



wayfarer's  
retreat

17<sup>TH</sup> OCT - 24<sup>TH</sup> OCT 2026



darularqam  
educational trust

بِسْمِ الْأَعْظَمِ وَالصَّلَاةِ السَّلَامِ عَلَى سَيِّدِ الْكَوْنِينِ وَعَلَى آلِهِ



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# WAYFARERS RETREAT

The contemplative believer who remembers God will begin to enjoy solitude and places of seclusion where voices and movements are hushed... There he will find strength of heart and will, and he will no longer be worried or depressed... Then he will begin to taste the sweetness of worship, of which he cannot have enough. In it, he will find abundance of pleasure and comfort – more than what he used to find in diversion and play, or in the satisfaction of worldly desires... When he experiences this state, many of the worldly concerns will disappear, as he is in a completely different world from the rest of humanity.

– IBN AL QAYYIM, MADAARIJ AS SALIKEEN



## VENUES

# DAMASCUS, HOMS, AND ALEPPO

Damascus has long held a special place in Islamic tradition and history. It is part of the blessed land of Ash-Sham, for which the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) made supplication, saying: "O Allah, bless for us our Shaam... the place of safety for the believers is Ash-Sham." Over the centuries, Damascus has been a center of faith, knowledge, and civilization, with many companions and notable figures connected to it. Among those associated with the region are Abu Bakr (RA), as well as the resting places of companions such as Bilal ibn Rabah (RA), the first mu'adhin of Islam.

Beyond Damascus, the historic cities of Homs and Aleppo have also played vital roles in the story of Ash-Sham. Homs, known in early Islamic history as Emesa, became an important military and administrative center, linking trade and culture across the region. Aleppo, one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in the world, stood for centuries as a major trade hub connecting the Middle East with Asia and the Mediterranean, contributing greatly to commerce and intellectual exchange.

Together, Damascus, Homs, and Aleppo form a historic triangle within Syria that has shaped religious heritage, trade, and cultural life for thousands of years. These cities are frequently mentioned in historical sources and the Sirah, reflecting their importance not only in regional history but also in the broader narrative of the Muslim world.

# INTENTIONS

Intentions are the essence of every action. It is for that reason that the Prophet (upon whom be peace) has said 'Intention of a believer is better than his action'. So we should aspire to grand intentions. One such intention is that of Imam al-Haddad (Allahs mercy be upon him) which contains he high as pirations and it is good practice to re-orientate our hearts to Allah before the start of any lesson.

## The Intention of Seeking Knowledge

This noble intention was penned by the illustrious scholar of Tarim, Hadramawt, Imam AbdAllah bin Alawi al-Haddad, may Allah enshroud him in his mercy. He was blind from a very young age but grew in knowledge and stature to become the foremost educator in the islamic sciences and spirituality of his time. His books are published till this day and he continues to be a source of benefit for many around the world. May Allah benefit us by him, ameen.

Note: Imam al-Dhahabi (Allah have mercy or him) points out to the signs of having a sincere intention or otherwise, He mentions that the one who seeks knowledge for the sake of Allah Most High, then the knowledge he seeks creates in him humility, humbleness and the fear of Allah, and the one who seeks knowledge for worldly gains, he becomes proud with his knowledge, thus argues and quarrels with other Muslims. (See: al-Muqizdah, p. 65. Thanks to Dar al-Iftaa Leicester for this note)



# THE INTENTIONS FOR KNOWLEDGE

In the Name of God, Most Merciful, Compassionate

Bismillahi r-rahmani r-rahim

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

All praise to Allah, Lord of the Worlds. And salutations and greetings upon our master Muhammad and upon his family and companions.

Al-hamdu lillahi rabbil 'alamin wa  
sallallahu 'ala sayyidina Muhammadin wa  
'ala alihi wa sahbihi wa sallam.

