

= Al @-@ Masjid an @-@ Nabawi =

Al @-@ Masjid an @-@ Nabaw? (Arabic : ?????? ?????? ; Prophet 's Mosque) is a mosque established and originally built by the Islamic prophet Muhammad , situated in the city of Medina in Saudi Arabia . Al @-@ Masjid an @-@ Nabawi was the second mosque built in the history of Islam and is now one of the largest mosques in the world . It is the second @-@ holiest site in Islam , after Masjid al @-@ Haram in Mecca . It is always open , regardless of date or time .

The site was originally adjacent to Muhammad 's house ; he settled there after his Hijra (emigration) to Medina in 622 CE . He shared in the heavy work of construction . The original mosque was an open @-@ air building . The mosque served as a community center , a court , and a religious school . There was a raised platform for the people who taught the Quran . Subsequent Islamic rulers greatly expanded and decorated it . In 1909 , it became the first place in the Arabian Peninsula to be provided with electrical lights . The mosque is under the control of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques . The mosque is located in what was traditionally the center of Medina , with many hotels and old markets nearby . It is a major pilgrimage site . Many pilgrims who perform the Hajj go on to Medina to visit the mosque due to its connections to the life of Muhammad .

After an expansion during the reign of the Umayyad caliph al @-@ Walid I , it now incorporates the final resting place of Muhammad and the first two Rashidun caliphs Abu Bakr and Umar . One of the most notable features of the site is the Green Dome in the south @-@ east corner of the mosque , originally Aisha 's house , where the tomb of Muhammad is located . In 1279 , a wooden cupola was built over the tomb which was later rebuilt and renovated multiple times in late 15th century and once in 1817 . The current dome was added in 1818 by the Ottoman sultan Mahmud II , and it was first painted green in 1837 , hence becoming known as the " Green Dome " .

= = History = =

= = = Early days = = =

The mosque was built by Muhammad in 622 after his arrival in the city of Medina . Riding on a camel called Qaswa he arrived at the place where this mosque was built . The land was owned by Sahal and Suhayl . Part of it was used as a place for drying dates ; one end had been previously used as a burial ground . Refusing to " accept the land as a gift " , he bought the land and it took seven months to complete the construction of the mosque . It measured 30 @. @ 5 metres (100 ft) × 35 @. @ 62 metres (116 @. @ 9 ft) . The roof , which was supported by palm trunks , was made of beaten clay and palm leaves . It was at a height of 3 @. @ 60 metres (11 @. @ 8 ft) . The three doors of the mosque were Bab @-@ al @-@ Rahmah to the south , Bab @-@ al @-@ Jibril to the west and Babal @-@ Nisa to the east .

After the Battle of Khaybar , the mosque was " enlarged " . The mosque extended for 47 @. @ 32 metres (155 @. @ 2 ft) on each side and three rows of columns were built beside the west wall , which became the place of praying . The mosque remained unaltered during the reign of the first Rashidun caliph Abu Bakr . The second caliph Umar demolished all the houses around the mosque except that of Muhammad 's wives to expand it . The new mosque 's dimensions became 57 @. @ 49 metres (188 @. @ 6 ft) × 66 @. @ 14 metres (217 @. @ 0 ft) . Sun @-@ dried mud bricks were used to construct the walls of the enclosure . Besides strewing pebbles on the floor , the roof 's height was increased to 5 @. @ 6 metres (18 ft) . Umar moreover constructed three more gates for entrance . He also added the Al @-@ Butayha for people to recite poetry .

The third caliph Uthman demolished the mosque in 649 . Ten months were spent in building the new rectangular shaped mosque whose face was turned towards the Mecca . The new mosque measured 81 @. @ 40 metres (267 @. @ 1 ft) × 62 @. @ 58 metres (205 @. @ 3 ft) . The number of gates as well as their names remained the same . The enclosure walls were made of stones laid in mortar . The palm trunk columns were replaced by stone columns which were joined by iron clamps . Teakwood was used in reconstructing the ceiling .

== Middle years ==

In 707 , Umayyad caliph Al Walid ibn Abd al Malik renovated the mosque . It took three years for the work to be completed . Raw materials were procured from the Byzantine Empire . The area of the mosque was increased from 5094 sq. metre of Uthman 's time to 8672 sq metre . A wall was built to segregate the mosque and the houses of the wives of Muhammad . The mosque was reconstructed in a trapezoid shape with a length of 101 @ 76 metres (333 @ 9 ft) . For the first time , porticoes were built in the mosque connecting the northern part of the structure to the sanctuary . For the first time , minarets were built in Medina as he constructed four minarets around it .

Abbasid caliph Al Mahdi extended the mosque to the north by 50 metres (160 ft) . His name was also inscribed on the walls of the mosque . He also planned to remove six steps to the minbar , but abandoned this idea , owing to this causing damage of the woods on which they were built . According to an inscription of Ibn Qutaybah , the third caliph Al Mamun did " unspecified work " on the mosque . Al Mutawakkil lined the enclosure of Muhammad 's tomb with marble . Al Ashraf Qansuh al Ghawri built a dome of stone over his grave in 1476 .

The Rawdah (referred to as al Rawdah al Mutaharah) , covered by the dome over the south @ east corner of the mosque , was constructed in 1817C.E. during the reign of Sultan Mahmud II . The dome was painted green in 1837 C.E. and came to be known as the " Green Dome " .

The Sultan Abdul Majid I took thirteen years to rebuild the mosque , which started in 1849 . Red stone bricks were used as the main material in reconstruction of the mosque . The floor area of the mosque was increased by 1293 square metre . On the walls , verses from the Quran were inscribed in Islamic calligraphy . In the northern side of the mosque , a madrasah was built for " teaching Quranic lessons " .

