

Ancient chapel seeks hermit

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For those seeking to escape the rat race and find a little inner peace, the job sounds ideal: hermit wanted to look after a hilltop sanctuary. The post is at the Mare de Deu de la Roca — Our lady of the Rock — hermitage, which is perched above the town of Mont-Roig del Camp in north-eastern Spain.

A key stipulation is that only the pure in mind should apply, because the successful candidate will have to avoid all “immoral activities” during their year-long tenure. The job description posted on Facebook, asks that he or she should be prepared to carry out “all the proper functions of a hermit”. The successful candidate will also be expected to be sociable and entertain tourists visiting the area, however, the advert states.

This unexpected aspect to the role can come as quite a shock for hermits looking forward to a life of meditation and solitude.

The job at Mare de Deu de la Roca comes with free board and lodging with a local family, and a stipend of €1,000 for the year. Candidates have until Monday to submit their applications.

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