



Teachers' Study Visit to South India

Information about the visit.

22nd July to 2nd August 2013

"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." (Headteacher Buckland St Mary, Somerset)

"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." (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!" (Teacher, West Chinnock, Somerset)

"Go, without a doubt. I would have no reservations about promoting such an enriching visit." (Teacher, Holway Park, Taunton)



Your questions answered:

What is the purpose of the visits?

To offer a professional development opportunity for Early Years, Primary and Secondary teachers; to visit South India and gain first hand experiences of life in a developing country; to experience and explore a culture which is very different to our own; to explore local development issues; to share the learning with children back in the UK; and to broaden the global dimension in schools. The visit is open to any teachers who share the objectives above.

What are the dates of the visit?

This visit will take place between the 22nd of July to the 2nd of August 2013. This would be approximately the first two weeks of the School Summer Holidays.

Who is the visit being organised by?

The visit is organised by a small education centre in India called Sangam (see details below) The group leader will be Simon Marshall, Headteacher, Highfield Community School in Sunderland, who can be contacted on 01915537655 or e-mail simon.marshall@schools.sunderland.gov.uk Another useful UK contact is Sam Woodhouse, Geography Consultant in Somerset, who knows Sangam well and has arranged many visits there over the past 7 years for teachers. 078 123 95912 samwoodhouse09@gmail.com



What is Sangam?

Sangam is a small residential education centre in Silvepura, a village 20 miles north of Bangalore, in the state of Karnataka in South India. The centre works with local schools, and welcomes visiting teacher and student-teacher groups. Please see details on www.sangamprojects.com

Imogen and Kiran Sahi run Sangam. Kiran teaches art and design and has developed "the Land" into a place for enabling learning. He was born in Silvepura and understands development and change in the area with rare insider's knowledge. He is skilled at interpreting and explaining India to those visiting from other parts of the world. Imogen taught Biology and Geography in a Comprehensive School in Surrey, and was a Leading Science teacher, before moving to India. She has recently been appointed as an Education Training Consultant for the British Council.

Where will the group stay?

The group will stay at Sangam which has accommodation for up to 10 people. The centre is built in a large wooded garden on the edge of the rural village of Silvepura. The accommodation is simple but comfortable and is based on the assumption that guests are happy to share rooms, with a maximum of three people per room. Although there are some western comforts and amenities the centre is predominantly south Indian in style.



What will the weather be like?

July is the beginning of the South West Monsoon, so it is possible that there may be some rain. Temperatures are warm in the high 20's. Most years the monsoon doesn't arrive until mid August or later.

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 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:

- Investigate the changing nature of the local village, and of Bangalore, in response to rapid development.
- Gather resources for a contrasting locality study.
- Experience daily life in and around the village.
- Learn about important environmental issues e.g. water.
- Visits to local schools and possibilities of developing partnerships.
- Explore ways in which different schools approach themes such as sustainability in creative ways.
- Take part in day trips to places such as a local farming and spice market, different Hindu and Jain temples, local folk shrines, a nearby medicinal plant centre, and nature walks to local sites of interest.
- Cultural Workshops to learn about Indian artistic rituals, traditional patterning, folk dances, festivals and folk myths and stories.
- Other cross curricular activities according to the interests of the group e.g. an introduction to Indian cookery, yoga, to the many religions of south India, Indian craft activities, artistic activities relating to Indian rituals and mandalas.



What is the cost?

The cost in total is the price of the flight to India, plus £600 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, malaria pills if needed, 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 2013" for information about this visit, and where you can download a booking form.

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:

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