

A DESERT WALKING PILGRIMAGE

Zen Sand

Sifting the Self

ERG CHIGAGA DESERT · MOROCCO

JANUARY 28 – FEBRUARY 6, 2027

T H E J O U R N E Y

The Journey

The remote, endless horizons of the desert become our guide to clarity. Raw and unhurried, the Erg Chigaga is one of the last landscapes that can genuinely interrupt the pace of a driven life. Wind reshapes its dunes overnight. Sand holds no agenda. And in that vast, unbroken silence, something in the mind finally has room to settle.

This is not a tour. Zen Sand is a 10-day pilgrimage through the heart of the Moroccan desert, for those who seek the conditions to think clearly, feel deeply, or to live simply under the starry night.

Over 7.5 days of supported passage through dunes, plains, and starlit nights, we move together in a rhythm shaped by the land itself. Contemplative practices — mindful walking, deep listening, conscious breathing — become the tools of navigation. Tea rituals, drawn from ancient desert traditions, punctuate each day as moments of stillness and inner return. Silence is observed through most of the day, not as deprivation, but as one of the most clarifying environments you will ever inhabit.

Facilitated by Peter Corbett and Joanna Riquett, alongside a local outfitter with decades of ancestral knowledge of these lands, this is a journey where genuine clarity doesn't need to be extracted — only arrived at.

“There is much to learn by those who understand the language of the great silent places.”

— Harry Carstens, 1924



T H E D E S E R T

Erg Chigaga

The Erg Chigaga and Mair Desert lie south of Morocco's Anti-Atlas mountains, a pristine expanse rarely touched by mass tourism. Its vast plains, sculpted dunes, and ancient rock formations offer a raw beauty and a sense of boundless space. Tamarisk groves and traces of nomadic life punctuate the horizon, yet much of the desert remains untouched, carrying a deep stillness that feels both intimate and infinite.

South of the immense Anti-Atlas chain, our crossing leads us from “gateway to gateway” as the nomads say, discovering ever-changing landscapes. The terrain of the Great South — vast plains and ribbons of dunes — is interspersed with small mountain chains and ridges, remnants of geological folds from the Mesozoic era. We alternate between stony plains bordering rocky ridges, depressions, and golden sand ergs where great herds of over 100 camels roam.

“Wind reshapes its dunes overnight. Sand holds no agenda.”



T H E C A L L I N G

Who Is This For

For those whose lives are full — full of responsibility, full of achievement, full of motion — and who sense that something essential is waiting quietly on the other side of all that noise.

The desert does not ask you to become someone else. It simply offers conditions that are nearly impossible to find anywhere else: radical simplicity, uninterrupted space, and the kind of silence that allows what matters most to rise to the surface.

No prior meditation experience is required. Peter has guided over 1,000 people in seated (zazen) and walking (kinhin) Zen practice, and our group will learn this form together.

We are calling in:

- *Those who have built something meaningful in the world and are ready to explore the landscape within*
- *People who want to move — body and mind — through vast, raw terrain and feel genuinely alive in it*
- *Creators, thinkers, and leaders who know that stillness is not the opposite of productivity, but its deepest source*
- *Anyone ready to walk under endless skies, share stories by the fire, and let conversation go somewhere real*
- *Those who want to laugh easily, live simply for a stretch, and connect with a carefully chosen few*

What this journey asks of you: Stamina and openness. A willingness to be surprised by what emerges when the pace finally slows. This is a vigorous trek through a living desert — not a retreat from life, but a journey back into it.



I T I N E R A R Y

Day by Day

- 01** Jan 28 Arrival in Ouarzazate. Welcome and opening circle. Sleep at Dar Daif guesthouse.
- 02** Jan 29 Transfer through the Draa Valley. Visit Tamgrout's 13th-century library. Local 4x4 to Sidi Naji. Meet the camel drivers, load the caravan, walk 1 hour south. First bivouac.
- 03** Jan 30 Dune plains to the southwest, Erg Zmila. 4 hours walking.
- 04** Jan 31 Southern plain to the wadi edge and Sidi Ahmagh. Dunes of Zair Srigh. 4.5 hours walking.
- 05** Feb 1 A day among the dunes heading north toward the Draa wadi. 4 hours walking.
- 06** Feb 2 Crossing plains and dunes to reach Khald Guerzimi. 4.5 hours walking.
- 07** Feb 3 Reaching the south of the Boutilla dunes. 5 hours walking.
- 08** Feb 4 Arid plain through the small dunes of Hassi L'milh. Bivouac at 550m. 4–5 hours walking.
- 09** Feb 5 Dawn crossing due west to Lake Iriki. End of camel trek. Transfer back to Ouarzazate. Closing circle.
- 10** Feb 6 Breakfast at Dar Daif. Group transfer to Marrakech. Departure.



