

Shrine of Imam Ali (as)

Written by A humble human

The shrine in Najaf where Twelver Shia Muslims believe Imam Ali (as), cousin and son-in-law of the Prophet (s), is buried.

Always follow instructions from shrine staff. The latest version of this pack is online at <https://ziyaratguide.com/shrines/shrine-of-imam-ali>

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العتبة العلوية المقدسة

al-'Ataba al-'Alawiyya al-Muqaddasa

Spelling checked against al-'Ataba al-'Alawiyya al-Muqaddasa (Imam Ali Holy Shrine), official website, imamali.net, accessed 14 October 2026.

Map: no verified pin yet. Search a map app for the Arabic name above. [Open map search](#)

Practical information

Getting there

- The shrine is in the old city of Najaf. Visitors usually arrive by road, and many combine the visit with Kufa, which is close by. We have not yet sourced reliable journey times.

Nearby

- The Wadi al-Salam cemetery lies beside the city.

Etiquette

- Dress modestly, move quietly, and give space to people who are praying.
- Be considerate with photography, and follow any instructions given by shrine staff.

Security and facilities

- Security checks operate around the shrines. Follow the instructions of shrine staff and security personnel and any posted signs, use the designated entrances and allow extra time during busy periods.
- Facilities such as toilets, shoe storage, drinking water and step-free routes differ from site to site and between entrances. We have not verified them for each location, so please ask shrine staff on arrival.

- Accessible routes and facilities can vary by entrance and by crowd arrangements on the day. Ask shrine staff for assistance on arrival.

Before entering

Recommended devotional acts

These acts are described in devotional sources as recommended (mustahabb). They are not obligatory.

RELIGIOUS BELIEF

Performing ghusl (ritual bathing) for ziyarat before visiting.

RELIGIOUS BELIEF

Approaching with humility, and reciting the words asking permission to enter (idhn al-dukhul) before going in.

RELIGIOUS BELIEF

Reciting a ziyarat of Imam Ali (as), such as Ziyarat Amin Allah, and offering a two-unit prayer of ziyarat.

Religious obligations

Ziyarat does not suspend everyday obligations such as daily prayers and modesty. The specific rulings depend on the scholar (marja') you follow, so check their published guidance for questions such as prayer for travellers.

Venue rules

Security checks operate around the shrines. Rules on entrances, bags, phones and clothing are set by the shrine administration and can change. Follow the instructions of shrine staff and security personnel, use the designated entrances and allow extra time during busy periods.

General etiquette

Dress modestly and move quietly. Give way to people who are praying, elderly visitors and families. Be careful with photography, especially of other visitors.

Devotional texts

Not printed in this pack: Ziyarat Amin Allah. The online guide at <https://ziyaratguide.com/shrines/shrine-of-imam-ali> links to where you can read it.

Sources

- al-Shaykh al-Mufid, Kitāb al-Irshād: The Book of Guidance into the Lives of the Twelve Imams, trans. I. K. A. Howard (London: Balagha Books & Muhammadi Trust, 1981).
- Moojan Momen, An Introduction to Shi'i Islam (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1985).
- Muḥammad b. Ya'qūb al-Kulaynī, al-Kāfī, Kitāb al-Ḥujja.
- al-'Ataba al-'Alawiyya al-Muqaddasa (Imam Ali Holy Shrine), official website, imamali.net, accessed 14 October 2026.

- Shaykh ‘Abbās al-Qummī (d. 1359 AH), Mafātīḥ al-Jinān.