

# Visitors' Guide: To SMMTL

## Introduction to

### Southampton Medina Mosque Trust Ltd

Southampton Medina Mosque is the first purpose built Mosque in the south of England. The building work started in 1990. The Mosque has been built with the donations of time and money by the Muslim community of Southampton with the land upon which it is built having been sold to the Muslim community by the local authorities. The Mosque first opened its doors to the public in 2001. It is one of the most recognised and noticeable religious buildings in the city of Southampton.

The Mosque is open to visitors throughout the year. We receive a large number of visitors from schools, colleges, universities and other public body institutions. The Mosque acts as a resource for anyone wishing to find out more about the Mosque and the Islamic faith.

Everyone is welcome to visit the Mosque. The Mosque has a Guest Book which visitors are encouraged to sign and leave their comments.



The Mosque is managed by the Southampton Medina Mosque Trust Limited (the SMMTL), a registered charity and a company limited by guarantee. Members of the Trust meet once every year to elect a Board of Trustees which then elects its office bearers.

The SMMTL is an affiliate of the national Muslim umbrella organisation, Muslim Council of Britain (the MCB) as well as an affiliate of the Muslim Council of Southampton. It is also a member of the Mosques and Imams National Advisory Board (the MINAB). The governance of the Mosque and the services that it provides have been nationally recognised. It is named as one of the top centres of excellence mosques in the country. The ability and commitment of the SMMTL to promote a cohesive and harmonious society has made the Mosque a much sought after venue for Inter Faith functions and events. The SMMTL co-operates with the work of the Three Faith Forum and has close links with the Wessex Jamaat. It also has effective partnerships with national charities such as Islamic Help, Islamic Relief, Muslim Hands and Muslim Aid.

## Design & Accommodation

The Mosque is a two storey building.

On the ground floor there is a large Main Hall for prayers which accommodates around 500 worshippers. The premises are Disabled friendly. This prayer hall can be divided to separate men from women. There are two entrances one - for ladies and another for men. When necessary, Men and women pray separately with a divider in-between on the ground floor. There are also two wet room's - one for ladies and the other for men. The ground floor also has a kitchen area where worshippers and others can meet for coffee/ soft drinks. There is also a Mortuary on the ground floor.

All visitors are welcome to request literature on Islam which we will be happy to provide free of charge from our Library. The Library also has a small stock of Islamic calligraphy paintings, tasbees (rosary beads, Prayer mats/clothing and perfume which can be bought at reduced prices.



# Visitors' Guide: Information

The First floor is divided into different areas providing office accommodation, an extensive Islamic library, educational classrooms and a large prayer hall area which is used for prayers and other religious activities. On special days like Eid, when demand is high, both the Main Prayer Hall and the ground floor hall are used for prayers providing accommodation for 1200 people. On Eid days, there are two to three prayer services during which approximately 5000 worshippers attend the Mosque for the special services. On every Friday (Jumma prayer) the gathering is about 500 plus.



## 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, other than hands, feet, face and head.

**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.

In Islam 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.

The mosque can, if requested, lend hats for males and scarves for females to cover their head/hair.



## General Mosque Rules

**All visitors are requested to:**

- Respect the peace and prayer of worshippers inside the Mosque.
- Remove their shoes at the main entrance of the Mosque as soon as they enter.
- Keep food and drinks out of the Mosque, except areas that have been designated as eating areas. Tour guide will explain
- Not to bring 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 to smoke in the Mosque building or on the Mosque's courtyard.
- Turn off mobiles phones or switch to silent mode before entering the Mosque. .



# Visitor's Guide: Services & Contacts

## ✿ Visiting the mosque ✿

To book a visit to the mosque please send your request to the Chairman of Medina Mosque Trust Limited at the address given below. or by e-mail to [chairman@medinamosque.org.uk](mailto:chairman@medinamosque.org.uk). It is extremely desirable to book your visit, particularly if it is a group visit, well in advance. The visits normally take place between Mondays to Thursdays from 10AM to 5PM.

We are happy to consider requests for special timing arrangements for children from local schools or from organisations of other faiths. However advance notice is required. Please bear in mind that the Mosque is run by volunteers. Parking facilities are not available on the Mosque premises but there are many in the close vicinity.

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 schools' 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.

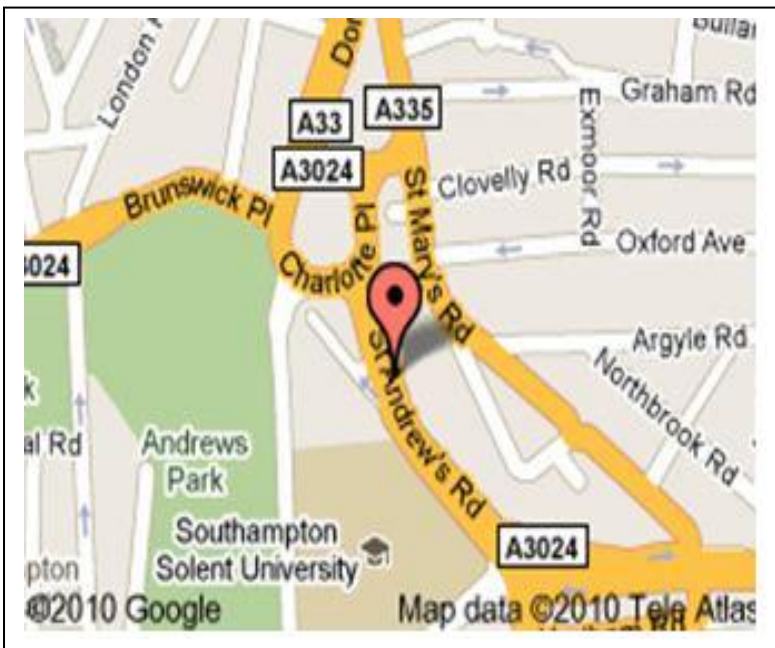


## 🌀 Our Services 🌀

The Southampton Medina Mosque Trust Ltd offers various services for the public including:

- ❖ Marriage information
- ❖ Family Counselling.
- ❖ Evening Quran School for children.
- ❖ Funeral Services & Mortuary.
- ❖ Community Classes for adults.
- ❖ Library, Literature & Faith Conversion Services.

For more information, please Visit [WWW.MEDINAMOSQUE.ORG.UK](http://WWW.MEDINAMOSQUE.ORG.UK)



## 📍 Directions 📍

From M3, at junction 14, exit towards Southampton A33 continue straight

At the roundabout take the 2<sup>nd</sup> exit onto Bassett Avenue/A33 heading to Southampton keep going straight past all traffic light, road will merge into Dorset Road and keep left.

Come to Charlotte roundabout with Jury inn hotel in front of you, take first exit stay in right lane, turn right from traffic light on to ST Mary street follow road and take the first right into Charlotte place take first left into car-park and Medina Mosque will be in front of you.