

*The Lost Coast Retreat*  
*MEDITATION ON THE OCEAN RETREAT*

**May 15-29 with limited 1-week spots (May 15-22)**  
**Sliding scale cost \$850 - \$700 (full retreat) or \$550 - \$430 (7 day)**  
**Teachers: Susie Harrington and Ayya Anandabodhi**  
**Cook and Manager: Jenn Knochel**

## **Welcome to the Lost Coast**

The Lost Coast is a designated Wilderness area on the coast of Northern California. The coastline there is wild, rugged, and extraordinarily beautiful. The house where we will be hiking into is one of just a few private in-holdings in the wilderness. This very remote, magical property overlooks the ocean and is backed by mountains. To get there we will hike 9 miles from Shelter Cove along the rocky beach. Our food and our heavy gear will be flown in for us. You will also carry a large day pack for the hike with gear we will need for the hike (lists below). If carrying your gear on this hike would make this trip prohibitive, and you would like to come, please contact us, as we may be able to accommodate this special need.

The retreat site consists of a large house with sleeping pads and a few beds, with sleeping available on the porch or on the floor indoors (dormitory style). Camping is also an option--you will need to bring a tent that does well in wind. There are two outhouses, a shower house, a separate kitchen/ dining area, and a wood-fired hot tub. There are hiking trails both along the coast and up into the mountains.

## **Weather**

The weather on the Lost Coast during June is often warm and dry (temperatures ranging from 60's into 80's), but coastal weather can change quickly, and days can be cool, foggy and drizzly. There can also be strong and erratic winds.

## **Food**

Food will be vegetarian, organic where possible, wholesome and plentiful with three meals a day. There will be some protein in the form of nuts, beans, eggs, seeds, nut butters, and cheese, available at all meals. There will be non-dairy and gluten-free options available for those who are lactose or gluten intolerant. Tea, fruit, and other snacks will be provided as well.

## **Dana and Retreat Cost**

The Buddha asked that the teaching of the Dharma be offered freely, without charge, since it is of infinite value, and beyond any price that could be put on it. The tradition of 'Dana,' or mutual giving, has supported Buddhist cultures for 2500 years. In Asia, the monks and nuns offer the teaching, and the lay people support the monastery and fill the monks' begging bowls each morning as they walk through the village on alms rounds. It is a beautiful exchange, in which the hearts of both giver and receiver are opened in joy and gratitude, and love flows between them.

In accordance with that tradition, and in the spirit of generosity, the teachers, Susie and Ayya Anandabodhi, as well as our cook, are offering their teachings, time, and service. The retreat fee just covers the retreat costs: food, retreat center donation, administration costs, and other incidental expenses. After the retreat, there is the opportunity for participants to offer financial support to Susie, Ayya, and our cook. By offering your financial support, you will help support Susie and Ayya to continue living and teaching the Dharma, and our cook to continue to support retreats. It will be warmly and gratefully received.

## **Creating the Retreat Container**

### **Precepts**

We will undertake to follow the five traditional lay precepts of non-harming during our time together, forming a reliable basis for mutual trust in our little community. These precepts are to remind us of our natural behavior when we are resting in our true nature.

1. To refrain from killing and from other actions that harm oneself or others.
2. To refrain from stealing, from taking anything that is not freely given.
3. To refrain from sexual activity during the retreat.
4. To refrain from lying and from harsh, abusive or damaging speech, or from unnecessarily breaking silence.
5. To refrain from consuming alcohol, illegal drugs, or other intoxicants that will unnecessarily cloud our awareness during the retreat (prescription medication that you need to regularly take is excepted; retreat is not a good time to alter these medications).

### **Noble Silence**

Meditation retreats are traditionally silent. The teachers and cook will emphasize silence, both to deepen our practice and as a refuge. All yogis will have the opportunity for interviews individually or as a group with Susie and/or Ayya. There will be a message board if you need to communicate with them at any time. To help maintain silence and to support your own and others' practice, please leave all buzzers, cell-phones, alarms, ipods, etc. in the car or at home. If there are issues concerning a yogi job or personal needs, these questions should be directed to the teachers.

