long hours of the night, so that if one misses out on performing good deeds during the day, they can still remember Allah during the night, by performing [night prayers](https://www.islamicfinder.org/iqra/the-significance-of-qiyam-ul-layl/) or reciting the Quran.

*“And from [part of] the night, pray with it as additional [worship] for you; it is expected that your Lord will resurrect you to a praised station” (Qur’an 17: 79).*

This activity has the uncanny ability to bring tremendous peace to the heart and mind, and it adds barkah to one’s time as well.

**Increase any and all types of good deeds**

According to the Prophet (PBUH):

*“There are no days in which righteous deeds are more beloved to Allah than these ten days…” (Bukhari 2:457).*

Small acts done out of love and praise for Allah can reap tremendous rewards in themselves, thus one should increase all types of good deeds in this blessed month such as reciting [Quranic verses](http://www.islamicfinder.org/quran/), offering extra prayers, giving charity, refraining from forbidden activities, attending [Friday prayers](https://www.islamicfinder.org/iqra/how-should-you-spend-your-friday/), offering animal sacrifice, respecting one’s parents and making as much Dua as one can.

Therefore, one should not despair if they missed the chance to perform Hajj, as practicing these alternative activities can surely be a transformative process for a true believer as well. We should remember that Allah seeks what is in our hearts, He seeks our intentions and hence we should perform all these activities out of complete love, submission, and gratitude towards our Creator who is surely the Most Benevolent and Most Exalted.

**Virtues of the first 10 days of Dhul-Hijjah**

It was on the 9th of Dhul-Hijjah that Allah (SWT) sent down the last of the revelations, completing the religion of Islam.

*Knowledge*

The first ten days of Dhul-Hijjah, the 12th month of the Islamic calendar, hold a special place in the heart of Islam. [These ten days are greatly beloved by Allah (SWT)](https://www.islamicfinder.org/iqra/you-must-do-these-5-things-in-the-first-ten-days-of-dhul-hijjah/) and have preference over all other days of the year, as they are ripe with blessings and endless rewards.

The Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) encouraged his ummah to make the most of these blessed ten days by engaging in righteous deeds. It is one of the greatest favors of Allah (SWT) to grant His servants multiple opportunities to increase their rewards in this world and the Hereafter, which include the first ten days of Dhul-Hijjah.

These blessed ten days have enormous virtues associated with them, some of which are as follows:

**1. Allah (SWT) swears by it in the Holy Quran**

Allah (SWT) takes an oath upon things in order to showcase their importance and significance. In the [Quran](http://www.islamicfinder.org/quran/), Allah (SWT) has sworn upon these blessed ten days of Dhul-Hijjah in Surah Al-Fajr:

*“By the dawn and by the ten nights…” (Quran 89:1-2)*

This oath authenticates the excellence of these nights in the sight of Allah (SWT) and the great value He attaches to these days.

**2. Dhul-Hijjah is a month of sacredness and piety**

Allah (SWT) has deemed four months, out of the twelve months in the [Islamic Calendar](https://www.islamicfinder.org/islamic-calendar/), to be sacred months. These include Rajab and the three consecutive months of Dhul-Qadah, Dhul-Hijjah, and Muharram. Allah (SWT) states in the Holy Quran:

*“Indeed, the number of months with Allah is twelve [lunar] months in the register of Allah [from] the day He created the heavens and the earth; of these, four are sacred.” (Quran 9:36)*

**3. Best days to perform righteous deeds**

Righteous deeds that are carried out in these ten days are magnified in their blessings. Allah (SWT) is greatly pleased with His servants who engage in Ibadah and righteous acts in this particular period of time and promises exalted rewards, mercy, and forgiveness.

