# Accommodations & Travel Guide for SRIM Programs with Amma Sri Karunamayi

##  May 31 – June 9, 2024

## 285 Julie Lane, SRIM Center, Forsyth, GA - 31029

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# Travel Guide

**Please read this travel and accommodations guide even if you have been to the SRIM Center many times. Especially note the change in hotel shuttles – only provided at Days Inn (exit 187), Red Roof Inn (exit 186) and Super 8 (exit 186). See Event Transportation for more details.**

# Airline Tickets

* The closest airport is Atlanta Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport, which is about 50 miles north of SRIM Center.
* Availability on most airlines can be found online at kayak.com, travelocity.com and individual airline websites. It may be possible to get lower fares by searching for alternative times/dates and allowing additional stops. Airline miles may be used to book flight tickets.
* Smaller airlines such as Southwest and Frontier offer bookings only through their own websites.
* Ticket prices usually go up closer to the date of travel, so it is advisable to book as early as possible.

# Atlanta Hartsfield International Airport

International and domestic terminals are adjacent to each other but have access from different interstates (I-75 for international terminal, and I-85 or I-285 for Domestic Terminals). Please click on the following link to get familiar with the domestic and international terminal maps:

<https://www.atl.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Dom-Terminal-Feb-2019.pdf>

<https://www.atl.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Concourse-F-Feb-2019.pdf>

# Transportation

The drive from the airport to hotels or SRIM Center in the city of Forsyth is directly off Interstate 75 south. The SRIM Center is located about 50 minutes to 1.50 hours DEPENDING UPON TRAFFIC from Hartsfield International Airport. Rush hour is from around 6 AM to 10 AM and from 2PM to 7PM.

## Available Options

There are 3 main options:

1. **Renting a car at the airport**: This option allows maximum flexibility, convenience, cost efficiency if traveling in pairs and independence for traveling to and from airport, as well as locally between hotel and SRIM Center. See details below.
2. **Traveling in shuttles**: Groome Transportation travels between the Atlanta Hartsfield International airport and Macon, GA almost every hour daily with a stop at the Ingles Grocery store which is located at exit 186. You MUST notify Groome that you want to be dropped off in Forsyth. Macon is about 25-30 minutes from the SRIM Center. See details below.
3. **Uber and Lyft drivers are minimal in the Forsyth area, but they are growing in number.** Uber Lady Jeanette 678-951-6865 and independent driver James Callaway 478-318-5380 provide services from the Hartsfield Atlanta International Airport.

## Car Rental at Atlanta airport

There are numerous car rental agencies at Atlanta Airport. Complete list is available at: <http://atlanta-atl.worldairportguides.com/car_rental.php>

## Groome Transportation

Shuttles run daily between Atlanta airport and the city of Macon, which is about 20-30 miles south of Forsyth, GA. They leave the airport almost every hour. There is a scheduled stop enroute at exit 186 Ingles Grocery store parking lot at 260 Tift College Drive, Forsyth, GA 31029. The SRIM Center is about 9 miles from Ingles. Unfortunately, none of the hotels in Forsyth have shuttle services to pick people up from the Ingles parking lot.

The Groome website - <https://groometransportation.com/macon/?&sd_client_id=ff67165d-9b30-4000-a282-a5d252428592>

provides information about the schedule and fees; reservations are **required** to ride their shuttles. **Please make sure that you request to be dropped off in Forsyth at the time of making your reservation.**

For return to airport, Ingles Grocery store parking lot will be the only boarding point for shuttles. The fee for adults is $45-$55 (there is a discount for booking online) one way and children 3 to 7 is $27 one way. Infants ride free.

**Georgia law requires** CHILDREN under 8, less than 57 inches tall and weighing less than 40 must have a car seat to ride in the shuttle—please bring the car seat. Groome does **not** provide care seats.

PLEASE NOTE: You **MUST** contact Groome shuttle 24 hours in advance of your pickup time in the Ingles Parking lot for your return trip home.

Travel time on shuttle is about 1.25 hours between Atlanta airport and Forsyth; and about ½ hour between Forsyth and Macon. If traffic is heavy or if you are traveling at rush hour, please allow extra time.

**Reservations:** Advanced bookings are HIGHLY recommended to reserve your space in the shuttles. Please call Groome Transportation at 800-537-7903 or 478-471-1616 to make your reservations or you may make them online at

<https://groometransportation.com/macon/?&sd_client_id=ff67165d-9b30-4000-a282-a5d252428592>

When booking your return shuttle to the airport, please allow plenty of time before check-in. Plan on checking-in at least 2 hours in advance for domestic flights and 3 hours in advance for international flights. Peak hour traffic on the highway may cause significant delays in getting to the airport. Please note that there is construction at the Hartsfield Atlanta International Airport that might impact the amount of time required for you to get to your gate.

