

A Garden Among the Flames

April 12-17 2027 La Loma Viva, Gualchos, Spain

A Sufi retreat with Binah Taylor and Elmer Koole



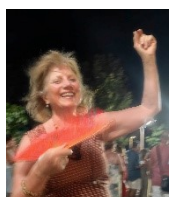
'Oh Marvel, A garden among the flames! My heart can take on any form!'

Ibn 'Arabi, Sufi teacher 13th century

Amidst the agitation of the world and the turbulence of our personal lives there is a place of peace and beauty that is open to all of us. Sufis call this place The Heart. The Sufi teacher Ibn 'Arabi uses the poetic metaphor 'A Garden among the flames' giving inspiration to our gathering. During this retreat we will cultivate our inner garden through silence, friendship, guided meditation, sandtray, movement, zikr (musical meditation), poetry, sohbet (mystical conversation), and other experiential Sufi practices. This is a time to nurture and be nurtured playfully and creatively.

In a contemporary context we will also walk in the footsteps of Ibn 'Arabi who lived part of his life in Andalucia, exploring his teachings and reading his texts by practicing *lectio divina*, a meditative way of reading.

Part of the day we are invited to do some light garden work. By doing so we will nurture regenerative processes that transform both our inner and the outer garden.



Binah has been engaged in Sufism since 1975 and was initiated by Fazal Inayat-khan residing for several years at the Four Winds community which Fazal set up to foster personal and spiritual development. She divides her time primarily between Spain and the UK where she practices as a psychotherapist and clinical supervisor. Nomadic in spirit, Binah continues to travel widely, including Senegal and Hong Kong, where she

has family. Immersing herself in different cultures informs her therapeutic practice as well as strengthens her appreciation of diversity and family life.



Elmer is a teacher within the Sufi Way and has facilitated a variety of programmes related to Sufism. His spiritual teacher is Sufi Pir Elias Amidon. He has completed a training as a Vision Quest guide and has facilitated several silent walking retreats in the Moroccan desert. He has done a MSC in Ecology and part of his professional life has been dedicated to conservation issues and international cooperation in the Netherlands, his home country.

A Sufi Way Associated Programme www.sufiway.org

Practical information

Contact:	Elmer Koole: elmerkoole@gmail.com + 31 6 27093762 Binah Taylor: binahataylor@gmail.com +44 7450 206364
Dates & Times:	Monday, April 12 2027 14:00 -21:00; Saturday, April 17 10.00 - 16:00
Fee & Registration:	€675 whole programme (5 nights) including lodging (shared room), meals, snacks, tea and coffee. Most of the food will be organic and locally sourced. Additional fee for private room (limited availability) €100 To register pay through one of these links: This link for shared room This link for single room
Venue:	La Loma Viva (The Living Hill; www.lalomaviva.com) is a non-profit foundation and a 15 hectare farm (permaculture) on the coast of southern Spain between Almeria and Malaga. It lies on the foothills of the Sierra Nevada, overlooking the Mediterranean sea <i>The venue is residential. Local camping, hotels and B&B guesthouses available in Gualchos and Castell de Ferro.</i>
How to get there:	Arrive in Southern Spain by flight to Malaga, Granada or Almeria. By car: rent a car at the airport. La Loma is centrally located between those three cities, each roughly 1.5 hour drive away. By public transport: take bus from the airport or city center to the coastal town of Motril or Castell de Ferro. From Motril to La Loma Viva/ Gualchos grab a local taxi.
Gardens Generalife Optional visit	Sunday April 18 a visit to the gardens of the Generalife (Alhambra, Granada) will be organized dependent on the amount of interest. Fee to be paid separately. See www.alhambradegranada.org/en/info/generalife/thegeneralife.asp.