*Ibn ‘Abbaas reported that the Prophet (peace be upon him) said: “There are no days in which righteous deeds are more beloved to Allah than these 10 days.”*

*The people asked, “Not even jihad for the sake of Allah?”*

*He said, “Not even jihad for the sake of Allah, except in the case of a man who went out to fight giving himself and his wealth up for the cause, and came back with nothing.” (Sahih Bukhari 2:457)*

**4. A combination of the prime acts of worship**

A distinguishing factor of Dhul-Hijjah, amongst the other Islamic months, is essentially the combination of the primary pillars of Islam- all in one month. During the month of Dhul-Hijjah, the annual pilgrimage, Hajj, takes place where Muslims gather from across the globe to worship Allah (SWT). Moreover, Muslims also engage in the other pillars of Islam including [Salah (prayer)](https://www.islamicfinder.org/iqra/how-to-improve-the-quality-of-your-salah/), Sadaqah (charity) and Siyam (fasting) during the month. Hence, it is an auspicious month where all these great deeds of worship come together with the sole purpose of pleasing Allah (SWT).

**5. Allah (SWT) perfected the religion of Islam on the day of Arafat**

It was on the 9th of Dhul-Hijjah, that Allah (SWT) sent down the last of the revelations, completing the religion of Islam. It is also known as the day of Arafat, on which Allah (SWT) fulfilled His favor upon His people. As stated in Surah Maidah:

*“This day I have perfected for you your religion and completed My favor upon you and have approved for you Islam as religion.” (Quran 5:3)*

**6. Expiation of sins**

According to the Prophetic tradition, fasting on [the day of Arafat](https://www.islamicfinder.org/iqra/this-is-what-gives-so-much-importance-to-the-day-of-arafat-in-islam/) expiates sins for two years – the preceding year and the year to come. It is a day of forgiveness and mercy.

*Reported by Abu Qutaadah: the Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him) was asked about fasting on the day of ‘Arafa (9th of Dhu’I-Hijja), whereupon he said: ‘It expiates the sins of the preceding year and the coming year.’” (Sahih Muslim 6:2603)*

**7. Fasting during the ten days of Dhul-Hijjah equal to fasting for one year**

According to the ahadith, fasting on any one of the ten days of Dhul-Hijjah is equivalent to fasting for one whole year in the sight of Allah (SWT) and saying your Tahajjud prayers on any one of these ten nights is equivalent to performing those prayers on the blessed night of “Layla-tul Qadar” (which is better than a thousand months).

*Abu Hurairah (may Allah be pleased with him) relates that the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) said:*

*“There are no days more loved to Allah for you to worship Him therein than the ten days of Dhul Hijjah. Fasting any day during it is equivalent to fasting one year and to offer salatul tahajjud (late-night prayer) during one of its nights is like performing the late night prayer on the night of power. [i.e., Lailatul Qadr].” (Tirmidhi 758)*

And lastly, on the 10th of Dhul-Hijjah, Muslims across the globe celebrate the auspicious event of Eid ul-Adha. For those of us who are not able to perform Hajj, can still reap the immense rewards and blessings offered in the first ten days of Dhul-Hijjah by engaging in devoted supplication, worship, voluntary fasting, giving charity and doing dhikr. As Muslims, we should not let this tremendous opportunity slip through our fingers and we should make the most of it.

**You must do these 5 things in the first ten days of Dhul Hijjah**

One should definitely make the most of these days and get in touch with Allah.

*Lifestyle*

The month of Dhul Hijjah is one of the most blessed months in the Islamic calendar. In a hadith reported by Ibn Abbas, the Holy Prophet (PBUH) is reported to have said that:

*“There are no days in which righteous deeds are more beloved to Allah than these ten days.” The people asked, “Not even jihad for the sake of Allah?” He said, “Not even jihad for the sake of Allah, except in the case of a man who went out to fight giving himself and his wealth up for the cause, and came back with nothing” (Bukhari 2:457).*

In light of this hadith then, there are certain things that one must do in the first 10 days of this beloved month so as to be able to reap as many rewards as possible. This is because if the first ten days supersede Jihad to some level, then they must be really special in the eyes of Allah almighty.

**Perform Hajj**

The first and foremost duty on any Muslim, who is eligible for the holy pilgrimage, is to perform Hajj. It is one of the 5 pillars upon which the foundation of Islam is based and it is our responsibility to fulfill the required obligations towards the Almighty. Hajj is only obligatory once in any person’s lifetime and for those who are not fortunate enough – in terms of health and means – there are other ways to make the most of Dhul Hijjah.

