

MILA & MAS Colorado present...

**The 4th Annual Muslim Family Retreat:
-Embracing Our Differences-Adab Al-Ikhtilaf-**

May 22-25, 2009
Abiquiu, New Mexico

Assalaamu 'alaikum!

Get ready for an amazing weekend you'll never forget! This excursion to the famous Dar Al-Islam Madrasa will offer you a great chance to relax, enjoy the outdoors, have fun, and grow closer to Allah and your family. We hope that you will benefit greatly from this experience, *insba'Allah*. In order to make your travels easier, **please read this *Registrant Information* page carefully:**

What to Expect

The program, for both adults and youth, will feature Islamic lectures & workshops, prayers & dhikr, and also many outdoor activities for all ages such as hiking, sports, games and more. The madrasa is in a gorgeous remote location of the New Mexico desert—***the land is dry and rugged, so bring clothes that are appropriate for outdoors.*** The weather can also be very extreme—both in heat and in cold! So **bring LOTS of blankets & some warm clothes**—you never know when there may be a flash flood or very cold nights.

Remember to bring...

- ✓ You may bring wrapped, non-perishable snacks*. There are no businesses in the vicinity of Dar Al-Islam, so plan ahead! Breakfast, lunch & dinner are all provided though. (*Food must be disposed of properly or it will not be allowed. We have a responsibility to keep the facilities clean.)
- ✓ **You must bring your own bedding→ Sleeping bag OR a Sheets & Blankets** (guests mainly sleep on twin size beds)
- ✓ **Pillow**
- ✓ Toiletries, soap, shampoo
- ✓ Towel
- ✓ Flashlight
- ✓ Sunglasses
- ✓ Bug repellent
- ✓ Water bottle (A MUST!)
- ✓ Sunscreen
- ✓ Sturdy shoes for outdoors, hiking
- ✓ Sandals for indoors, showers
- ✓ Light jacket or sweater
- ✓ Hat
- ✓ Notebook & pen/pencil
- ✓ Quran
- ✓ Camera
- ✓ You may also want to bring a football, frisbee or something similar.



Climate/Weather in Abiquiu, NM

Youth under age 15 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

At 6000 ft elevation, the late spring in Abiquiu is lovely. Summer days are warm in the morning, hot and tempestuous in the afternoon with spectacular storms thundering down the mountains. Then at dusk, all grows quiet except for a call to prayer or the cry of a hawk piercing the veil of serenity that descends upon the land with the setting sun. Summer nights are ideal for walk-about under the bright and starry vault of the New Mexico sky. The climate is considerably drier than Denver, so drink plenty of water and plan accordingly.

For more info, please visit: www.daralislam.org

Driving Directions – See Google Map

Normal driving time is about 6 hours (and well worth it!). Please try to leave early enough so you can arrive by 7:30pm, while it is still daylight. **The site is difficult to find at night!**

Start: Masjid Abu Bakr (head South-East on S Parker Rd)	2 mi
Turn Right (South) into S Peoria St	0.1
Merge onto I-225 South	3.4
Merge onto I-25 S via EXIT 1A on the LEFT, toward COLORADO SPRINGS	148
Take EXIT 52 - toward WALSENBURG/ALAMOSA (and US 160)	0.4
Turn SLIGHT RIGHT at I-25 Bus (US 85)	2.5
Turn RIGHT on W 7 th St (Then continue to follow US 160)	72.4
Turn LEFT on West Ave (US 285 South)	29
Turn LEFT onto US-285 (Now entering New Mexico)	77.4
Turn SLIGHT RIGHT onto US-84 [going North]. Arrive at Abiquiu, NM 87510	14.6
You will be coming to Abiquiu from the south on Highway 84.	
--SEE DETAILED DIRECTIONS TO DAR AL-ISLAM BELOW--	
Total Est. Time: 6 hours Total Est. Distance: 350 miles	

Directions to the Dar Al-Islam site

Coming to Abiquiu from the south on Highway 84: Just before coming to Abiquiu is the El Rito Road #554. Turn RIGHT on 554 and then turn LEFT on County Road 155, immediately after crossing the Rio Chama River. Follow the road to where the pavement ends, just at the overhead main entrance sign to Dar Al-Islam (which will be on your right side). Turn right into Dar Al-Islam. Follow the dirt road up the hill, towards the left where you'll find the mosque and parking.

If coming to Abiquiu **from the north** on Highway 84: A little ways past the Abiquiu Elementary School, turn LEFT on County Road 155 and follow the unpaved road for about 2 miles until you come to the overhead main entrance sign to Dar Al-Islam (which will be on your left side).

Youth under age 15 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.