

Mariposa - A Great Place to Live!

Meherana Home Tour - Sunday, May 6th, 2007

Have you been thinking of a possible change in your lifestyle? Would you like the opportunity to devote time and energy to serving Beloved Baba and humanity in a beautiful setting? Or looking for a community with other Baba lovers and the ability to spend time at Meherana in Baba's Cabin, then moving to Mariposa near Meherana may be for you!

As Meherana grows, the Meher Baba community in Mariposa and surrounding areas will continue to grow too. To give those interested a chance to get a feel for the lifestyle here in Mariposa we are having a **Home Tour** of our residences on **Sunday, May 6th, 2007**. The tour will visit the homes of Chris & Christine Pearson, Jacko & Becky Caraco, Ralph Brown and Kebi Boose, Michael Comerford's B&B, and more. You will have the opportunity to talk to the "locals" about what it is like to live and work in this beautiful mountain community and how they have adapted to the "rural mountain lifestyle".

Here are some of the features of living in Mariposa:

Natural Beauty - One of the most beautiful places on Earth is at our doorstep - Yosemite National Park. Stunningly beautiful but quieter areas are also close by - Bass Lake, Wilderness areas, Badger Pass Ski Resort, historical Gold Rush sites, along with vast areas for camping, hiking, fishing and recreation in the Sierra National Forest. Meherana and the surrounding Sierra mountains with their diversity of flora and fauna provide endless opportunities for observing the beauty of Nature and its creatures.

Contemplative Lifestyle - Reduce your stress! Living in the rural atmosphere of Mariposa sustains a quiet uncomplicated lifestyle with time for gardening, walking, and the more contemplative joys of life - including time for volunteering or visiting at Meherana!

Selfless Service Opportunities - An opportunity to step outside your self. Meherana needs and welcomes volunteers. Grounds work, gardening, administrative duties, cooking and preparing for group gatherings, planning activities, archives organization and many more opportunities for all talents and temperaments are available for those who feel inspired to help.

Distinct Seasons/Gardening - We have four distinct seasons in the Mariposa. Winter with snow in the higher elevations, spring with meadows full of wild flowers, summer warm and dry, great for gardens, and autumn with deep blue skies, a crisp tang to the air and fall colors in the forest. You can garden year round and grow most stone fruit trees. The elevation varies from around 1500 feet to 4500 feet with higher elevations in more remote areas. There are no restrictions on keeping animals and livestock.

Small Community - The town of Mariposa has a quaint village atmosphere with easy access to stores, restaurants, post office, etc. We have a really great health food store with a café and other small lovely shops and restaurants and a farmer's market with

locally grown produce. No traffic jams! Ample parking! You can actually walk around the town and get things done quickly. People are friendly and helpful, reminiscent of America in its youth. The schools have been awarded the California Distinguished Schools award are safe and community based.

The Arts- Mariposa has a large and active arts community. Many artists, painters, photographers and craft artists working in mediums from glass to gemstones live and work here and have shows in the local galleries. An active arts council and several clubs and organizations actively promote the arts and music in the county. We even have our own full sized symphony orchestra which sells out all of its performances in our vintage 200 seat theater at the local high school.

Employment Opportunities - There are many seasonal tourist related businesses and small businesses in Mariposa County with no major industries. The three main employers are Mariposa County, Mariposa County Unified School District, and in Yosemite, the concessionaires and National Park Service. The county encourages “rural home enterprise” i.e., operating a business out of your home. There are no fees, county taxes, inspections or licenses required for home enterprises. There are numerous businesses from medical practitioners, mechanics, artists, contractors and telecommuting services of all sorts throughout the countryside.

Affordable Housing - Current real estate prices in Mariposa are significantly lower than those in the metropolitan areas in California. A 5-acre piece of land with a 3-bedroom house would generally fall in a price range of \$ 150,000 to \$350,000. Undeveloped land is available as well as ranches and parcels of 40 acres or more. There are a few housing developments with lakes and other amenities with smaller lots. In the town of Mariposa there are homes on standard city sized lots and a very affordable, nice mobile home park. For more information on real estate access this link for the Mariposa Board of Realtors website, www.mariposabor.com. You do not need a password - just go to “Find Properties” and put in a price range. Rentals are available at reasonable rates.

Retirement Destination - The lower cost of living in Mariposa makes it an attractive retirement destination. With the cost differential in housing you could sell a home in Los Angeles, San Francisco or other areas and purchase property in Mariposa for a fraction of the cost, and then retire, living off of the difference. Insurance rates are also much less than what they are in other California areas. With a simple lifestyle even a modest retirement income can meet your needs.

Medical - Mariposa and Oakhurst have a number of General Practitioners, Dentists, Chiropractors, and Optometrists but few specialists. The closest specialized medical services are available in Merced, 35 miles from Mariposa, or Fresno, 60 miles away. We do have our own Acupuncturist and Chinese Herbalist - Jacko Caraco!

Shopping - There are no major shopping malls or national franchises in Mariposa although there are many small shops and services and a good size grocery store. Oakhurst, which is about 20 miles away, has most city amenities and Merced, which is about 35 miles away, is a good size city. Merced is also the home of the newest

University of California campus. Fresno, a major metropolitan area, is about 60 miles from Mariposa.

Airport - Fresno has the nearest major airport with commercial service. Merced has a small airport and Mariposa has an airport that accommodates private planes. The Amtrak train has a depot in Merced with a bus service to Mariposa with several runs a day.

If you are interested in attending the Meherana Home Tour on Sunday, May 6th please call me at 209 966 5078 or email me at cpearson@yosemite.net and I will keep you updated on the details. Weekend visitors are welcome to camp at Meherana. For accommodations in Mariposa, please see the Meherana website.

We hope to see you soon at Meherana!

Christine Pearson