**Keep Fasts**

Another thing that one should do in first few days of Dhul Hijjah is to keep fasts. The first ten days are of significance when it comes to fasting but the 9th day which is the day of Arafah is of even greater significance. It is Sunnah to fast on the 9th day and Prophet (PBUH) encouraged us to keep fast and do good deeds especially on this day. In a hadith the Prophet (PBUH) has stated the significance of fasting in the eyes of the Lord Almighty:

*“All the deeds of the son of Adam are for him, except for fasting, which is for Me and I am the One Who will reward him for it” (Bukhari 1805).*

However, it is prohibited to fast on the tenth day of Dhul Hijjah as it is a day of celebration for the Muslim community.

**Offer a sacrificial animal in the name of the Lord**

*“Their meat will not reach Allah, nor will their blood, but what reaches Him is piety from you. Thus have We subjected them to you that you may glorify Allah for that [to] which He has guided you; and give good tidings to the doers of good” (Quran 22:37).*

The month of Dhul Hijjah is a tribute to the sacrifice of Abraham and in this month all Muslims should sacrifice an animal in the way of Allah just like Abraham did, as a testament of unwavering faith in the Lord Almighty. The sacrifice must be given on between the 10th to 12th Dhul Hijjah, as these are the designated and preferred dates – sacrifice on any other days of the month do not hold the same kind of significance.

**Be more charitable**

There are many rewards for performing good deeds during these ten days and so one should try and give as much in charity as possible.

*“If you loan Allah a goodly loan, He will multiply it for you and forgive you. And Allah is Most Appreciative and Forbearing” (Quran 64:17).*

A good loan means a charitable deed and if the Lord promises forgiveness in reward for charity, then what better gift is there than to accept His forgiveness?

On days that rewards become manifold and Allah’s mercy descends upon us, one should take such an opportunity and make the most of it. Giving charity not only helps others but also helps those who give because Allah does not let any good deed go unrewarded. Hence the first ten days of Dhul Hijjah are the best days to make up for lost time with the Lord.

**Remember Allah**

Those Muslims who are unable to perform Hajj should occupy themselves in worshipping Allah as much as possible: offer the obligatory prayers, read Quran, do Dhikr and make Dua for themselves and the whole of the community. In Surah Baqarah the Lord says:

*“And when My servants ask you, [O Muhammad], concerning Me - indeed I am near. I respond to the invocation of the supplicant when he calls upon Me. So let them respond to Me [by obedience] and believe in Me that they may be [rightly] guided” (Quran 2:186).*

If this is how Allah Almighty feels when His men call upon Him, just imagine how significant it would be to call upon Him and invoke His mercy and blessings on the special days.

One should definitely make the most of these days and get in touch with the Lord who is the Sole Protector and Guardian and who loves us the most.

**10 easy ways to earn thawab in a minute**

Ever thought about what you can achieve in a minute?

*Lifestyle*

Sometimes it all boils down to the minutes of the day. The minute you zone out during a class lecture, the minute it takes for you to walk from your office cubicle to your car, the minute it takes for you to wait for that 10:00 AM meeting when it’s only 9:55 AM, the minute you waste looking at walls and procrastinating when there’s work to be done. And yet, you find yourself having ‘no time’ for the remembrance of Allah throughout the day because of your busy schedules and house chores. So what if one utilizes the minutes that go by without us ever noticing and put them to good use? Here’s a list of little things you can do in under a minute to add to your book of good deeds and make those minutes count in not only this world but in your hereafter as well.

1. Take a minute and praise the Almighty for all His glory and magnificence, say “**Subhaan Allahi wa bi hamdihi** “(Glory and praise be to Allah (SWT)) a hundred times over in under a minute. It is believed that those who recite it enough times every day, their sins will be washed away like the ‘foam of the sea’.

