

ART & ARCHITECTURE

The ICGC is an **18-acre** campus-like facility that serves the **Muslim community** and its neighbors of Greater Cincinnati. With a mosque, an educational building, a community center and a full-time school, the ICGC took seven years of planning and two years of construction. The building project was lead by one of the center's major benefactors, Ahmed Samawi. The Mosque was rededicated as the *Ahmed Samawi Mosque* after his untimely death in 1998.



The architecture of the ICGC is a beautiful blend of artistic elements from the **Umayyad** period of Damascus, Syria (661-750 CE) and the **Moorish** period of Muslim rule in Spain more than 700 years ago. The 14,000 square foot Mosque has a worship space of 80-feet x 80-feet, a mezzanine level and chandelier that is 21-feet x 28-feet centered in a **gold painted dome** that has a circumference of 300 feet.

The tall cylindrical structure rising from the northeast exterior of the Mosque is a minaret which is immediately recognizable to Muslims as a **place of worship**. In many Muslim countries, the "adan" or call for prayer is recited from atop the minaret.



The Educational Building, connecting the Mosque and the Community Center by glass-domed breezeways, houses **36 skylights** and the large lecture hall walls are covered with beveled glass, thus giving it the name "Hall of Mirrors".

BASIC FACTS ABOUT ISLAM

- Islam is the second largest religion in the world after Christianity. It is the youngest of the three monotheistic or Abrahamic faiths which includes Judaism and Christianity.
- The word **ISLAM** means "submission to God" and is derived from the root word "slm" which means peace.
- **ALLAH** is the word used by Muslims to refer to God. The cornerstone of this Abrahamic faith is that there is no one worthy of worship other than God.
- **MUSLIMS** (followers of Islam) believe in one God, His prophets and messengers, His angels, in the Day of Judgment and life after death, and in God's authority over destiny.
- The **QUR'AN** is a preserved record of the exact words revealed by God through the Angel Gabriel to the Prophet Muhammad more than 1400 years ago. It is the principal source of a Muslim's faith and practice.
- **PROPHET MUHAMMAD**, peace be upon him, was born in 570 A.D. in Makkah, now part of Saudi Arabia. At the age of 40 he received his first revelation from God. For the next 23 years, the Prophet recited and taught the words that were revealed to him. The Prophet's life and example, known as the Sunnah, is the second source of knowledge about Islam.
- The concept of **WORSHIP IN ISLAM** is everything a Muslim does that pleases God. The required acts of worship are known as the Five Pillars of Islam.

THE FIVE PILLARS OF ISLAM

- **SHAHADA**: declaring one's belief in one God and his last messenger, Prophet Muhammad
- **SALAT**: praying five times a day
- **SIYAM**: fasting during the month of Ramadan
- **ZAKAT**: giving alms for the poor
- **HAJJ**: a pilgrimage to Makkah— for those who are financially and physically able

ICGC CALL TO SERVICE PROGRAMS

- Fast & Feed food collection for the needy during Ramadan
- Interfaith Service programs around 9/11 as well as other times of the year
- Collaborative programs with BRIDGES for a Just Community, National Underground Railroad Freedom Center and other community organizations



Tours & Talks

(513) 755-3280; islamiccenter@fuse.net

www.cincinnatiislamiccenter.org



Tours & Talks

Education and Outreach Program



WELCOME TO THE ISLAMIC CENTER OF GREATER CINCINNATI

With the **blessings of God** and the dedication of many community members, the Islamic Center of Greater Cincinnati (ICGC) in West Chester opened its doors on **November 9, 1995**.

The ICGC...

Welcomes Muslims to worship, learn and gather socially. Welcomes neighbors and colleagues of all faiths to come and learn about Islam. And welcomes friends to come and get to know their fellow Americans who are also committed to giving back to our community through service.

The **Tours & Talks Education and Outreach Program** invites schools, religious, business and civic institutions and people of all faiths and backgrounds to learn the basics of Islam as well as explore the art and architecture of the ICGC. Through this program the Center hosts **3,000 – 5,000 visitors annually** and arranges dozens of off-site lectures, discussions and workshops.