== Saudis ==

When Saud bin Abdul Aziz took Medina in 1805 , his followers , the Wahhabis , demolished nearly every tomb dome in Medina in order to prevent their veneration , and the Green Dome is said to have narrowly escaped the same fate . They considered the veneration of tombs and places thought to possess supernatural powers as an offence against tawhid . Muhammad 's tomb was stripped of its gold and jewel ornaments , but the dome was preserved either because of an unsuccessful attempt to demolish its hardened structure , or because some time ago Ibn Abd al Wahhab wrote that he did not wish to see the dome destroyed despite his aversion to people praying at the tomb . Similar events took place in 1925 when the Saudi ikhwans retook ? and this time managed to keep ? the city .

After the foundation of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in 1932 , the mosque underwent several major modifications . In 1951 King Ibn Saud (1932 ? 1953) ordered demolitions around the mosque to make way for new wings to the east and west of the prayer hall , which consisted of concrete columns with pointed arches . Older columns were reinforced with concrete and braced with copper rings at the top . The Suleymaniyya and Majidiyya minarets were replaced by two minarets in Mamluk revival style . Two additional minarets were erected to the northeast and northwest of the mosque . A library was built along the western wall to house historic Qurans and other religious texts .

In 1974 , King Faisal added 40 @ 440 square metres to the mosque . The area of the mosque was also expanded during the reign of King Fahd in 1985 . Bulldozers were used to demolish buildings around the mosque . In 1992 , when it was completed , the area of the mosque became 1 @ 7 million square feet . Escalators and 27 courtyards were among the additions to the mosque .

A \$ 6 billion project for increasing the area of the mosque was announced in September 2012 . RT reported that after the end of the work , it would accommodate 1 @ 6 million people . In March of

the following year , Saudi Gazette wrote " 95 percent of the demolition work has been completed . About 10 hotels to the eastern side of the expansion were leveled to the ground in addition to a number of houses and other utilities to make way for the expansion . "

= = Architecture = =

The two tiered mosque has a rectangular plan . The Ottoman prayer hall faces towards the south . It has a flat paved roof topped with 27 sliding domes on square bases . Holes pierced into the base of each dome illuminate the interior . The roof is also used for prayer during peak times , when the domes slide out on metal tracks to shade areas of the roof , creating light wells for the prayer hall . At these times , the courtyard of the Ottoman mosque is also shaded with umbrellas affixed to freestanding columns . The roof is accessed by stairs and escalators . The paved area around the mosque is also used for prayer , equipped with umbrella tents . Sliding Domes and retractable umbrella @-@ like canopies are designed by the German architect Mahmoud Bodo Rasch and his firm SL Rasch GmbH and Buro Happold .

= = = Riad ul @-@ Jannah = = =

The heart of the mosque houses a very special but small area named Riad ul @-@ Jannah (Gardens of Paradise) . It extends from Muhammad 's tomb (Rawdah) to his pulpit (minbar) . Pilgrims attempt to visit the confines of the area , for there is a tradition that supplications and prayers uttered here are never rejected . Entrance into the area is not always possible , especially during the Hajj season , as the space can only accommodate a few hundred people .

Riad ul @-@ Jannah is considered to be a part Jannah (Paradise) . It was narrated from Abu Hurayrah that Muhammad said , " The area between my house and my minbar is one of the gardens of Paradise , and my minbar is on my cistern (hawd) . "

= = = Rawdah = = =

As per Muhammad , Rawdah is also in Heaven , the same Rawdah which is currently in the mosque . It is floored with Green Carpet just to identify it , and the entire Mosque is floored with red carpet . It holds the tomb of Muhammad and two of his companions and first Caliphs , Abu Bakr and Umar ibn al @-@ Khattab . A fourth grave is reserved for Jesus , as it is believed that he will return and will be buried at the site . The site is covered by the Green Dome . It was constructed in 1817 C.E. during the reign of Ottoman Sultan Mahmud II and painted green in 1837 C.E.

= = = Mihrab = = =

There are two mihrabs in the mosque , one was built by Muhammad and another was built by the third Rashidun caliph Uthman . The one built by the latter was larger than that of Muhammad 's and act as the functional mihrab , whereas Muhammad 's mihrab is a " commemorative " mihrab . Besides the mihrab , the mosque also has other niches which act as indicators for praying . This include mihrab al @-@ tahajjud which was built by Muhammad for the tahajjud , mihrab Fatima .

= = = Minbar = = =

The original minbar used by Muhammad was a " wood block of date tree " . This was replaced by him with a tamarisk one , which had dimensions of 50 centimetres (0 @-@ 50 m) x 125 metres (410 ft) . Also in 629 , a three staired ladder was added to it . The first two caliphs , Abu Bakr and Umar , did not use the third step " due to respect for the Prophet " , but the third caliph Uthman placed a fabric dome over it and the rest of the stairs were covered with ebony . The minbar was replaced by Baybars I in 1395 and later by Shaykh al @-@ Mahmudi in 1417 . This was also replaced by a marble one by Qaitbay in the late fifteenth century , which as of August 2013 , is still

used in the mosque .

== Minarets ==

The first minarets (four in number) of 26 feet (7 @. 9 m) high were constructed by Umar . In 1307 , a minaret titled Bab al @-@ Salam was added by Muhammad ibn Kalavun which was renovated by Mehmed IV . After the renovation project of 1994 , there were ten minarets which were 104 metres (341 ft) high . The minarets ' upper , bottom and middle portion are cylindrical , octagonal and square shaped respectively .