

Salah when *travelling*

Qasr: when you shorten your prayers, and when you don't

THE QUR'AN

No blame in shortening

وَإِذَا ضَرَبْتُمْ فِي الْأَرْضِ فَلَيْسَ عَلَيْكُمْ جُنَاحٌ أَنْ تَقْصُرُوا مِنَ الصَّلَاةِ

Wa idha darabtum fil-ardi fa laysa 'alaykum junahun an taqsuru minas-salah

When you travel in the land, there is no blame on you if you shorten the prayer.

SURAH AN-NISA' 4:101

A GIFT FROM ALLAH

Said by the Prophet ﷺ

صَدَقَةٌ تَصَدَّقَ اللَّهُ بِهَا عَلَيْكُمْ فَاقْبَلُوا صَدَقَتَهُ

Sadaqatun tasaddaqallahu biha 'alaykum, faqbalu sadaqatah

It is a charity Allah has given you, so accept His charity.

SAHIH MUSLIM 686

WHO COUNTS AS A TRAVELLER (MUSAFIR) · HANAFI

- You set out intending to go **about 78 km (48 miles) or more** from your town.
- Qasr starts once you have passed the last houses of your town or city, not before you leave home.
- It lasts until you return, or until you decide to stay **15 days or more** in one place. Then you pray in full there.

WHAT CHANGES ON THE JOURNEY

PRAYER	FAJR	DHUHR	ASR	MAGHRIB	ISHA	WITR
At home	2	4	4	3	4	3
Travelling	2	2	2	3	2	3

Only the four-rak'ah fard prayers become two. Witr stays three. The sunnah prayers may be left when you are on the move or in a hurry, but pray them when you are settled, and try not to leave the two sunnah of Fajr.

HOW IT BEGAN

Two rak'ahs, kept for the traveller

الصَّلَاةُ أَوَّلُ مَا فُرِضَتْ رَكْعَتَيْنِ فَأُقِرَّتْ صَلَاةُ السَّفَرِ، وَأُتِمَّتْ صَلَاةُ الْحَضَرِ

As-salatu awwalu ma furidat rak'atayn, fa uqirrat salatus-safar wa utimmat salat-ul-hadar

When Salah was first made fard it was two rak'ahs. The traveller's prayer was kept as it was, and the resident's prayer was completed.

SAHIH AL-BUKHARI 1090



Common *situations*

Hanafi rulings for the traveller

QASR IS WAJIB

Don't pray four on purpose

In the Hanafi school shortening is required, not just allowed. If you prayed four by mistake and sat after the second rak'ah, do Sajdah Sahw and the extra two count as nafl. If you did not sit after two, pray it again.

BEHIND A LOCAL IMAM

Pray four with him

If you join an imam who is not travelling, follow him and pray the full four rak'ahs, even if you join late.

IF YOU LEAD LOCALS

Pray two, they complete

A travelling imam prays two and gives salam, and tells the people: "Complete your prayer, we are travellers." They stand and finish the last two rak'ahs on their own, without reciting.

NO JOINING PRAYERS

Each prayer in its own time

In the Hanafi school, Dhuhr and Asr, or Maghrib and Isha, are not joined in one time while travelling. Joining is only at 'Arafah and Muzdalifah in Hajj. You may pray Dhuhr near the end of its time and Asr at the start of its time.

NOT SURE HOW LONG YOU'LL STAY

Waiting day by day

If you keep meaning to leave "tomorrow" and never decide on 15 days, you stay a traveller and keep shortening, however long it lasts.

YOUR HOMETOWN

Full prayer at home

When you reach your own hometown, where you live, you pray in full straight away, even for a short visit.

MISSED ON THE JOURNEY

Make it up as it was owed

A prayer missed while travelling is made up as two, even at home. A prayer missed at home is made up as four, even on a journey.

ON A TRAIN, BUS OR PLANE

Stand and face the qiblah if you can

Pray standing, facing the qiblah, if there is a way to. If you truly cannot, pray as you are able and ask a scholar whether to repeat it.

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