

Prayer Times

- The time for *Dhuhr* starts from when the sun passes the meridian (declines) until when everything becomes equal (to the length of) its shadow (excluding the shadow present at zenith).
- The time for *Asr* starts from when everything becomes similar (to the length of) its shadow (excluding the shadow at zenith) until the sun sets.
- The time for *Maghrib* starts from when the sun has set until when the red twilight has vanished, which is the reddish glow that succeeds the sunset.
- The time for *Isha* starts from when the red twilight has vanished until midnight.
- The time for *Fajr* starts from when *Fajr* (dawn) begins until sunrise.

Places where prayer (*Salaah*) is not valid

1. Graveyards, due to the saying of Prophet Muhammad (May the blessings and peace of Allah be upon him), “*The whole earth is a place of prayer except public baths and graveyards.*” [Sound tradition, transmitted by the five transmitters of Hadith viz: Al-Bukhari, Muslim, Abu Dawud, At-Tirmidhi and An-Nasa'ee]
2. Observing prayer (*Salaah*) facing a grave. Abu Marthad Al-Ghanawy (May Allah be pleased with him) said, “I heard the Messenger of Allah (May the blessings and peace of Allah be upon him) saying: ‘**Do not offer *Salaah* (prayer) facing the graves and do not sit on them.**’” [Transmitted by Muslim: 973].
3. Camel barns or other dwellings and shelters for camels.
4. It is also not allowed to perform prayer in impure places.

Prohibited Times of Prayer

There are times in which prayer is not permissible, namely:

1. After *Fajr* prayer until the sun rises to the height of a spear (approximately 15 minutes after sunrise).
2. When the sun reaches zenith at noon (when the shadow reaches its lowest point), until it begins to set. (Approximately 10 minutes before the beginning of the time of *Dhuhr*).
3. After *Asr* prayer, until sunset.

However, some prayers may be performed during the prohibited times such as prayers with special reasons like the *tahiyatul-Masjid* (two *rak'ahs* said upon entering the mosque), funeral prayer, eclipse prayer, two *rak'ahs* of *Tawaf*, two *rak'ahs* of ablution and the likes.

It is also permissible to make up for the missed obligatory prayers at these times because the Prophet (May the blessings and peace of Allah be upon him) said, “*He who forgets any prayer, or he slept (and it was omitted), his expiation is (only) that he should observe it when he remembers it.*” [Agreed upon: 597, 684].

One may also make up for the dawn (*Fajr*) supererogatory prayer. It is also permissible to pay back the *Dhuhr* supererogatory prayer after *Asr* for anyone who missed it at its time.