

## How Salat (Athar) times are adopted by the Jamaat Ibad-Ar-Rahman (JIAR)

(A committee comprising of the JIAR Imams, community representatives from the two JIAR facilities (Fayetteville Street and Parkwood), and building managers evaluates and adopts the Salat times (Athar and Iqamah). The Imam holds the final authority to approve the Salat schedule)

### Fajir & Isha:

1. The times for Fajir and Isha Salat (Athar) are based upon the inclination angle of the Sun with respect to the horizon;
2. The scientifically agreed upon astronomical twilight zone is between  $12^\circ$  and  $18^\circ$  with respect to the horizon;
3. Fajir and Isha times for locations between equator and  $55^\circ$  latitude (**Durham is  $35.9070^\circ$** ) use this range of angles for their calculations;
4. The  $18^\circ$  works the best at equator and as you move to higher latitudes, shallower angles are preferred. Angles less than  $15^\circ$  are chosen to remove hardship at places where Sun does not go beyond  $12^\circ$  to  $15^\circ$  (e.g., Norway);
5. There are various methods which are used to calculate the Salat times. Here is a short summary of most widely accepted methods:

Method	Fajir	Isha	Comments
Umm Al- Qura (UQ)	$18.5^\circ$	Fixed at 90 minutes after Magrib	Isha times are similar to NA
North American (NA)	$15^\circ$	$15^\circ$	Isha time are similar to UQ
World Muslim League	$18^\circ$	$17^\circ$	
Egyptian Authority	$19.5^\circ$	$17.5^\circ$	

6. The Latitude of Durham is  **$35.9070^\circ$** . The middle angle between  $12^\circ$  and  $18^\circ$  (which is  $15^\circ$ ) is chosen to define the twilight for the Fajir and Isha Prayers;
7. This adoption is aligned with the North American Method for calculation of Salat times;
8. This method is applicable year-round.

### **Zhur:**

1. Globally and by all calculation methods, the time for the start of Zhur is defined relative to the Zenith (highest point) Sun reaches during the day. **The prayer exactly at the time of Zenith is forbidden.** A safety margin is used to allow the entire disk of the Sun to pass the Zenith and extra time is added for further safety.

### **Asr:**

1. JIAR uses the opinion of Jurists **Imams Malik, al-Shafi, and Hanbal**, to define the start of Asr time. According to their opinion, the Asr time starts when the length of the shadow of an object becomes equal to the length of the object itself.

### **Maghrib:**

- The sunset (Maghrib) is not when the sun is at horizon, but typically 0.6 degrees below the horizon due to the atmospheric effects of the earth;

The above selection of angles and Jurists opinion are used to calculate the Salat times at the <http://www.islamicfinder.org/>. The Iqamah times are set by consultation in the Salat Committee and considering the ease of the community.

# Jamaat Ibad Ar-Rahman Prayer Time Calculations

