

## Inside Mecca Video

Humanities/ Mr. George

The Hajj is the pilgrimage to Mecca and is the fifth of the “Five Pillars of Islam.” Every able-bodied Muslim who can afford to do so is obliged to make the pilgrimage to Mecca at least once in a lifetime. The government of Saudi Arabia issues special visas to foreigners for the purpose of the pilgrimage, which takes place during the Islamic month of Dhu Al-Hijjah. However, entrance to the city itself is forbidden to non-Muslims, as the entire city is considered a site holy to Islam.

**Directions:** As you watch the video, answer the following questions in complete sentences.

1. What comparison did Iyad Madani, Minister of Hajj for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, make to the preparation of the hajj?
2. What reason did Fidelma O'Leary provide regarding her decision to convert to Islam?
3. What did Fidelma O'Leary have to do prior to taking the hajj?
4. Roughly how much does the cover of the Ka'aba cost to make?
5. When does the Hajj take place?
6. What is the purpose of *ihram* in which all pilgrims dress in simple, uniform attire—two white sheets for men, loose dresses, and head scarves for women?
7. How many times do the pilgrims circle the Ka'aba?
8. What contradictions are found in the camp at the Plain of Arafat outside the city of Mecca?
9. What happens that makes Khalil Mandhlazi, a Muslim from South Africa, upset at the camp?
10. Describe what happens at the “Standing at Arafat?”

Bonus: What is the meaning or significance of stoning the three pillars?