

Saudi Arabia bars visit visa holders from entering Makkah during Hajj season

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The Saudi Ministry of Interior has announced restrictions on entry to Makkah for all individuals holding visit visas during the upcoming Hajj season, from May 23 to June 21, 2024. According to a statement issued on Thursday, visit visa holders do not have permission to perform Hajj, as reported by the Saudi Press Agency (SPA). The ministry has advised those without Hajj permission to avoid traveling to Makkah during this period to avoid penalties under Saudi regulations.

Security measures are being implemented to ensure the safety of authorized pilgrims during the Hajj rituals, with organizational plans already underway.

Earlier, Saudi's Fatwa Council had banned performing Hajj without a permit to ensure the safety and security of pilgrims. Saudi residents have also been required to present permits to enter

Makkah since May 4. Pilgrims have been advised to always carry their identification cards during the Hajj period.

In Pakistan, the Ministry of Religious Affairs has announced plans to facilitate the departure of pilgrims to Saudi Arabia, with flight operations scheduled from May 9 to June 9. On the first day, a total of 2,160 pilgrims will begin their journey, with flights shifting to Jeddah Airport from May 24 to June 9. Departures from Islamabad, Karachi, Lahore, Multan, and Sialkot are scheduled on the inaugural day, ensuring a comprehensive departure schedule for the pilgrims.