

ENTERING INTO SILENCE

A Sufi walking retreat in the Moroccan desert

with

Karim Noverraz and Luca Salvini

March 13 to 23, 2027

For further information and enquiries: sufipilgrimage@gmail.com

A Sufi Way associated program

retreat organised by <https://www.desert-montagne.ma> and <https://sufiway.org>



INTRODUCTION

Sufism is a living spiritual path which found its origins long ago in mystical experiences in a desert environment. This walking retreat offers us an opportunity to experience how the vast emptiness and silence of the desert connects us with our own inner silence. As we walk into the desert, we are invited to leave behind our attachments, preoccupations and excessive activity, and orient ourselves to Presence.

This walking retreat is open to anyone with a spiritual outlook on life. The main language will be English, translations into French, and Italian will be available.

The retreat programme will consist of Sufi meditative practices and will be facilitated by Karim and Luca, two senior retreat leaders. Amongst other practices, there will be silent and singing meditations, zikr, evenings of poetry and story-telling.

The trek in the desert will be led by Zineb, a professional guide with a deep knowledge of the Moroccan desert. She will bring with her a team of experienced camel drivers and other staff, such as a cook. The camels will carry our luggage, our food and equipment like tents.

CHECK VIDEO OF THE LATEST DESERT RETREAT

<https://youtu.be/pVK-bFE8SqY?si=AU6AcPdUYbKtMvsb>

YOUR PURPOSE

BEFORE THE TREK: We recommend that you spend some time between now and the quest contemplating your purpose in undertaking this journey. We have found in our own experience that the clearer and more articulate we are about our intentions, the more powerful and profound the retreat will be. Stay curious about what this journey can mean to you. The more sincere your explorations are now, the deeper your realization will be later on.

DURING THE TREK: We suggest that you can more easily reach a state of inner silence by avoiding superfluous discussions and by becoming more aware of your thoughts, feelings and sensations in the moment. To this end, we will ask you to leave your technological equipment – mobile phones, cameras - behind at the guest house. One of the participants will make photographs and videos for everyone.



BRIEF OUTLINE

- **Day 1: Saturday, March 13 - WELCOME AT DAR DAÏF GUEST HOUSE, OUARZAZATE**

- You will be collected by guest house staff at the airport or at the bus stop of Ouarzazate
- Welcome and allocation of rooms at the Dar Daïf guest house
- There will be some free time in the afternoon – for visiting the kasbah, the orchards, the terraces around the guest house or for enjoying a Turkish bath in the hammam
- The actual retreat program will start early evening around a delicious Moroccan meal. We will introduce ourselves and the whole program of the retreat will be introduced by Karim and Luca and all practical details addressed

- **Day 2: Sunday, March 14 - TRANSFER TO THE DESERT & START OF THE TREK**

- Breakfast at sunrise
- Departure at 7 o'clock for a drive of roughly 270 km. The road crosses the Anti-Atlas and the ridges of these ancient mountains wind their way through the landscape. Then, we cross the Drâa Valley, famous for its palmgroves and its dates.
- We'll reach Foum Z'guid, a village on the edge of the desert. Then, we'll follow the L'Mdor Kbir mountain to cross the vast Iriki plain and reach the western Chegaga dunes.
- There we'll meet the team of camel drivers in the dunes of Sidi Naji. We'll have lunch together. Then we'll watch the loading of our luggage on the camel backs.
- The caravan will set off. We'll walk around 1 hour across the arid plain, interspersed with the small dunes of Hassi L'milh.
- We'll arrive at our first campsite. Everyone can settle in – luggage, sleeping bag, tent.
- At prayer time, anyone who wants to join those who pray is welcome
- Then we'll share supper. In the evening, we'll meet around the fire for singing, poetry and other practices

- **Day 3 to day 8: Monday, March 15 to Saturday, March 20 - TREK IN THE DESERT**

The following days we will walk through stunning and ever-changing landscapes. The Great Southern Desert of Morocco consists of plains, dunes and mountain ridges. We'll be walking on sand that's sometimes as hard as tarmac, and at other times soft and where our feet will sink in. At times we may encounter herds of camels and nomads living in their brown woollen tents.

A typical day will consist of 2 to 3 hours walking in the morning and 1 to 2 hours walking in the afternoon. Throughout the day, we will have meditations, contemplations, zikrs and other practices. Three times a day there will be prayers for those who want to pray. In the evening we will meet around the fire, sing zikrs and share Sufi poetry and stories.

On Day 5, we will not walk and we will experience a few hours of solitary retreat in the vicinity of the campsite.

- **Day 9: Sunday, March 21 - END OF TREK & TRANSFER BACK TO DAR DAÏF**

We'll walk in the morning. Then, we'll say goodbye to our camel-herding friends and climb into the 4x4s that will take us out of the desert. We'll cross the Drâa Valley again. We'll stop off at a friend's house – a date farmer – and we'll meditate in a magnificent mosque in his village. Then we will then arrive at the Dar Daïf guest house in the late afternoon.

- **Day10: Monday, March 22 – DEBRIEF & MEDITATION IN THE PALM GROVE**

After breakfast, we'll go and sit in a nearby orchard near the river to debrief, share our experiences and meditate. During the evening we'll a meal in Dar Daïf and we will close the retreat.

- **Day 11: Wednesday, March 23 - DEPARTURE**

After breakfast, shuttle buses will take the participants to the Ouarzazate airport or the bus stop.



RETREAT AND TREK LEADERS

Karim Noverraz:



Retreat leader

karim.noverraz@gmail.com

speaks English, French, German

Karim is a teacher within the Sufi Way and he leads a Sufi centre in the south of France. Together with his wife, he has facilitated several pilgrimages to Turkey and led weekend retreats about music and non-duality. He is a passionate musician with a deep interest in contemporary jazz and all Sufi musical traditions.

Luca Salvini :



Retreat leader

me@lucasalvini.com

speaks English, Italian

For the last ten years, Luca has led spiritual walking retreats and pilgrimages throughout Europe and the USA, creating sacred, immersive journeys where the outer stillness of the landscape transforms into a direct mirror for the soul.

Zineb Boutkhoul:



Certified desert guide

zineb.dardaif.boutkhoul@gmail.com

speaks French, Arabic, Tamazigh

Zineb is a professional desert guide and the co-director of the guest house Dar Daïf. In 2008, she and her husband, Saïd, created the *Agence Désert et Montagne* which promotes a fair and ecologically responsible tourism. They offer a variety of camel and trekking journeys in the Sahara and the Atlas mountains.

The company has had the HACCP food hygiene certification every year since it was founded. In 2014, they received the Moroccan National Award for Responsible Tourism.