

Santi Forest Monastery (SFM) Incorporated

— Conditions of Stay —

The Community of Santi Forest Monastery (SFM) welcomes you to our forest monastery.

To ensure our guests' comfort and safety, we have developed the following *Conditions of Stay* and request all our guests to abide by same. As this is a communal forest monastery, there are certain risks that you should be aware of.

1. Living in a forest setting

- a. The accommodation provided to guests at SFM may be in the forest or close to the main building. It may be in a room, a meditation hut or caravan. It is basic, but well maintained and mostly sealed. However, as this is a forest setting, insects, spiders, snakes or other creatures may find their way into the room. Snakes and spiders may be venomous and potentially lethal. (Guests not prepared to accept this risk or who have particular allergies should assess whether staying at SFM is suitable to them).
- b. Guests are requested to take responsibility for ensuring that doors, windows and any other openings belonging to their accommodation are closed, and, as much as possible, maintain a constant check to ensure that the room is free of wild life and insects.
- c. If guests notice a serious defect with their accommodation, then they should inform the accommodation officer at SFM.
- d. The paths at SFM are rugged in nature. There are look-outs (such as the cliff-view lookout), meditation seats and Kutis which are built around steep cliffs and rocks. Guests who wish to venture into the forest accept full responsibility for their own safety when walking around SFM. Whilst hiking, guests are required to ensure that they wear appropriate footwear and carry at all times the whistle/bandage roll issued by SFM. If guests intend on going on a long walk, they are to go in pairs, leave at a suitable time to ensure that they arrive back during daylight hours and notify SFM of their whereabouts by leaving a note.
- e. Guests are encouraged to stick to the main pathways.
- f. There are no lights on the paths and it is recommended that a torch be used during the night.

2. Living in an open space

- a. SFM consists of a community of people - monastics and lay residents - both female and male.
- b. Monastic and female/male lay accommodation is clearly segregated, though there is a common area for meditation and partaking of meals.
- c. SFM is also an open area. While there is a whistle/bandage roll for emergencies, SFM is unable to guarantee the safety of each guest.

3. Meditation

- a. SFM is set up in a manner conducive for group and individual meditation.
- b. Meditation may not be suitable for those with a mental illness. Guests with a mental illness are required to disclose this upon application. They are recommended to first seek professional medical advice as to whether or not meditation is suitable for them prior to their arrival at SFM.
- c. The monastics at SFM are not doctors or therapists and cannot provide treatment for mental or any other type of illness.

4. Work involved at SFM

- a. Part of living in a community is the sharing of duties for the benefit of the community as a whole. Accordingly, guests may be asked to assist with duties around the monastery as part of their stay. If guests have any medical condition or any other reason that prevents them from safely undertaking these tasks, they are required to notify SFM.
- b. Guests voluntarily undertaking any physical tasks and/or using any equipment do so at their own risk. If required, guests may be provided some protective gear, however, SFM may not have all the protective equipment necessary to undertake all tasks and guests should therefore ensure they have their own protective equipment if they wish to undertake these activities. Guests may be working alongside monastics and other volunteers who may not be professionals. Guests should be aware that there may be risks involved in such tasks and wearing protective gear may not be sufficient to protect themselves. Accordingly, guests are reminded that they should work in a safe and proper fashion to avoid harm to themselves and others.

5. Personal Property

- a. Guests are responsible for their own personal property, and are reminded to take care in ensuring its safekeeping.

6. Medical

- a. Guests are required to have their own medical insurance, particularly if they do not have the benefit of Medicare.
- b. In the event of a medical emergency, SFM will administer First Aid and/or transfer a guest to the hospital as required.