### **Work Meditation**

This is our opportunity to both integrate our practice and to serve the community – our Sangha. Each person will be asked to participate in a daily ritual of either meal prep, clean-up, firewood, fire tending, bell ringing, or other shared needs. Participants will sign up for these work meditations (aka yogi jobs) when we arrive at the retreat location. Noble silence will be expected during work meditations as well, except for absolutely necessary instructions.

# Retreat Details

## Directions to Garberville and Shelter Cove

If you are coming from out of state, we recommend you fly into one of the Bay Area airports, rent a car and drive up from there. There will be a contact list and opportunities for carpooling. From the Bay Area, take Highway 101 north (202 miles). Take exit 639A toward Garberville (Garberville is 0.2 miles off of Hwy 101). To get to Shelter Cove from Garberville, go north on Redwood Dr. for 2.8 miles. Turn left on Briceland Rd/Briceland Thorn Rd. toward Shelter Cove and go 12.1 miles to Shelter Cove. Here is a link in google maps link with exact directions. If it doesn't work, enter Garberville, CA to Shelter Cove, CA and it will bring up directions.

<https://tinyurl.com/y82fydsk>

**Arrival** – Meet Friday May 15<sup>th</sup>, 7:30am. We will plan on meeting in Shelter Cove the morning of Friday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30 a.m. We will give you an exact location of where to meet prior to the retreat. When we meet in the morning, please be ready to hike with your day pack (see list below) and have your other pack with the heavier things ready to give to the pilot. The hike will take us the entire day since we will be stopping often for breaks and for our process of descending into the depths of retreat. The hike is on sand, pebbles and boulders; it can be rugged, and where it is sand, the firmness depends on the tides. The coast changes constantly so it is impossible to predict the exact surface or difficulty of the walk. Be prepared for a range of conditions. It is 9 miles in length.

For Thursday accommodations there are hotels in Garberville, Redway, and Shelter Cove. There is a campground in Shelter Cove and quiet BLM campgrounds 2 miles south of the Shelter Cove Road on Chemise Mountain Road (very close to Shelter Cove). Shelter Cove is approximately 45 minutes from Garberville.

**Departure** – Friday, May 29<sup>th</sup> (or May 22<sup>nd</sup> for those staying for one week)  
The retreat will be completed with a hike back out along the beach, with lunch along the way (provided), and we will be back to Shelter Cove before 3:00 PM. Dinner that evening is on your own.

## What to Bring.

### DAY HIKE

You will carry a day pack for the 9-mile hike. This pack should weigh no more than 25 pounds, or whatever is appropriate for you to carry with ease.

- Lunch for the first day to eat on the hike in.
- the capability to carry two quarts of water for the hike in and out.
- layered clothing for walking (the hike will vary in temperature from the early part of the day to the afternoon). We also suggest a layer for sun protection.
- sun hat.
- good raingear - tops and bottoms (we have had hikes where this was very important!).

- sunglasses.
- sunscreen.
- good hiking shoes (can be light-weight hiking boots or other walking shoes for sand and rocks- sturdy enough for hiking with your backpack).
- rain cover for backpack or plastic bags for gear – this is a must!
- walking poles if you normally use them for hiking (not suggested if you are not use to them).
- we will stop to sit for short periods during the hike. Consider bringing a small item to sit on that you can access easily. A therma-rest or crazy creek chair highly recommended.

#### ITEMS FOR THE PLANE

Please pack the remainder of your items in a duffel or backpack. We will send out guidance about packing as the retreat date approaches. Please know that the plane is small and in the event of bad weather all gear may need to be carried out or flown out at a later date and mailed to you at your expense, so do your best to keep your total gear minimal and lightweight! Soap, buckets and a clothes-line will be available for hand-washing clothes.

