

# Birmingham Central Mosque

180 Belgrave Middleway, Highgate, Birmingham B12 0XS, England U.K  
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# *Visitors'* *Guide*

# Visitors' Guide: The Mosque

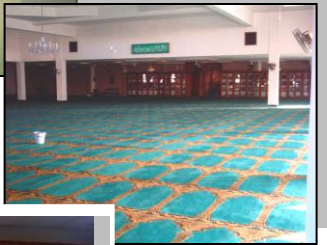
## Introduction

Birmingham Central Mosque is the second purpose built mosque in the United Kingdom, which was built in 1969 and opened to the public in 1975. It is one of the most recognised religious buildings in the city of Birmingham and a result, a vast number of people visit the mosque every year. The mosque has a special Guest Book which visitors have been signing since 1984; *all visitors are encouraged to leave their messages about the mosque's visit in the Visitors' book.*

The Birmingham Central Mosque is open to visitors throughout the year. We receive a large number of visitors from schools, colleges, universities and other institutions wishing to find out more about a mosque and the Islamic faith for projects and studies.



**The dome – The Minaret**



Birmingham Central Mosque is nationally known for reference and advocacy of Muslims and Islamic Issues. The mosque's congregation and staff have been the subject of numerous television and news features in recent years. Much of the media focuses on the mosque's involvement in national and international human rights and political issues as well as the mosque's inter-faith alliances.

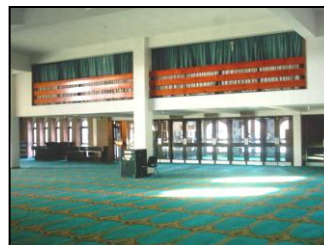
Since the mosque was built, it has become a focal point for the Birmingham Muslim community.

Over the years, Muslims/non-Muslims have used this mosque's premises for events such as meetings, lectures, studies, community and educational purposes.

## Design & Accommodation

The mosque itself has got three floors. On the first floor there is a large Main Hall for prayers which can easily accommodate around 3000 worshippers at any one time. In addition to that there is a Ladies' Gallery on the third floor to accommodate about 1500 women.

The ground floor is divided into two areas providing office accommodation, a community hall (day centre), an extensive Islamic library, educational classrooms and a large school hall area which is used for prayers and other activities. On special days like Eids, when demand is high, both the Main Prayer Hall and the School Hall are used for prayers providing accommodation for 6000 people. On Eid day, there are five prayer services during which between 15,000 to 20,000 worshippers attend the mosque for the special services, and on Fridays the gathering is about 4,000 plus.



# Visitors' Guide: Information



## Modest Dress

All adult visitors and children above the age of 12 are requested to observe modest dress when visiting the mosque. Most aspects of a standard school uniform are quite appropriate except for that which may expose any part of the body.

**Female visitors may cover their heads** if they wish to show respect to other worshippers or to enrich their own experience, although this is optional.

Young children under the age of 12 are not considered to be adults and may dress as they do in school unless they wish to adopt any part of Muslim attire for the day (hats/scarves) to enliven their visit.

## Our Services

The Birmingham Central Mosque Trust offers various services for the public including:

- ❖ Marriage Bureau & Introductions.
- ❖ Family Counselling Clinic.
- ❖ Religious Education visits.
- ❖ Evening School for children.
- ❖ Funeral Services & Mortuary.
- ❖ Community Classes for adults.
- ❖ Booking facilities for private functions.
- ❖ Library, Literature & Faith Conversion Services.



For more information, please contact the Main Office.  
We have access for the disabled and suitable parking facilities.  
24 – Hour CCTV & Lift facility for aged and disabled visitors.



## General Rules



All visitors are requested to:

- Respect the peace and prayer of worshippers inside the mosque.
- Remove their shoes in certain specific areas around the mosque.
- Keep food and drinks out of the mosque, except areas that have been designated as eating areas.
- Not bringing any animals into the mosque.
- Keep the mosque's building and courtyard clean by disposing off litter properly and safely.
- Abide by the general rules of the mosque as displayed around the building.
- Not smoking in the building or on the mosque's courtyard.



## Contributions



Visits to the mosque are free of charge. However, because the mosque is a registered charity, **donations** towards our services are always welcome and appreciated.

We accept cash, postal orders and cheques. Please make them payable to:

**Birmingham Mosque Trust Ltd.**

## Visiting the mosque

All visits to the mosque have to be confirmed in writing by the visiting organisation and the mosque office. Most of the visits to the mosque must be booked well in advance and for times between 10am and 3pm. We do cater for earlier visits from schools as well as some late arrangements from inter-faith & community organisations, but special arrangements must be made for these. We have a number of different members of the mosque allocated to receive and host groups of different age ranges.

### A standard visit to the mosque consists of the following:

- A slide presentation about Islam and the mosque
- Q&A/discussion session
- A guided tour of the mosque building accompanied by facts and information
- Observation of one of the daily or special prayer services
- Interactive activities for school children.

We also occasionally have snacks or treats for younger children which are distributed with the school's permission. Please do let us know if any of the children suffer from any allergies in this respect. For primary school children, we also have special worksheets prepared about the mosque which they may take back with them & free literature on Islam for all.



# Visitors' Guide: Contacts



## Contact us:



Birmingham Central Mosque Trust, 180 Belgrave Middleway, Highgate, Birmingham, B12 0XS



Tel: (0121) 440 5355  
Fax: (0121) 446 6140



[mosque.visit@btconnect.com](mailto:mosque.visit@btconnect.com)



[www.centralmosque.org.uk](http://www.centralmosque.org.uk)

## Visit Guides & Hosts:



**Dr. M Naseem**  
*Chairman*

**Mr. M. Talha Bokhari**  
*Imam – Central Mosque*

**Mr. Wajid Mehmood**  
*Tour Guide*

## Office Contacts:

**Mr. Muhammad Ali**  
*Mosque Administrator/Muslim Faith Guide*



## Directions



Belgrave Middleway is situated in Highgate and can be accessed from the city centre's Five Ways shopping centre by car or by bus. It comes under the 8C/8A inner city bus route which travels through Saltley, Small Heath, Sparkhill, Highgate, Five Ways, Hockley and Aston in Birmingham.

Visitors from outside of Birmingham can reach Highgate using the expressway from M6 Spaghetti Junction.