2. You can recite **Surah Fatihah** thrice in a minute. By reciting Surah Fatihah, one gains more than 600 hasanat (blessings), hence, by reciting it thrice, one will achieve three times the amount of blessings- inshaAllah.

3. It is never too late to seek forgiveness from Allah (SWT) for the wrongs in our life, for Allah (SWT) blesses us with endless opportunities to seek His mercy and good favor. So say “**Astaghfir-Allah**” (I seek the forgiveness of Allah (SWT)) as many times as you can in a minute and seek Allah’s (SWT) mercy and forgiveness. If said with sincerity, it incurs goodness and blessings in this life and the hereafter.

4. In a minute, you can recite **Surah Ikhlaas** around twenty times. Reciting Surah Ikhlaas once is equal to the reward of reciting 1/3rd of the Holy Quran. And if recited twenty times, it will equal the reward of reciting the Quran seven times.

5. Remember our beloved Prophet (PBUH) in that one minute and send blessings on him by saying the following, “**Sal-Allahu ‘alayhi wa Salam**” (May Allah (SWT) bless him and grant him peace). Allah (SWT) will, in turn, shower you with double the blessings to the number of times you recite it.

6. If you find yourself in need of strength and patience to deal with daily afflictions, recite “**Laa hawla wa laa quwwata illa Billaah**” (there is no strength and no power except with Allah (SWT)) more than forty times, be it in a minute or spread over a day. This verse is considered to be one of the jewels of Jannah. It serves as a means of overcoming life’s obstacles and achieving success.

7. If you are walking and you see something harmful in your path, take a minute and remove it, so it can no longer be a source of harm or inconvenience to someone else. It is considered a form of charity in Islam and a Sunnah. The Prophet (PBUH) said:

*“Remove harmful things from the roads of the Muslims.” (Sahih Muslim, 2618)*

8. Take a minute, ponder upon the blessings Allah (SWT) has bestowed on you, and sincerely thank Him for His kindness and generosity. Take that moment and let yourself feel that gratitude with every bone in your body, for nothing in your life could have been possible without Him. And as humans, we tend to take His blessings for granted. So consciously, make an effort to recollect and thank Allah (SWT) for all that is good in your life.

9. If you see someone in distress or in need of help, do not hesitate, for it can take only a minute. Do whatever you can to alleviate someone’s pain and be a source of comfort to your fellow brothers and sisters, for Allah (SWT) adores those who take care of those around him/her. According to the Prophet (PBUH):

*"A Muslim is a brother of another Muslim, so he should not oppress him, nor should he hand him over to an oppressor. Whoever fulfilled the needs of his brother, Allah will fulfill his needs; whoever brought his (Muslim) brother out of a discomfort, Allah will bring him out of the discomforts of the Day of Resurrection, and whoever screened a Muslim, Allah will screen him on the Day of Resurrection." (Sahih Bukhari, Book 43, Number 622).*

10. Lastly, one of the most beautiful ways of earning glad tidings in under a minute is by reciting “**Laa ilaha ill-Allah**” (there is no deity worthy of worship except Allah (SWT)) fifty times or more. These words, in essence, are the basis of a Muslim’s faith; it is Tawhid, a testament to the oneness of Allah (SWT). If the last words that fall from a person’s lips are “Laa ilaha ill-Allah”, he/she will surely enter Jannah.

So make use of those unnoticed moments of your day that silently pass you by, and make an effort to earn Allah’s (SWT) pleasure and boundless blessings.

**This is what gives so much importance to the Day of Arafat in Islam**

It was on this blessed day that Allah completed and perfected Islam.

*Knowledge*

*“The best supplication is that which is made on the day of ‘Arafāt. The best of it is what was said by myself and the prophets before me: There is no god but Allah alone without any partners, unto him belong the dominion and all praise and he has power over all things.” (Tirmidhī 3585)*

The magnificent day of [Arafat falls on the 9th of Dhul-Hajjah](https://www.islamicfinder.org/special-islamic-days/Hajj-and-Eid-ul-Adha/#arafat) – the second day of Hajj. It serves as the climax of the annual pilgrimage (Hajj) in Islam.