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ، وَصَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَى  
سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ وَسَلَّمَ

I intend to study and teach

Nawaytu al-ta'alluma wa-tta'lim

نَوَيْتُ التَّعَلَّمَ وَالتَّعْلِيمَ

to take and give a reminder

wa-ttadhakkura wa-ttadhkir

وَالْتَذَكُّرَ وَالتَّذْكَيرَ

take and give benefit

wa-nnafa' wal-intifa'

وَالنَّفْعَ وَالْإِنْتِفَاعَ

take and give advantage

wal-ifadata wal-istifadah

وَالْإِفَادَةَ وَالْإِسْتِفَادَةَ

to encourage the holding fast to the book of Allah and the way of his messenger, upon him be peace

wal-hath 'ala-tamassuki bi kitabillahi wa  
sunnati rasulihis sallallahu alayhi wa sallam

وَالْحَثُّ عَلَى التَّمَسُّكِ بِكِتَابِ اللَّهِ وَ سُنَّتِهِ  
رَسُولِهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ

and calling to guidance and directing towards good

wa-ddu'a ila-lhuda wa-ddalalata  
'alal-khayr

وَالدُّعَاءَ إِلَى الْهُدَى، وَالذَّلَالَهَ عَلَى الْخَيْرِ

hoping for the countenance of Allah and His pleasure, proximity and reward,

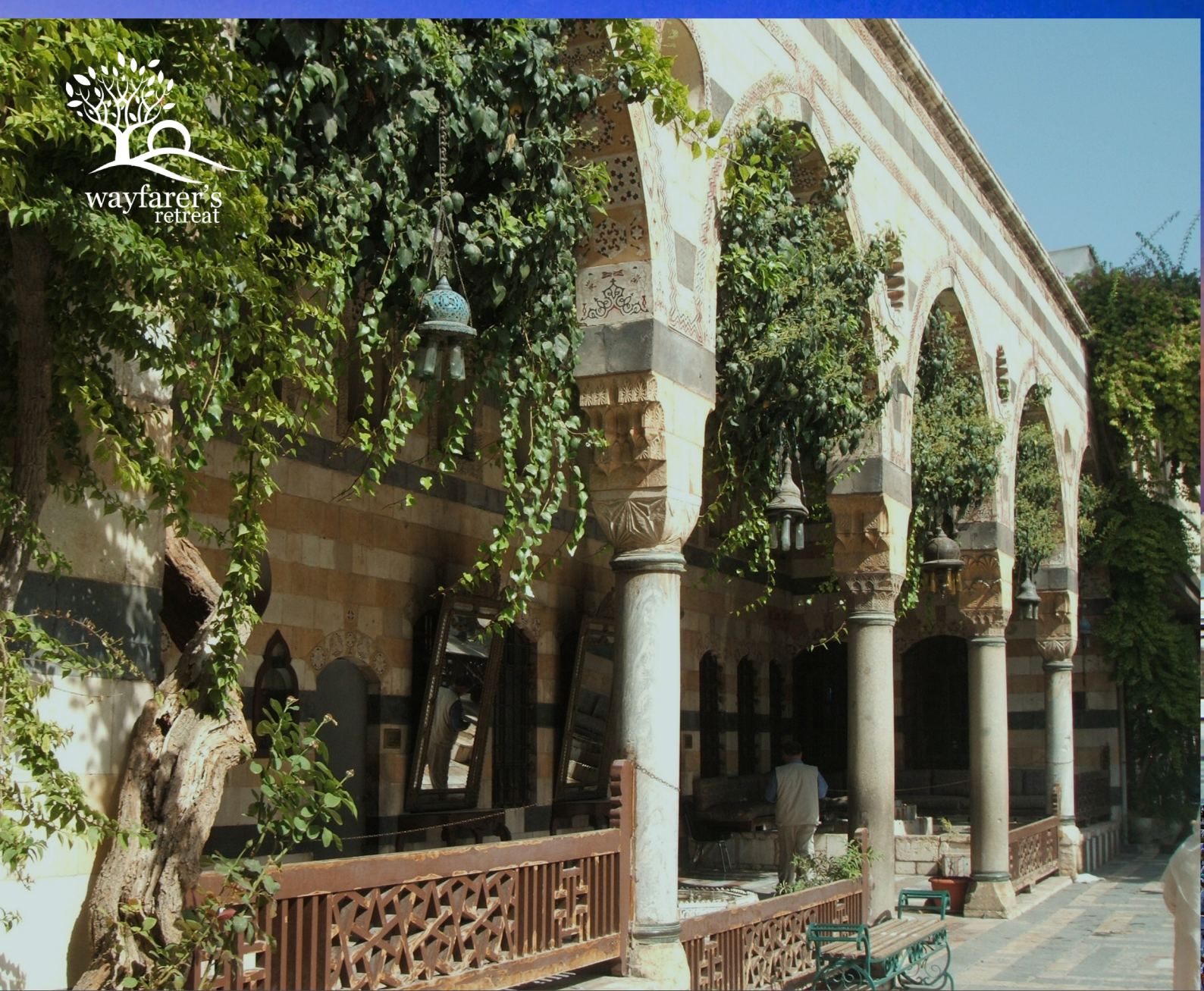
ibtighaa wajah-illahi wa mardatihis wa  
qurbihis wa thawabihi