**Finding Groome Shuttle at the airport:** Directions to get to your Groome shuttle can be found at:

<https://groometransportation.com/faq/#gt-find>

## From shuttle stop to your hotel

Groome transportation shuttles drop off point is exit 186 Ingles Grocery Store parking lot in the city of Forsyth. If you are staying in a local hotel, you may avail of the following cab service to arrive at your hotel.

INDEPENDENT DRIVERS & UBER: **Jeanette Hargis** Uber Lady: 678-951-6865 and **Billy Thompson** 470-771-0178 provide both local transportation and Jeanette and **James Calloway** 478-318-5380 provide transportation to and from the Atlanta Hartsfield International airport. We encourage you to book your slot with them in advance. All these drivers set their own rates independent from the SRIM Center make sure that you are clear on your arrangements with them.

## Event transportation

We are offering an informal, free shuttle service to and from 3 different hotels 2 hours before and after program start and ending times. The 3 hotels include: Days Inn (exit 187), Red Roof Inn (exit 188) and Super 8 Hotel (exit 186). Each driver will make continuous loops between the hotels. **If you are staying at a hotel at any one of these exits you may walk to the pickup hotel and ride from there.**

**The morning shuttles will run loops for about 2 hours before the programs start. The first shuttle will depart from the SRIM Center about 45 minutes after the program ends. These are the only shuttles offered by the Center.**

We kindly request that participants who are driving to the events or renting cars at the Atlanta airport offer rides back and forth to the SRIM Center to others staying at your same hotel.

If you want to go back to your hotel or another location at other times, you will need to make your own transportation arrangements. Jeanette Hargis and BillyThompson are available for a nominal fee to drive you to your hotel, Walmart, or grocery stores, etc. Contact them in advance to make arrangements - Jeanette - 678-951-6865; Billy – 470-771-0178.

The SRIM Center is offering this a complimentary service and does not accept liability for the shuttles.

# Communications

A WhatsApp group has been created for program communications, logistical announcements, last minute updates, ridesharing, room sharing, etc., and everyone who registers will be invited to join the group. The name of the Group is SRIM Maha Maha Yagnam 2024, and this is our main communication vehicle for the program. You can join the group via this link: <https://chat.whatsapp.com/LcDLBjYN3x4Klxt8S3ZMUx>

**Accommodations**

There are many hotels located within 8 – 12 miles from SRIM Center. Please find your choices in the accommodations guide given below:

Each hotel has blocked a fixed number, a block, of rooms to be offered at discounted rates under ***“SRIM2024” code*** for attendees. Once these are filled up, regular rates will be charged for the remaining rooms. Kindly contact the hotel directly to make your reservations. ***See the hotel information provided as the booking and cancellation requirements vary by provider. We recommend that you book your hotel reservations early.*** If you have already booked your room without using the SRIM code, be sure to call the hotel and request that the code be applied to your booking. In most hotels, you will be able to hold a booking with your credit card and cancel up to a few days in advance without incurring cancellation fees. Please check with each hotel as to their cancellation policies as these will vary by provider.

## Program Attire

Maha Yagnam attire is traditional Indian dress of saree for women and dhoti for men. The bookstore will have some of these items for sale. Some event sponsorships include dhotis and sarees but not all, so please read sponsorship options carefully.

## Miscellaneous

* Three meals a day will be provided for the Maha Yagnam. Unfortunately, we are not able to accommodate special diet needs but a variety of food will be offered.
* Yagnashala is a shoe free zone. Please choose comfortable footwear that can be taken off and put on easily.
* As the weather may be hot, you may bring a change of clothes to the event, if you wish.
* You may want to bring pillows, second pair of shoes, cushions, backpacks, umbrellas/ponchos, shawl, pen, and paper for taking notes, chanting books, flashlight, small dollar bills…
* Forsyth has restaurants, gas stations, drug stores, and Walmart supercenter, all in the vicinity of the hotels. The Walmart is located off exit 187 and Ingles grocery store is at exit 186—these exits are off I-75. Exit 187 provides the quickest access to downtown Forsyth square.
* Please take precautions with your valuables, airline tickets and passports. Contact the hotel front desk where you are staying to see if they can store them securely for you.

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