



Things to Consider (Preparation and Arrival)

Preparing for Your Retreat

Packing

- Personal items.
- Comfortable casual clothing for daily wear, appropriate to the time of year. Sunday provides an opportunity to dress less casually for liturgy, social hour, and supper, if desired.
- Alarm clock, sunglasses, sunscreen, a sunhat and sturdy shoes.
- Optional: camera, hiking boots, insect repellent, umbrella, journal.
- Please do not wear scented personal items.

Weather

- Spring and late autumn: Generally warm during the day and cool at night. Average temperature range: low to 45 degrees, high of 70 to the mid-80s. Mostly sunny.
- Summer and early autumn: Very warm – from the high 80s to over 105 nearly every day, and in the 60s to the 70s at night. Our interior spaces are air conditioned. Sunny in June, then sunny to partly cloudy.
- Winter: Variable, from freezing at night, to between 50 and 80 during the day, with one or two hard freezes per year. There is usually a 30 to 35-degree difference between the daily high and the overnight low. Mostly sunny but with some cloudy or partly cloudy days.

Finances

- A deposit --**nonrefundable**--of the price of one night's stay in a room or a hermitage is required for any reservation to be confirmed. The deposit will be applied to your room and board upon arrival. There will be an invoice in your room with places for you to add any additional charges, such as for spiritual direction, when applicable.

Spiritual Direction

- Spiritual Direction is available from Sister Deborah Gles or Father Tom Picton. If you would like to meet with one of them, please leave a note on the community bulletin board requesting an appointment or speak to them directly. The fee for spiritual direction is \$35 per session. Due to the number of requests, the directors usually see directees no more than twice a week.

Massage

- For a fee, you can usually arrange for massage therapy across the road at Redemptorist Renewal Center.

Traveling Here

- We ask guests who have retreated here before to arrange to arrive between 9AM and 4PM when possible, but later arrivals are possible. First-time guests are asked to arrive by 3:30 to allow time for an orientation to our site and a tour of the facilities. There are motels nearby at I-10 and Ina Road and at I-10 and Cortaro Road which you may avail yourself of if you need to arrive late.
- We recommend Stagecoach Express for travel between the Tucson airport and Desert House of Prayer. They will bring you directly to our door. To get the best rates, phone them at least 24 hours in advance at 520-251-8336 or toll-free 877-782-4355 and be sure to tell them you will be a guest at Desert House of Prayer. Their website is <https://www.stagecoachexpressshuttle.com/tucson>; please be advised that your rate *will be higher* if you book your shuttle online.
- We recommend Arizona Shuttle for travel between Phoenix and Tucson; reservations are necessary for the best rates. Please check with them for current rates (\$43 per person each way as of Nov. 2017). Toll free number is 1-800-888-2749; local 520-795-6771; website: <https://www.arizonashuttle.com/>. It departs from the Phoenix airport on the half hour between 6:30 am and 11:30 pm and delivers you to the nearest station at Twin Peaks. For an additional \$15 each way they will bring you directly to our door; to avoid unnecessary delays at the shuttle station, let Arizona Shuttle know when you make your reservation that you would like this service.
- There are other transportation options for Tucson that can be found on the internet at <https://www.flytucson.com/transportation/shuttles-limos/>.

The Desert House Basics

Silence/Solitude

- Desert House of Prayer is a **sacred place committed to silence**. We believe the observance of silence and solitude encourages contemplative awareness. We cherish the value expressed in Rainer Maria Rilke's reflection on relationships –that we appoint one another guardians of our solitude. We are convinced that its observance will help each guest derive the greatest benefit from time spent here. We ask that you honor this value by not visiting the rooms or hermitages of other retreatants, and by not requesting transportation from guests who have automobiles.

Phone Calls and Cell Phone Use

- Desert House has only two phone lines for business use. If possible, please limit all calls to 10 minutes and place them before 7:30 PM. Should someone leave a message for you, it will be placed in your mailbox in the dining room. (There is a mail slot for each room and hermitage.) Our phones are for domestic calls only. If calling out of the country, please use a calling card or some other system so that we are not charged for the calls.
- Please be aware that cell phone conversations are often overheard and therefore disturbing to your neighbor. If you need to talk on your cell phone, please walk down the driveway between the chapel and the main road.

Photocopies

- We can provide photocopying at the rate of 10 cents per copy.

Laundry

- Laundry facilities, shared with our cleaning service, are available on a limited basis at \$1.00/load.

FAX and WiFi

- The cost sending a fax is 75 cents per page. WiFi is available in the community room and library. Reception in rooms, and especially in hermitages, can be spotty.

Library

- Open daily from 6:30 a.m. until early evening.
- We have a fine selection of books, DVDs and CD's for your use while with us. Because they are primarily for the use of Desert House retreatants, please do not remove them from the premises without prior staff approval. Portable CD players are available from the DHOP office.