إِبْتِغَاءَ وَجْهِ اللَّهِ، وَمَرْضَاتِهِ، وَقُرْبِهِ، وَثَوَابِهِ

transcendent is He.

subhanahu wa ta'ala

سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى



## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS & VISAS

All applicants to have at least six months validity of passport from the date you travel. Also, for further information and visa application you can visit the Syria travel advice-gov.uk website stated below:

<https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/syria/entry-requirements>

The cost of the visa is 150USD and its not included in the price of this Wayfarers retreat. This can be be purchased via the counter at the Damascus airport. Please have hard currency of USD \$ ready as debit/credit cards are not tender in Syria. This also applies for purchase within Syria.

The flights that feature a transit via another country, do not require an additional visa for the transiting country.

# EXCURSIONS

## DAMASCUS:

- Hz Ruqiyah bint Hussien (may Allah be pleased with them both)
- Hz Bilal Ibn Rabah (may Allah be pleased with him)
- Shiekh Mohya al-Deen ibn Arabi (may Allah be pleased with him)
- Imaam Abdul Ghani Nabalusi (may Allah be pleased with him)
- Shiekh Abu Noor (may Allah be pleased with him)
- Shaykh Amin al-Kaftarow (may Allah be pleased with him)
- The Umaayyad al-Kabir Masjid
- Jamia Tawbah

## BOSRA AL-SHAAM

- Bahira Monastery (may Allah be pleased with him)
- Imam al-Nawwawi (may Allah be pleased with him)

## HOMS:

- Hz Khalid Bin Al Waleed (may Allah be pleased with him)
- Hz Umar bin Abdul Aziz (may Allah be pleased with him)
- Maqams of 70 Sahaba As-Shuhada (may Allah be pleased with them)

## ALEPPO:

- Al-Jami al-Umawi al-Kabir - Umayyad Masjid
- Grave of Our Lord Zakkariyyah (Upon whom be peace)
- Citadel of Aleppo
- Shiekh Muhammad Abu Al Huda Al Sayyadi (may Allah be pleased with him)



## CLASSES AND GATHERINGS

A dedicated space will be prepared for our daily lessons, providing a calm and focused environment for reflection and learning throughout the retreat. During our excursions, these moments of learning will continue, accompanied by open Q&A sessions for our Wayfarers to seek clarity and deepen their understanding.

Classes will be held each day from 4:00 PM to 5:30 PM. Ziyarah reminders and reflections will be shared on the Ziyarah bus and at key moments during the excursions and as some of the excursions will take most of the day, the timings of the lessons will be communicated on that day. The Adhkaar will take place at their designated locations within the hotels and masjids, where the Wayfarers will gather in circles of remembrance.

A WhatsApp group will be established prior to departure to maintain connection, share updates, and support one another throughout the journey.

