

Meditation Retreat & Chandi Sapta Shati Homa that includes a 3-day Atirudram

May 9 to May 19, 2019

285 Julie Lane, SRIM Center, Forsyth, GA - 31029

Travel Guide

Airline Tickets

- Closest airport is Atlanta Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport, which is about 50 miles north of SRIM Center.
- Availability on most airlines can be found online at kayak.com or travelocity.com. It may be possible to get lower fares by searching for alternative times/dates, and allowing additional stops. Airline miles may be used to book flight tickets.
- Smaller airlines such as Southwest and Frontier offer bookings only through their own websites.
- Ticket prices usually go up closer to the date of travel, so it is advisable to book as early as possible.

Atlanta Airport

International and domestic terminals are adjacent to each other but have access from different interstates (I-75 for International terminal, and I-85 or I-285 for Domestic Terminals). Please click on the following link to get familiar with the domestic and international terminal maps:

<https://www.atl.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Dom-Terminal-Feb-2019.pdf>

<https://www.atl.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Concourse-F-Feb-2019.pdf>

Transportation

The drive from airport to hotels or SRIM Center in the city of Forsyth is directly off Interstate 75 south. The SRIM Center is located about 45 minutes to one hour DEPENDING UPON TRAFFIC from Hartsfield International Airport. Rush hour is from around 6 AM to 10 AM and from 2PM to 7PM.

Available Options

There are 2 options:

1. **Renting a car at the airport:** This option allows maximum flexibility, convenience, cost efficiency if traveling in pairs and independence for traveling to and from airport, as well as locally between hotel and SRIM Center.
2. **Traveling in shuttles:** Groome Transportation is recommended for traveling between airport and Forsyth; ***we do not recommend cab services due to the exorbitant cost involved.*** For travel between hotel and SRIM Center, transportation will be available at fixed times in the morning and in the night for a modest fee.
3. You may research Uber as an option but it has very minimal availability in and to the Forsyth, GA area. We are hopeful this will grow in the future.

Car Rental at Atlanta airport

There are numerous car rental agencies at Atlanta Airport. Complete list is available at: http://atlanta-atl.worldairportguides.com/car_rental.php

Groome Transportation

Shuttles run daily between Atlanta airport and the city of Macon which is about 20-30 miles south of Forsyth, GA. There is a scheduled stop enroute at exit 186 Ingles Grocery store parking lot at 260 Tift College Drive, Forsyth, GA 31029. The Groome website <https://groometransportation.com/macon/> provides information about the schedule and fees; reservations are **required** to ride their

shuttles. **Please make sure that you request to be dropped off in Forsyth at the time of making your reservation.**

For return to airport, Ingles Grocery store parking lot will be the only boarding point for shuttles. The fee for adults is \$37 one way and \$74 round trip and children 3 to 7 is \$26 one way and \$52 round trip. Infants ride free.

Georgia law requires CHILDREN under 8, less than 57 inches tall and weighing less than 40 must have a car seat to ride in the shuttle—please bring the car seat.

Groome does **not** provide care seats.

PLEASE NOTE: You **MUST** contact Groome shuttle 24 hours in advance of your pickup time in the Ingles Parking lot for your return trip home.

Travel time on shuttle is about an hour between Atlanta airport and Forsyth; and about ½ hour between Forsyth and Macon. If traffic is heavy or if you are traveling at rush hour, please allow extra time.

Reservations: Advanced bookings are **HIGHLY** recommended to reserve your space in the shuttles. Please call Groome Transportation at 800-537-7903 or 478-471-1616 to make your reservations or you may make them online.

When booking your return shuttle to the airport, please allow plenty of time before check-in. Plan on checking-in at least 2 hours in advance for domestic flights and 3 hours in advance for international flights. Peak hour traffic on the highway may cause significant delays in getting to the airport. Please note that in 2019 there is construction at the Hartsfield Atlanta International Airport that might impact the amount of time required for you to get to your gate.

Finding Groome Shuttle at the airport: Directions to get to your Groome shuttle can be found at:

<https://groometransportation.com/faq/#gt-find>

From shuttle stop to your hotel

Groome transportation shuttles drop off point is exit 186 Ingles Grocery Store parking lot in the city of Forsyth. If you are staying in a local hotel, you may avail of the following cab service to arrive at your hotel.

“MY Transit (Maha Yagnam Transit)”

Nancy Sims: 478-972-8838

James Callaway 478-318-5380

Geraldine Callaway, 478-394-2030

Nominal charge of \$5.00 per person for a destination hotel stop.

