MAKKAH

The Sacred Mosque (Al-Masjid Al-Haraam) is located in Makkah, a city on the western side of the Arabian Peninsula. From the places of virtue that Allah has extolled and mentioned their excellence to the exclusion of others is the city of Makkah:

1. The place of safety "ومن دخله كان آمناً"
2. Security "وَفِهِ ذَٰلِكَ الْغُنْمُ الأَلِيمُ" 
3. The place where revelation to the Prophet Muhammad (salallahu `alaihi wassallam) began and from where he was appointed as the Messenger to mankind.
4. Allah mentions: إنَّ أَوَّلَ بَيْتٍ وُضِعَ لِلنَّاسِ لِلَّذِي بِبَكَّةَ مُبَارَكًا وَهُدًى لِلْعَالَمِينَ 

Verily, the first House of worship appointed for mankind was that at Bakkah (Makkah), full of blessing, and a guidance for all of creation. (Aali `Imraan: 96)

Within Makkah is the Ancient House (Al-Bayt Al-Ateeq) for the worship of Allah alone. It was the first place of monotheistic worship built for mankind.

Abu Dharr (may Allah be pleased with him) said:

[سأَلُّتُ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ صلى الله عليه وسلم أَيُّ مَسْجِدٍ وُضِعَ أَوَّلًا؟ قَالَ "الْمَسْجِدُ الْحَرَامُ". قُلْتُ: ثُمَّ أَيُّ؟ قَالَ: "الْمَسْجِدُ الأَقْصَى". قُلْتُ: وَكَمْ بَيْنَهُمَا؟ قَالَ: "اَلْمَسْجِدُ الْحَرَامُ أَفْضَلُ مِنْ أَلْفِ صَلاَةٍ فِيمَا سِوَاهُ إِلاَّ الْمَسْجِدَ الْحَرَامَ."

I asked the Messenger (peace be upon him) regarding the first Masjid that was made in the world?” So he said: “The Masjid al-Haraam.” I asked: “Then which one after that?” He said: “Masjid al-Aqsa.” I asked: “What was the time period between them?” He replied: “Forty years.” (Recorded by Al-Bukhaari, No:3366 and Muslim, No520).

5. إنَّ مَكَّةَ حَرَمَةَ اللَّهُ وَلَمْ يُحَرِّمَهَا النَّاسُ الْخَالِقُ

>Allah made Makkah a sanctity and it was not the people who did that.

6. That which is narrated concerning the virtue of praying in the Masjid al-Haraam:

[صلاة في مسجد هذا أفضل من ألف صلاة فيما صلوا من المساجد إلا المسجد الحرام] [Prayer in this Masjid of mine [in Madinah] is more excellent than a 1000 prayers in any other place except for the Masjid al-Haraam [in Makkah]. (Sunan An-nasai, No:2898).

7. It the place from where Allah took His Prophet into the Heavens on the night of the Journey. Allah (the Most High) said:

[سُبْحَانَ الَّذِي أَسْرَىَ بِعَبْدِهِ لِيْلًا مِنَ الْمَسْجِدِ الْحَرَامِ إِلَى الْمَسْجِدِ الأَقْصَى الَّذِي بَارَكْنَا حُرْثَهُ مِنْ أَيَّامِنَا إِلَّهِ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْبَصِيرُ]

8. Allah has attached the hearts of people to His Sacred House, the Grand Mosque. He made it a place of constant returning for them.

9. Within the sanctuary of Makkah, there are so many signs of Allah and the historical sites such as the fields of Mina, Muzdhalifah, Arafat, the cave of Thore, the graveyard of Jannatul Mu’alla, the hills of Safa and Marwah, the house where Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) was born, etc.