We kindly ask all participants to remain reachable during the retreat. Obtaining a local SIM card is a simple and affordable option or maybe exploring the options for international travel on your UK sim.

Please remember to bring a notebook or any items that will help you capture reflections and insights during this blessed time.

May Allah Almighty bless this journey with benefit, ease, and nearness.



# TEACHERS & GUEST VISITS

## TEACHERS

- Shaykh Muhammad Muwaffaq Al Murabi
  - Shaykh Sahl Junayd
  - Shaykh Usamah Al-Rifae
  - Shaykh Mohammed Zaqir
  - Shaykh Muhammad Kisaar
- Other local teachers

## STUDY

We will have a reading of selected passages of : 'How to Get Close to Allah'

كيف تقرب تلى الله للشيخ العلامة عبد الله سراج الدين (رحمه الله)



## WHAT TO BRING

We foresee that a pair of outdoor clothing will be necessary for the outdoor activities and comfortable walking/ hiking shoes. Sacred law compliant swim wear for both brothers and sisters is necessary. We would also recommend bringing a pair of waterproof clothing in the event of rain in addition to warm indoor clothing. We will provide all the instructional material. Please also bring a Quran, pens and paper for note taking and necessary toiletries



## ACCOMMODATION

Single guests will share rooms with other students, with up to three people per room. Families with young children will be given priority when rooms are assigned. All rooms are comfortable and come with their own en-suite bathroom. Accommodation is arranged separately for males and females.

## MEALS

Breakfast is included each day and served in the hotel restaurant. For lunch and dinner, you're free to explore and enjoy the many nearby restaurants during your free time—this also applies during longer excursions.



# WAYFARERS DAMASCUS RETREAT – ITINERARY

## Monday October 19<sup>TH</sup>

04.30 Tahhajjud (Night Vigil Prayer)- Hotel Prayer Room

05.18 Fajr Prayer Masjid Qurmashi & Invocations

09.00 Breakfast (served from 07.00-10.30)

\*10.30-13.00 Shaykh Akbar Al- Arabi, Imaam Nabalusi & 40 Abdaal – Meet at Hotel Reception

12.20 Zuhur Salaah

13.00 Lunch (Self Cater) & Rest

15 32 Asr Prayer & Invocations at Hotel Prayer Room

\*16.00 – 18.00 Walking Ziyarah - venerable Ruqiyah RA, Hz Bilal RA, venerable Yahyah (Peace be upon him),

17.57 Maghrib Prayer

18.00 Dinner (Self Cater) & Free Time

19.28 Isha Prayer & Invocations at Hotel Prayer Room

20.00 Lights Out



## **Tuesday October 20th**

Bosra Al-Shaam -Shaykh Amin al-Kaftarow, Imaam Abdul Ghani Nabalusi, Bahira Monastery, Shiekh Abu Noor & Imam al-Nawwawi May Allah Almighty be pleased with them all.

\* Lessons by Shaykh Zaqir – Timings will change due to the above excursions – Students will be Notified

## **Wednesday October 21th**

Homs Ziyarah – Masjid Khalid Bin Al-Waleed, Venerable Umar bin Abdul Aziz RA, Maqams of 70 Sahaba As-Shuhada May Allah Almighty be pleased with them all.

\* Lessons by Shiekh Zaqir – Timings will change due to the above excursions – Students will be Notified

## **Thursday October 22th**

Aleppo – Al-Jami al-Umawi al-Kabir - Umayyad Masjid, Citidel of Aleppo, Shaykh Muhammad Abu Al Huda Al Sayyadi May Allah Almighty be pleased with him

\* Lessons by Shaykh Zaqir – Timings will change due to the above excursions – Students will be Notified

## **Friday October 23rd**

Free Day – Spiritual Wandering

## **Saturday October 24th**

04.30 Tahhajjud (Night Vigil Prayer)- Hotel Prayer Room

05.22 Fajr Prayer Masjid Qurmashi & Invocations

09.00 Breakfast & Closing Reminder & Departure



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