PLEASE give Nancy advance notice of your arrival so she can plan accordingly.

Event transportation

A shuttle service will be available from hotels to SRIM in the morning and from SRIM back to hotels in the night for a nominal cost for each trip. Each shuttle will make multiple round trips from about 6 am until 9 am. The first evening shuttle will depart about 45 minutes after the program ends, which is typically between 9:30 pm and midnight. Because program times vary, PLEASE CHECK THE WELCOME DESK **to buy your shuttle tickets** and for changes in shuttle times.

Accommodations

There are many hotels located within 10 miles from SRIM Center. Please find your choices in the accommodations guide given below:

Each hotel has blocked a fixed number, a block, of rooms to be offered at **discounted rates under “SRIM-LSMY 2019” code** for Maha Yagnam attendees. Once these are filled up, regular rates will be charged for the remaining rooms. Kindly contact the hotel directly to make your reservations. ***See the hotel information provided as the booking and cancellation requirements vary by provider. We recommend that you book your hotel reservations early.*** If you’ve already booked your room without using SRIM code, be sure to call the hotel at

the earliest and request that the code be applied to your booking. In most hotels, you will be able to hold a booking with your credit card and cancel up to a few days in advance without incurring cancellation fees. Please check with each hotel as to their cancellation policies as these will vary by provider.

Room Share / Ride Share

If you would like to find a roommate or share car rental with one or more devotees, please join Sri Karunamayi Yahoo group and post your needs at:

<http://karunamayi.org/world-tour/north-america/rideshare/>

This group provides a way for you to share your needs and directly connect with others to team up for room sharing or ride sharing.

Please discuss and detail out in advance, all arrangements with your partners, taking into account unexpected cancellations, flight delays, and other such situations.

Group Accommodation & Transportation, Roommates & Ride-share:

Kay Burtness

831-247-5847

kate_homes12@yahoo.com

Miscellaneous

- If you rent a car, we would appreciate your offering ride to a few fellow devotees in your hotel to SRIM Center and back. This would greatly help reduce the load on shuttles, as well as wait times for devotees, particularly in the night after each day's program. If you want to go back to the hotel after lunch you will need to make arrangements. Nancy Sims may be available for a nominal fee to drive you to your hotel. Contact her in advance to make arrangements at 478-972-8838
- During the Maha Yagnam there will be annadanam - free breakfast, lunch and dinner on all the 5 days. If you bring snacks with you, please ensure that you have them outside the yagnashala, preferably in the dining area.
- Yagnashala is a shoe free zone. Please choose comfortable footwear that can be taken off and put on easily.
- It is HIGHLY recommended that everyone attending program wear traditional Indian clothes for the Yagnam - saris for women and dhotis for

men. There are new Diksha saris and dhotis selected to be worn at this auspicious 2019 event. All Ritviks and homa/puja sponsors are required to wear the 2019 Diksha vastrams. Selected sponsorship fees include Diskha vastrams and these are outlined on <https://srimcenter.org/shop>. These saris and dhotis are available for purchase in the bookstore. Please honor this program by wearing this year's Diksha vastrams.

- For women who are on their cycle, please remain in your home or hotel room and rest / meditate for the first 4 days of your cycle. Out of respect for women and the temple, you are asked to comply with this Vedic tradition—please do NOT enter the SRIM Center grounds at this time for any reason. We welcome you to return on the 5th day of your cycle after showering and head bath/washing hair. Please understand that is beneficial for women and the temple.
- As the weather may be hot, you may carry with you change of clothes to the event, if you wish.
- You may want to bring pillows, second pair of shoes, cushions, backpacks, umbrellas/ponchos, shawl, pen and paper for taking notes, chanting books, small dollar bills...
- Forsyth has restaurants, gas stations, drug stores, and Walmart supercenter, all in the vicinity of the hotels.
- Please take precautions with your valuables, airline tickets and passports. Contact the hotel front desk where you are staying to see if they can store them securely for you.

Contact Information

Accommodation & Transportation Inquiries:

Vidya Patel 770-712-3139 vidarun@gmail.com

Leigh Moore 404-680-6506 lmoore@bridgecareermangement.com

Group Accommodation & Transportation, Roommates & Ride-share:

Kay Burtness 831-247-5847 kate_homes12@yahoo.com

General Inquiries:

SRIM Center [770-904-1919](tel:770-904-1919)

srimevents@gmail.com