*What might you discover when
silence becomes your guide?*

T H E P R A C T I C E

Daily Rhythm

DAWN	Wake with the light. Seated meditation (zazen) as the desert awakens.
MORNING	Mindful breakfast. Pack camp with the Berber team. Begin the day's walk.
MIDDAY	3–5 hours of walking meditation through dunes, plains, and ridges.
AFTERNOON	Arrive at new camp. Tea ceremony. Rest. Journal. Breathe.
SUNSET	Evening zazen facing the horizon. The sky becomes the teaching.
NIGHT	Communal dinner by the fire. Stories, silence, and stars.

P R E P A R A T I O N

Guidelines

Electronics: All electronics (phones, computers, tablets, cameras) will be left behind — strongly encouraged. Expect a space free from distractions. Emergency contacts will be provided for families. Guides carry satellite communications for emergencies.

Physical Requirements: Ability to walk 3–5 hours per day on varied desert terrain in good physical condition.

Living Conditions: Seven nights in shared nomadic tents (private option available). Bathing under the open sky with simple shower structures. A return to elemental, minimalist living — simple, but not without basic privacy.



The Facilitators

Peter Corbett

Meditation & Coaching

Peter Corbett is a facilitator and executive coach who guides high-performing leaders into the disciplined, transformative practice of Zen as a path to clarity, resilience, and authentic power. Blending decades of experience building and selling a company he founded, advising founders, CEOs, and Fortune 500 executives with deep roots in meditation and contemplative practice, he creates immersive environments where insight is not intellectualized but directly experienced. His retreats integrate zazen, nature immersion, and carefully designed group processes. An expert wilderness guide, in the past 2 years he's led over 500 people on retreats in the Amazon, the desert, and forests of North and South America for organizations including YPO, Hampton, Summit and more.

Joanna Riquett

Mindfulness & Tea

Joanna Riquett is an experience designer, tea practitioner, and facilitator of contemplative journeys. With over a decade of crafting immersive environments, her work lives at the intersection of presence, beauty, and embodied learning. She founded Mindful Immersions, dedicated to slow, intentional pilgrimages in locations of natural silence, including the Moroccan Sahara and Colombian mountains. As the creator of La Sultana Tea House — a nomadic tea concept blending Middle Eastern, Chinese, and Indian influences — she brings the discipline of tea ceremony into every gathering. Joanna is the author of *A Mindful Tea* and former publisher of the award-winning *Hayo Magazine*. Her facilitation is grounded in deep listening, gentle structure, and years of practice within the Plum Village tradition of Thich Nhat Hanh.

Local Outfitter

Our local outfitter is a family-run organization with decades of experience leading journeys through the Sahara. Their desert guides bring deep knowledge of the land, warm hospitality, and the wisdom of nomadic traditions. They provide full logistical support: guide, cook, assistants, camel caravan, tents, and all equipment.



I N V E S T M E N T

Investment

10 days · Erg Chigaga Desert, Morocco · Price per person in USD

Only 15 spots are available for this experience

Shared Accommodations

\$3,950

Early Bird — until September 1

\$4,500 after September 1

Solo Accommodations

\$4,950

Early Bird — until September 1

\$5,500 after September 1

D E T A I L S

What's Included

- Group roundtrip private transfer from Marrakesh to Ouarzazate
- 2 nights at Riad Dar Daif Hotel
- 7 nights in the desert in shared (or solo) nomadic tents
- Full board from Day 1 dinner to Day 10 breakfast
- All desert logistics: guide, assistants, cook, camel caravan
- All group equipment: tents, kitchen tent, meditation rugs
- Mattress, sleeping bag, pillow, and towel per person
- Bathing and WC tents (separate for women and men)
- An extensive first aid kit

Not Included:

- Flights to/from Marrakesh
- Travel/repatriation insurance (mandatory)
- Lunches on Day 1 and Day 10
- Personal expenses and tips for local outfitters



*“We don’t go into the desert to escape people
but to learn how to find them.”*

— Thomas Merton



INVITATION ONLY · 15 SPOTS

Request an *Invitation*

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