

Dhamma Neru
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Dhamma Neru, meaning ‘High Mountain of Dhamma’, is the first Vipassana centre in Spain. The property, purchased in June 1999, is near Palautordera, about 35 miles northwest of the vibrant city of Barcelona and a similar distance southeast of historic Girona, both of which have international airports. The French border is just one hour’s drive away. The site is located approximately 1,300 feet above sea level and is overlooked by the imposing mountains of Montseny Natural Park (height of over 5,500 ft) and is snow-covered in the winter. Being only 30 minutes from the Mediterranean, the Centre enjoys a mostly mild climate.

A quadrangular building sits in the middle of the level four-acre property, surrounded by a high hedge and an abundance of fruit and ornamental trees. Presently the Centre accommodates 63 students and servers, but planning permission is expected to be granted for expansion from the present 7,000 sq feet of construction to about 38,000 sq feet. This will enable the provision of full facilities for about 120 students, including cells, two Dhamma halls, new teachers’ residences and kitchen and dining facilities.

The Centre is holding an average of 15 ten-day courses and one 20-day course - as well as several short and young people’s courses - per year. In addition, there is a growing programme of non-centre courses in five regional locations on the Spanish Peninsula and the Islands, where additional seven 10-day courses are being held annually as well as several short courses.

In April 2003 a course was held in a high security prison on the outskirts of Barcelona for 16 inmates, and more prison courses are being planned for the end of 2005. Prison officials have come to Dhamma Neru to take a course in order to support the management of prison courses. The European Assistant Teachers’ Meeting was held at the Centre in May 2005, attended by 40 assistant teachers and an enthusiastic group of servers.