



Saharan Retreat with the Brothers of St John, 4-17 February 2019

Aim: The chance to have moments of personal encounter with the Lord and to deepen our faith in the extraordinarily beautiful Sahara Desert

Dates: 4th-17th February 2019

Place: Drâa Valley, south east of Ouarzazate, south Morocco

Requirements: Participants must be able to hike 4 - 6 hours a day for 9 days in the desert. The heat at this time of year is not too intense; the average daily high temperature is around 20°C to 25°C

General information: There will be 16-18 participants (with 3-4 brothers of St. John). There will be Holy Mass every day, talks, and times of prayer, with an introduction to the daily theme. Most of the walking will be done in silence. The nights will be in tents (camping). Backpacks will be carried by camel. There will be a day to acclimatise in Marrakech at the beginning and another at the end of the retreat. The desert retreat will be led by a guide from Esprit Berbère, Mr. Hassan Afoukal and his team. The group leader will be Fr. Luc (who has led four previous retreats in the Sahara), who is currently based in the London Priory of the Community of St John.

Price: £600 GBP (or 650 EURO) excluding flights. You will need to arrange your own flights although we will be able to make some suggestions. Budget around £120 for London-Marrakech return flight if you book early. Group flights are not possible because participants will be coming from different countries.

Passport/Visa: No visa is required for European citizens but your passport must be valid for a minimum of six months from date of entry into Morocco (i.e. at least until August 2019).

What will it be like? Watch this six minute video from a previous retreat for an idea of what is involved: *The Call of the Desert – Walking in the Sahara* (available on YouTube).

This is a spiritual retreat and neither a trek nor a holiday. Participants will be expected to keep to the schedule of prayer and times of silence.

How to I register or ask for more information? Send an email to Lynne on elizabethhunterjohnston@gmail.com