

## Shitro - Neydren Retreat 2024

June 7 - 8, 2024

### Pre-Retreat Information

#### Directions, Parking and Driving on the Land

You will find directions for getting to Pema Osel Ling by car and public transportation [here](#). If you are flying into SFO or SJC please try Uber, Lyft, or [this local shuttle service](#). Otherwise, you can contact the office to see if we are able to coordinate transportation to Pema Osel Ling for participants.

If you bring a car, please park in **Parking Lot A** (sign-posted). You may park by the Orchard House or Sangha House only if you are staying there. Please do not park in front of the pond, down by the cabin area or behind the Sangha House. Unless you have a physical disability, please do not drive around on the land. If you need to drive to the Shrine Room or Dining Hall, contact the office for a Parking Permit. Please keep onsite driving speed to less than 5 mph.

#### Arrival and Departure

Maps and welcome information will be posted at the Information Booth, across from the pond at the entrance to the property. Check-in time is from 3:00 pm June 6, unless by prior arrangement. Check-out time is 7:00 pm June 8, so that we can get the rooms prepared for the next retreat. You will receive your housing assignment by email prior to arrival.

#### Accommodations

Housing is assigned according to your registration. Each bed comes complete with sheets, a light comforter and pillow with case. You may wish to bring a warm blanket. A bath towel is provided, but please bring your own pool towel. Rooms and cabin-area bath houses are heated. We have space to park but no hook-ups for RVs. If camping in a tent or RV, please note that the outdoor bathrooms near the shrine room each have a shower with hot water but are not heated.

#### Food

We serve vegetarian/vegan options at all meals and meat dishes at most lunches. We will have gluten-free meal options. We apologize for not being able to accommodate individual dietary restrictions or requirements beyond this. If you have high protein or other nutritional needs please bring supplemental snacks. There is limited refrigeration by pre-arrangement. Tea and hot water are available at the Dining Hall at all times. Coffee is available at breakfast.

Dinner at 5:30 on June 6 will be the first meal of the retreat. The last meal of the retreat will be dinner on June 8, unless you are staying on for the Seven Treasures Retreat.

#### What to Bring

- Mask(s) for Shrine Room and public areas (optional)
- Water and/or hot drink bottles
- Rain gear: umbrellas, rain coat, waterproof clothing and shoes
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- Ear-plugs (if disturbed by noise)
- Comfortable warm- and cool-weather clothing (layers work best)

- A warm blanket for the shrine room and for additional bedding
- Sturdy, closed-toe shoes for uneven terrain
- Special chair and cushion, if needed (we provide both in the Shrine Room)
- Prescription medication, especially asthma medication and heart medicines. The nearest hospital or emergency care clinic is an hour away.
- A notebook and pens/pencils.

### Ritual Instruments and Attire

We encourage you to bring your bell and dorje if you would like. The lamas are the only ones who use a damaru (hand drum) during pujas. We will have a selection of instruments at [Dharma Treasures](#) if you would like to purchase them while you are here. We are getting new inventory all the time and some items may not be online.

You are welcome to wear comfortable, modest street clothing, or a chuba, meditation skirt and zen (meditation shawl). We have a selection of Dharma clothing for purchase at [Dharma Treasures](#).

### Phones and Computers

Verizon provides the best cell phone service for this area. The phone in the Information Booth can be used to make free local calls. You may use a calling card on this phone for long distance calls. WiFi is available at the Dining Hall and the Bookstore; the password will be available at check in. The only WiFi in the accommodations is at the Orchard House and is only for those staying there. Please limit your WiFi use to a minimum, especially during sessions.

### Swimming Pool

We have a beautiful swimming pool that is open during daylight hours. There is not a life-guard on duty, so swim with caution and be sure to supervise children (under age 18) at all times.

### Work Assignments

We ask everyone to contribute 30-60 minutes of work each day towards the smooth running of our retreats. These assignments may include changing candles or water bowls, sweeping the shrine room, or preparing and cleaning up for tsok. If physical or other limitations affect your ability to do this, please let us know beforehand. You will receive your assignment prior to arrival.

We will also have a station set up in the Round House for anyone who would like to accumulate merit by rolling medicine balls for our Dudjom Treasure Vases.

### Payments and Cancellation Policy

Please review our Payment and Cancellation Policies [here](#). Payment in full or an approved Payment Plan is due prior to the beginning of retreat.

### Miscellaneous

- **Our shrine room is currently not heated.** Please bring layers, a warm blanket, a hot water bottle, or anything you may need to stay comfortable and warm.
- This is a rustic location. **Poison oak** is a plant that induces allergic reactions in most people after contact so please keep to the paths to prevent contact with it. **Tick Bites:** If you feel a bite and

find a small black spot on your skin you may have a tick bite. Remove the tick with care so as not to leave the head embedded in your skin. Some ticks carry Lyme disease.

- **Wildlife:** In addition to being a Dharma center for human beings, Pema Osel Ling is home to many species of animals including raptors, corvids, songbirds, western grey and other squirrels, fox, raccoons, cougars, bobcats, various species of ants, redwood and other spiders, beetles, flying insects, redwood mice, and wood rats. Please be respectful towards our wild neighbours whilst rejoicing in the benefit they receive by living on the land of a Dharma center; kindly do not feed or otherwise interfere with them. Please do not keep food in your room or tent; thank you.
- **Smoking, alcohol and recreational drugs** are not permitted on the land at any time.
- **Candles, fires and incense** are not permitted on the land at all. We are at a high fire risk year-round.
- **Pets** are not permitted at Pema Osel Ling. If you have a service animal please contact the office.

### **Dharma Treasures Gift Shop**

The store stocks practice items, sadhanas, photos, books, gifts, cards, thankas and other artwork, a selection of clothing, snacks, basic toiletries and flashlights. Cash, checks and credit cards are accepted. Contact details: (831) 761-6274; [store@vajrayana.org](mailto:store@vajrayana.org); [www.dharmatreasures.com](http://www.dharmatreasures.com)

### **Offerings**

It is traditional for individuals to make an offering to teachers and translators at the end of retreats. Tibetan offering scarves (khatas) can be purchased at the Dharma Treasures store and we provide envelopes for monetary offerings. Please bring enough cash, as the bookstore is only able to offer limited cash back on debit purchases, and we do not have an ATM on the land.

### **Treasure Vases**

All Dudjom Treasure Vases will be on sale 10% off for in-person attendees during this retreat. Please see the vases at the dining hall display or at [treasureofabundance.com](http://treasureofabundance.com).

You are welcome to email [office@vajrayana.org](mailto:office@vajrayana.org) or leave a message at (831) 761-6266 with any questions you may have. We hope you enjoy your retreat!