- tent if you want to camp—it should be good in wind!
- sleeping pad—some are provided, though you may wish to bring your own
- journal (optional)
- watch—not your cell phone, which is best left in the car—for use on longer free periods
- flashlight or headlamp
- lightweight, comfortable shoes for around the homestead and for walking meditation
- Whatever you will need to sit and meditate comfortably--a cushion of some type, which could be a stuff-sack filled with clothes, blow up cushion, etc.-- and a mat, pad or blanket to sit on. (A regular Zafu is heavy and not recommended.) We do recommend (see above) a crazy creek or therma-rest type chair.
- Clothing (layers, layers, layers) for walking and practicing outside (including long underwear, shorts, lightweight pants, shirt for sun protection) Keep it light--you do not need 2 weeks' worth of clothes as hand-washing and a clothes line are available.
- bathing suit (optional) for hot tub use; men and women will have separate hot tub times
- a small tarp and light pad large enough not only to sit on, but also to lie down on the ground
- sleeping bag, or you may rent a bag and liner for \$10
- towel
- fleece jacket
- wool hat

Poison Oak - The area within the retreat center is mowed grass, however there is occasional poison oak hidden in the grass. If you are sensitive to poison oak, please

plan on wearing closed toe shoes at all times. Outside the center, there is lots of poison oak and care should be exercised at all times.

## **Emergency Contact**

Since we will be in silence and in the backcountry, we will not be in phone contact with the outside world during the retreat. There is an emergency phone at the site, which will be turned off during the retreat, and used only for true emergencies. In special situations (ill family members in particular), there will be a number at which to leave messages and they will be checked periodically during the retreat.

## **Registration**

Please register online at [www.desertharma.org](http://www.desertharma.org). Be sure to complete the Registration Form. This form includes, medical and practice questions, and a release form. A \$150 non-refundable deposit is required to reserve your place until February 15th (90 days before the trip). You can pay the deposit online or mail a check. If you are paying more than the deposit (or when you are paying your balance) we ask that you please send a check. Make checks payable to **Sky Mind Retreats** and send to Quilley Powers 1821 Fifth Avenue, D121, San Rafael, CA 94901.

(Using the online system to pay more than the \$150 deposit is an option, but we ask that you add 3% to cover the fees.)

Reservations are confirmed on a first-come, first-served basis. Please fill out a separate series of forms for each person. If the retreat is full, you'll be placed on a wait list. If that happens, don't be disheartened, as there will probably be cancellations. No payment

Quilley Powers ([quilley@yahoo.com](mailto:quilley@yahoo.com)) is your point of contact for all retreat and registration questions. Please check the website and this document to look for your answer first.

## **Payment Information**

**The deposit is non-refundable.** The full payment is due by February 15th (or at the time of registration if registering after February 15th) The reimbursement terms are listed in the Refund and Cancellation Policy detailed below.

If you apply after February 15th, please include full payment with your registration.

This is a private trip, with no commercial outfit running the trip or profiting from it. Any surplus from the trip balance will go to Sky Mind Retreats, a non-profit 501(c)3, in support of the Dharma. Shortfall will be covered by SMR.

**Scholarships are available.** We would like you to apply if you need support. Please write a short letter describing your situation and how much assistance you need. Please address your letter to Sky Mind Retreats. Please include this with your registration and a \$100 deposit. If we cannot meet your needs, the deposit is refundable. Scholarship

money is for direct retreat costs; if you would like to offer Dana to the teachers and cook, please consider it in your budget.

### **Refund and Cancellation Policy**

If SMR finds it necessary to cancel a trip due to under-enrollment or other unexpected conditions, your deposit and any payments on the balance of the fee will be returned.

This retreat tends to fill and we often have a waitlist. In order to respect those on the waitlist and to encourage timely cancellations, we have the following cancellation policy:

1. Cancellations received 90 days or more before departure: full refund less \$150 deposit.
2. 90 - 45 days before departure: We will refund all but 50% of the base fee (e.g. \$350 for the full retreat).
3. 45 – 20 days: We will refund all but 75% of the base fee (\$175).
4. 20 days or less before retreat start, we will not be able to offer a refund.
5. **A full refund** will be made if you cancel from the wait list.