



STUDY VISIT TO SOUTH INDIA

Information about the visit.

2nd - 12th April 2014

"I would recommend this visit to all schools wishing to develop their understanding of a different culture. What a life-changing experience it was! We all came back inspired and with a much greater understanding of the issues which affect the lives of the people in the rural and urban communities in southern India. The week was packed with a whole range of activities including: visits to schools, temples and markets; studies of village and urban life; a variety of cultural workshops in art, dance and music. The staff were extremely knowledgeable and were able to answer any questions put to them. The whole experience can be used in so many ways within the school curriculum."

Headteacher of Wells Cathedral Junior School.

"I found the school visits absolutely fascinating. They left me wrestling with the question of how to teach effectively, stimulatingly and humanely with few resources and huge numbers of kids! I have hardly stopped talking about the visits to colleagues." LEA advisor for Geography, Sunderland.

"It was the best trip of my life. I know we all feel privileged to have experienced Indian life and culture with such depth and in so short a space of time. The hospitality was second to none." Head of RE, St Dunstons Secondary School, Glastonbury.

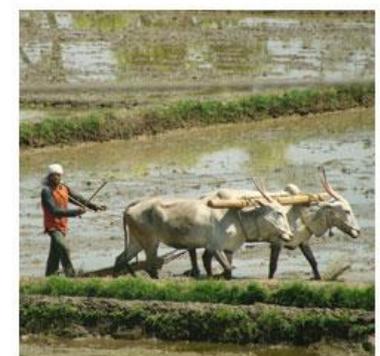
"We have all come away re-energised and determined to change our priorities. The opportunity has been the most useful professional development in my 30 years of teaching". Head teacher. Buckland St Mary Primary School.

"As well as extending our own knowledge, we have so much to offer the children back at school. The visit was a tremendous resource, which will bring to life the topics we cover." Year 6 Teacher, Croscombe primary school, Somerset

"Such activities ought to be made compulsory to blow away the cobwebs of routine and give inspiration a kick-start!" Year 4 Teacher, West Chinnock, Somerset

What is the purpose of the visits?

- To offer a professional development opportunity for Early Years, Primary and Secondary teachers;
- To increase authentic experience of a different country and culture by spending ten days living in a residential study centre in and alongside a village community in rural Karnataka.
- To develop ideas about how to teach about India and development issues through enquiry and by gathering comparative case studies for rural and urban development.
- To gather resources, artefacts and information to enhance and enrich the delivery of many curriculum subjects. Particularly Geography, History/Knowledge and Understanding of the World; Art/Creativity; RE/PSED and cross curricular topics which involve teaching and learning about India.
- To explore markets, temples, sacred mountains, and learn about Indian creative traditional rituals and cultural art forms.
- To reflect on creative and participatory teaching practice through activities, school visits and discussion.



- To strengthen Global Citizenship, intercultural learning and Internationalism in your school.

The visit is open to any teachers who share the objectives above.

What are the dates of the visit?

This visit will take place from 2nd - 12th April 2014 . (Ten days in India is needed for a productive visit, plus two days travelling).

Who is the visit being organised by?

The visit is organised by a residential study centre in India called Sangam (see details below) The group leader will be Cathy Bushill, Headteacher of St. Vigor and St. John Primary school, Chilcompton, Somerset. Cathy has visited Sangam as a participant on a CPD programme, has established a thriving partnership with a school in the Bangalore area, and now returns as a leader. Her contact details are to be found at the end of this document.

What is Sangam?

Sangam is a residential study centre in Silvepura, a village 20 miles north of Bangalore. The centre runs study visits and teacher development activities and works with local schools and childrens organisations . Please see

www.sangamprojects.com

Imogen and Kiran Sahi run Sangam. Imogen is trained to teach both Geography and Biology (Homerton Cambridge). She worked as head of Biology in a Comprehensive School in Surrey, and was a Leading Science teacher before moving to India. She is a Consultant Education advisor and master trainer for the British Council running training programmes on internationalism and Global Citizenship. Kiran is a designer, trained at the National Institute of Design (NID- Ahmedabad) and teaches art and design. Kiran has developed Sangam into a place for enabling learning and is skilled at interpreting Indian traditional and contemporary culture.

Where will the group stay?

The group will stay at Sangam which has shared accommodation for up to 12 people. The centre in a large wooded garden on the edge of the rural village of Silvepura. The accommodation is simple but comfortable. Although there are some western comforts and amenities the centre is predominantly south Indian in style. Information about Sangam's accommodation and facilities can be found at www.sangamprojects.com.

What will the weather be like?

April is the height of the Indian summer. It will be quite hot (in the late 20's and early 30's), and will feel dry and dusty. Sometimes there are convectional summer storms during April, so it's possible it could rain during some evenings. But mainly you will need to prepare for hot and dry weather.

What should we bring?

During the preparation meeting before you travel you will be advised about kit lists, tips for travelling to India and how to get a visa for India. It will also be a chance for you to ask questions and meet the rest of the group. During that meeting we will also discuss what your interests and curriculum needs are so we can begin to form the precise programme for your visit, which leads on to the next question:



What will we do?

The exact programme for each study visit is negotiated with the group and is based around your curriculum and personal interests, so every visit is therefore always slightly different. Activities during the visit are curriculum linked, mainly focussing around Geography, History/Knowledge and Understanding of the World; Art/Creativity; RE/PSED. There are many options:

- Activities for gathering resources for a comparative contrasting locality study. This involves case studies of both rural and urban contexts.
- Activities to develop resources and ideas about how to teach about distant places through enquiry, looking particularly at the use of artefacts, photos and imagery, sound and film clips.
- Activities to immerse yourselves in the life of the local community.
- Cycle rides and walks to explore the environmental and development issues of the locality - focussing on land use change, agricultural practices and water.
- Investigate the changing nature of the city of Bangalore, in response to rapid economic development.
- School visits in order to interact with a number of different and diverse educational contexts, to engage in professional dialogue and to form partnerships.
- Activities to learn about the use of spices in food and sessions to learn cookery.
- Explorations of the symbols and archetypes found within the Indian religions.
- Trekking expeditions to explore the mountains and valleys surrounding Bangalore.
- Day trips to places such as Srirangapatnam and Mysore (its Markets, Palaces, and a bird sanctuary) a local farming and spice market, different Hindu and Jain temples, local folk shrines.
- Expeditions to markets and shops to purchase artefacts and resource material.
- Cultural and creative activities to learn about Indian craft, artistic rituals, traditional mandala patterning, henna patterning, folk dances, festivals, myths, and Yoga.

What is the cost?

The cost in total is the price of the flight to India, plus £650 to cover the course fee. The exact cost will therefore depend on available prices when we book (flights are currently around £550 - £600). The course fee covers all briefing, preparation and admin costs, accommodation at Sangam, food, in-country transport, study resources, workshops in India and visits in and around Bangalore. It does not cover costs of travel from your home to Heathrow Airport, costs of vaccinations for travel, travel insurance, and a visa for entry to India. We will discuss all these aspects during the preparation sessions.

How to apply:

Please go to the Sangam website, www.sangamprojects.com, click "next teacher study visits" for information about this visit, and where you can download an application form. The application form needs to be posted to the leader for this visit at their address below. Please also see the "how to apply" sheet, which gives a timeline of the process of your study visit.

If there are queries which have not been covered above, or if you would like to talk over details of the visit prior to booking, please contact:

Group leader:

Cathy Bushill, Sunningdale, Fosse Rd, Stratton on the Fosse,
Radstock, Bath, Somerset, BA3 4RF

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