After the sunrise on this blessed day, millions of pilgrims set out for the plain of Arafat, also known as Mount Arafat, located just outside the city of Mecca. It is on this very site where our beloved Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) delivered his farewell sermon for his ummah. The whole Day of Arafat, from dawn till dusk, is spent in devoted supplication, worship, prayers and seeking of Allah’s (SWT) forgiveness. It is a day of unlimited blessings and forgiveness.

In order to understand the significance of this day, some light needs to be shed on the virtues of this day and why it holds such a precious place in the heart of Islam.

**Religion was perfected on this day**

It was on the Day of Arafat when Allah (SWT) completed and perfected the religion of Islam, thereby fulfilling His favor upon His people. This day commemorates the finality of Divine revelation. According to Islamic tradition:

*Reported by Tariq bin Shibab: Some Jews said, “Had this Verse been revealed to us, we would have taken that day as ‘eid (festival).” `Umar said, “What Verse?” They said:–*

*“This day I have Perfected your religion for you, Completed My Favor upon you And have chosen for you Islam as your religion” (Quran 5.3)*

*`Umar said, “I know the place where it was revealed; It was revealed while Allah’s Apostle was staying at `Arafat.” (Sahih Bukhari 5:59:689)*

**A day of gratitude**

The Day of Arafat is considered a day of “Eid” and celebration for Muslims. It is an auspicious event of gratitude, reward, and piety. According to the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him):

*Reported by Uqbah bin Amir: He said: “The Day of Arafah, the Day of Nahr, and the Days of Tashriq are Eid for us. The people of Islam, and they are days of eating and drinking,” (Tirmidhi 4:92)*

And in another hadith:

*Narrated by Uqbah bin Amir, the Prophet (peace be upon him) said: “The day of Arafat and the day of sacrifice and the day of At-Tashriq are Eid (festival) for us, the people of Islam, and they are days of eating and drinking.” (Abu Dawood 13:2413)*

**Day of forgiveness**

If one fast on the Day of Arafat, the sins one has committed in the previous year and the year to come, are forgiven. In short, one earns a clean slate. It is ‘[Sunnah](https://www.islamicfinder.org/iqra/6-easy-ways-to-start-following-the-sunnah-right-now/)’ of the Prophet (peace be upon him) to fast on this day. According to a hadith:

*Reported by Abu Qutaadah: the Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him) was asked about fasting on the day of ‘Arafa (9th of Dhu’I-Hijja), whereupon he said: ‘It expiates the sins of the preceding year and the coming year.’”(Sahih Muslim 6:2603)*

However, fasting on this day is only directed towards the non-pilgrims – the pilgrims are not required to fast on the Day of Arafat because the Prophet (peace be upon him) did not fast on this day in Arafat.

**Protection from hell-fire**

The Day of Arafat is an unmatched opportunity to gain eternal protection from the Hellfire and to earn forgiveness for all sins. It is a day when Allah (SWT) professes His pride in His creation that is standing at Arafat to His angels. According to Aisha (RA), the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) said:

*“There is no day when God sets free more servants from Hell than the Day of ‘Arafa. He draws near, then praises them to the angels, saying: What do these want?” (Sahih Muslim 7:3126)*

**Integral part of Hajj**

Standing on Mount Arafat is an integral part of the annual pilgrimage; without it, [Hajj](https://www.islamicfinder.org/iqra/beyond-the-rituals-the-origin-of-hajj-and-importance-of-every-act-performed-in-it/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)cannot be complete. The Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) emphasizes its importance in another hadith narrated by Abdur-Rahman bin Yamar:

*"The Hajj is 'Arafat, the Hajj is 'Arafat, the Hajj is 'Arafat. The days of Mina are three: But whoever hastens to leave in two days, there is no sin on him, and whoever stays on, there is no sin on him (2:203). And whoever sees (attends) the 'Arafah before the rising of Fajr, then he has performed the Hajj." (Tirmidhi 5:44:2975)*

Such is the magnificence and significance of the blessed Day of Arafat in Islam.