

I'tikaaf Rules / Guidelines for ISA

Purpose:

It is an honor to host you and take care of you during this year's I'tikaaf. Please let us know if you need anything during your stay, and we will do our best to provide it, Insha'Allah. This document provides rules and guidelines for I'tikaaf. Please read and understand them carefully before you register.

Registration and Selection Process

1. The I'tikaaf Rules/guidelines will be enforced by designated people. The primary contact is Br. Razzak Shaikh at (770) 363-8354.
 2. All mu'takifeen (Sunnah or Nafli) are required to register with ISA.
 3. Insha'Allah, this year we can accommodate 20 brothers for Sunnah I'tikaaf (full 10 days). Only people 18 yrs or older will be considered for Sunnah I'tikaaf.
 4. Nafli I'tikaaf also requires registration. Participants must be 16 yrs or older.
 5. If the number of registrants is more than what we can accommodate, selection will be made based on two criteria:
 - a. People registering for the first time or after at least a two year break
 - b. Order of registration
 6. The final decision will be made by the I'tikaaf committee, and selected individuals will be informed no later than March 3, 2026.
 7. ISA reserves the right to revoke participation if guidelines are violated or if behavior disrupts the sanctity, safety, or order of the masjid.
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Definition of Sunnah I'tikaaf

Sunnah I'tikaaf refers to residing continuously in the masjid for the last ten days and nights of Ramadan. It begins before Maghrib on the 20th of Ramadan and ends at Maghrib on the last day of Ramadan.

Mu'takifeen must remain within the designated masjid boundaries during this time. Leaving the masjid without a valid Shar'ee excuse may invalidate the Sunnah I'tikaaf.

Valid excuses include use of restroom facilities, wudhu, required shower, collecting meals (if not served within the I'tikaaf area), or medical necessity.

Leaving for social visits, parking lot conversations, fresh air breaks, or other non-essential reasons is not permitted.

Please take time to read Fiqhi rules for I'tikaaf and reach out to our Imam with any questions.

Definition of Nafli I'tikaaf

Nafli I'tikaaf refers to voluntary I'tikaaf for any duration of time. A person may intend Nafli I'tikaaf for a few hours, a night, or multiple days.

Nafli participants must adhere to all masjid rules and designated areas. While Nafli I'tikaaf does not require continuous residence for ten full days, participants are expected to maintain the sanctity, order, and guidelines of the masjid during their stay.

I'tikaaf and Masjid Stay Rules:

1. Maintain the sanctity of the Masjid. Mu'takifeen must maintain proper dress code and decorum (i.e. no shorts).
2. The primary purpose of I'tikaaf is to engage in deep worship of Allah. Please be mindful of bringing or using any device that distracts from this goal and be careful not to disturb fellow mu'takifeen. Contact Br. Razzak with any questions.
3. Sunnah I'tikaaf participants must remain within the designated masjid boundaries, leaving only to have meals (gym) or to use restroom facilities.
4. A special area will be clearly marked for the Sunnah mu'takifeen only. At Isha Iqama /Salaat time, ALL BELONGINGS must be moved to the designated storage location as instructed by Br Razzak.
5. No food or drinks are allowed in prayer areas.
6. Any dependent adult (someone unable to care for himself) must be accompanied by an immediate family member at all times. Mu'takifeen with any health issues must notify management in advance.
7. In case of a medical emergency, ISA reserves the right to contact emergency services and/or family members as necessary.
8. Please do not ask family members or friends for Iftar or sahoor. Only the organizers may invite others to join, primarily reserved for new Muslims or travelers. Social visits inside the I'tikaaf area are not permitted.
9. Everyone must attend a short mandatory class on the spiritual guidelines and logistics of I'tikaaf by our Imam after Maghrib on the first night of I'tikaaf.

10. Br. Razzak will be responsible for the day-to-day affairs of the Mu'takifeen. If any concern cannot be resolved, Br. Ali Aiello will be involved in the final resolution/decision making.
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Parking Guidelines for Sunnah I'tikaaf:

We strongly recommend that you do not bring your car to the masjid and instead arrange to be dropped off. This will help preserve parking for community members. If you must park, please use the spots farthest in the lot near the Panacea Drive entrance.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR WHAT TO BRING WITH YOU

This is not an exhaustive list but includes the majority of items you should have with you during I'tikaaf:

- Bedding (sleeping bag/matt, pillow, sheet). Space will be limited to approximately 6'x4'
- Quran (physical copy)
- Other reading material (physical copies)
- Deodorant and Toiletries (Toothbrush and toothpaste)
- Towel (showers will be available for use)
- Medications
- A couple pairs of clothes
- Warm clothing (e.g., sweatshirt, fleece). Temperature can change considerably in the prayer space.
- Glasses (if necessary)
- Journal and pen(s)
- Ear plugs
- Eye Mask (Emergency lights in the musalla remain on for safety)
- Reusable water bottle and cups for tea/coffee

Food Policy:

Every year several generous community members sponsor food, and there is sufficient food available for mu'takifeen. If you have special dietary restrictions, please make your own arrangements and notify the organizers in advance so quantities can be adjusted and food waste prevented. Basic items (bread, milk, yogurt, boiled eggs, honey, olive etc.) are usually stocked.

Sleeping arrangements:

Sleeping arrangements will be randomly assigned. To ensure everyone's comfort, please adhere to your assigned space. If there are concerns, notify the organizers. All sleeping gear and personal items must be put away by dhuhr time so the prayer hall can be clean and usable for salaah.

Special Note about Use of Electronics:

I'tikaaf is a commitment an individual makes to stay in the masjid. It is both spiritual and physical. To maintain the spiritual environment, electronic device use must be limited.

ISA has an open guest wifi policy. PLEASE use it wisely and only as needed. Use of devices for social media browsing, streaming entertainment, watching sports/shows, or extended phone conversations is not permitted within the I'tikaaf space.

In case of any issues, contact the organizers. Repeated misuse may result in disciplinary action.

I'tikaf Signup Form:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/11UESP5XJDhuBp9hUdUzYij9X3x1Jmq6MZqlODipAGf0/edit>