Building Bridges of Understanding Since 1995

8092 Plantation Dr., West Chester, Ohio 45069

For Scheduling please contact: (513) 755-3280;

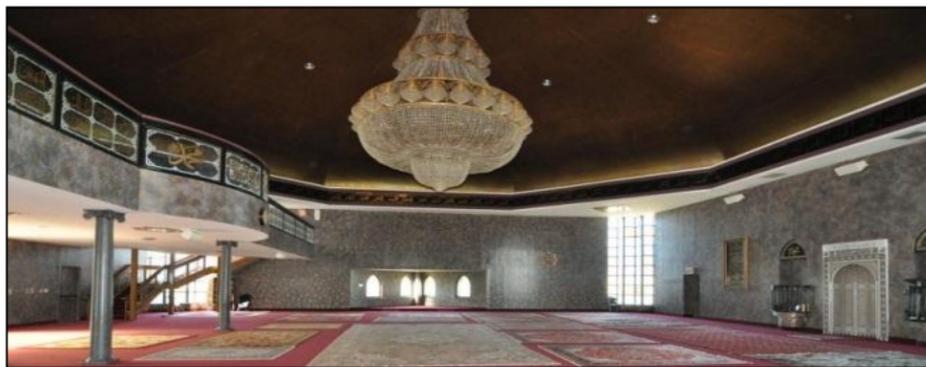
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At the ICGC, we believe the Tours & Talks program is essential in doing our part to build a healthy community. With over **25,000 Muslims living in greater Cincinnati**, we hope to eliminate the fear and misunderstanding that surrounds Islam and its followers and foster true understanding and friendship with our neighbors.

Also available through the ICGC is - **“A Visit to a Mosque in America: Understanding Islam and the American Muslim Community”** - a 40-minute documentary about Islam in America. **Filmed at the ICGC**, thousands of copies have been distributed and it has been broadcast on numerous PBS stations in various parts of the country as well as internationally.

This award-winning **DVD** features a 15-minute special segment on the Art & Architecture of The Islamic Center of Greater Cincinnati.



ABOUT THE ISLAMIC CENTER

The **Mosque** is a place designated for Muslims to **pray in congregation or alone**. The word “mosque” is derived from the Arabic word “masjid,” which means “the place where people prostrate toward God.” Our mosque, or Masjid, is open for the **five daily prayers**, the Friday Jummah prayer, the Taraweeh nightly prayers during the month of Ramadan, and the two annual Eid holiday prayers. Other prayers such as funeral prayers are also held in the mosque.

The **Educational Building** houses the Hall of Mirrors which can accommodate more than 400 people for **interfaith discussions**, lectures, weddings and other community events. The building also has classrooms and conference rooms available for various **educational and cultural activities**.

The **Community Center** is a place for social gatherings and sporting activities. The gym is also used to host community dinners, parties and lunches after Sunday School. The Center hosts a Quranic recitation competition held every Spring. The Center’s staff also organizes a basketball program for boys and girls, and hosts an inter-school final tournament drawing dozens of Sunday Schools from several states. In addition to the activities previously mentioned, this building holds classrooms for our very active **Sunday School** program.

The International Academy of Cincinnati (INTAC) is an independent private, state-certified, **full-time school** for grades preschool through 8th housed on the ICGC campus. Committed to maintaining high academic standards, the school’s vision is to provide a first-class academic education within an environment that fosters Muslim values and an Islamic education. INTAC welcomes **children of all faiths** to attend.



TOURS

Guided tours are available for groups of **15 to 200 people** and are conducted Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. Special requests can be made for other times. Tours must be scheduled in advance.

Open House tours are offered on the first Saturday of each month. Reservations for Open House tours do not have to be made in advance but a call ahead for times is suggested.

Tours generally last **one hour and thirty minutes** and include a walk through the Mosque and Educational Building. When visiting the center, we ask that women wear slacks or long skirts, long-sleeved shirts and bring a scarf to cover their heads with when entering the Mosque building. We also request men wear slacks and sleeved shirts.

WORKSHOPS AND SPEAKERS BUREAU

The ICGC’s **Tours & Talks** program is a nationally known program that has an affiliation with ING, Inc., a non-profit organization that supplements existing cultural diversity and tolerance programs through informative presentations that develop greater awareness and knowledge of world religions.

The Tours and Talks program offers trained and certified speakers who are able to provide **diversity seminars and professional development programs for the following industries: Education, Corporate, Law Enforcement, Healthcare, Media**. Programs can be tailored to specific institutions or industries.

Educational workshops - including the popular *“Teaching about Islam and the Muslim World”* - are conducted at the ICGC. At your request, the ICGC is able to provide a speaker to come to your school, church, company or other institution to discuss Islam, cultural relationships and answer general questions. Our experienced speakers have participated in lectures, workshops, interfaith programs and a variety of community forums throughout the Tri-State.



There is a \$50-\$500 cost associated with the outbound talks and diversity professional development programs based on the type of organization, program and number of people. A limited number of need-based scholarships are available for academic or non-profit institutions.