



Essence of India I

Thursday 5 – Wednesday 11 February
2009

Event Letter #3 for Participants

Greetings from Sangam!

Here at Sangam we are enjoying the cooler winter weather. By the time you arrive, it will be warming up again!

For up-to-date Pune weather forecasts check <http://www.worldweather.org/066/c00535.htm>

This letter is a final update for your event before you join us at Sangam. Please read this information carefully and feel free to contact us with any questions you may have. We look forward to getting to know you and enjoying a great time together!

Participation

So far we have a total of forty participants from the United Kingdom and United States of America enrolled in this event. Our international staff come from Hungary, India, Ireland, the United States of America, Venezuela, and Wales. Additionally, the Sangam family has nineteen members of staff who live in the local area.

There are still free spaces available if you know of somebody wishing to join.

Written Materials

If you (or your group leader) have not sent your health forms or travel arrangement form, please send them immediately. Also, let us know if there have been major changes to the health information you submitted previously.

Travel Reminders

If you have not already done so, please find out the procedures for getting a visa. All visitors must have a visa. Please be aware that Indian visas are valid from their date of issue, rather than the date of entry into India.

You may want to consider getting travel insurance for your trip. These policies may cover lost luggage, expenses incurred in emergencies, or the financial loss from a cancelled trip.

Arrival

Ideally, you will arrive the day before your event begins, so that you can rest. The travel to Sangam can be quite tiring, no matter if you are travelling across the country by train or ½ way around the world by plane! Carry Sangam's address and phone numbers (24 hour cell phone: +91-99-7007-1392, as our landlines are currently not working) with you when you travel. Keep them in an accessible place. If possible, alert us of changes along the way.

If you arrive via the international airport in Mumbai, you will be given a customs and immigration forms to complete. You will go through immigration first, where they will check your passport, visa, and immigration card. Afterwards, collect your luggage – free push carts are available. When leaving the baggage claim area, your bags will be put through an x-ray machine. Next, there are the money exchange booths.

You will need enough Indian Rupees for your first few days at Sangam, which will include some shopping excursions for saris, jewellery and souvenirs. Many participants spend between 500 and 2000 Rupees on one Sari. ATMs/bank machines are also available around the city. Please check with your bank about whether your card is compatible with the Indian system. About mid-way through the event, you will have an opportunity to change money again.

After changing money, proceed to the exit doors where you turn in your customs form. Once outside, there may be many drivers waiting for clients. If you arranged transportation through Sangam, one of them will have your name on a sign. From Mumbai airport it is approximately a four-hour car or bus ride to Sangam where staff will welcome you.






About Your Event

Your schedule will be based on the following core objectives, set out by WAGGGS:

1. Learning about WAGGGS, its Member Organizations, themes, projects, regions and World Centres, sharing the international friendship that Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting offers.
2. Experiencing the unique culture of India through its traditions, history and people.
3. Participating in activities and workshops related to leadership, advocacy and other topics relevant to the event or seminar.

Evaluation

Even if some of you are already well-established leaders, the aim of WAGGGS World Centre programmes is to contribute towards participants leadership and advocacy skills. On the last day we will ask you to evaluate your event against these core objectives.

	5 Feb, THURS	6 Feb, FRI	7 Feb, SAT	8 Feb, SUN	9 Feb, MON	10 Feb, TUES	11 Feb, WED
8:15 AM Patrol Time		Patrol Time	Patrol Time	Patrol Time	Patrol Time	Patrol Time	Patrol Time
8:30 AM	BREAKFAST	BREAKFAST	BREAKFAST	BREAKFAST	BREAKFAST	BREAKFAST	BREAKFAST
9:30 AM		Laxmi Road Shopping Tour	10 Million Girls, 1 Voice	Sleep in		Visit to Community Partner	Laughter Yoga Sangam WOW
11 AM	Discover Sangam		TEA + Yahdei	TEA + Yahdei	Pune Challenge		TEA + Yahdei
11:30 AM			WAGGGS Game	Hindu Gods & Goddesses			Evaluations 12:30 - Closing Ceremony
1 PM	LUNCH	Late LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH OUT	LUNCH	LUNCH
2 - 3 PM	Indian Siesta	Indian Siesta	Indian Siesta	Indian Siesta	Indian Siesta	Indian Siesta & Tailors	Departures 
3 PM	Introduction to Sangam	Tailors	Exploring Culture	Warli Art	Free Time	Indian Afternoon	
4:30 PM	TEA + Yahdei	TEA + Yahdei	TEA + Yahdei	TEA + Yahdei	TEA + Yahdei	Rangoli Mahendi & Sari Tying Set-Up	
5 PM	Walk around the neighbourhood	Preparation for International Evening	Visit to Indian Family	Warli Art	Bollywood Movie and DINNER OUT	Maharashtrian DINNER	
6:30 PM	DINNER	DINNER		DINNER			
7:15 - 7:45 PM	FREE TIME	International Evening		FREE TIME		Indian Dance Performance	
8 PM	Welcome Ceremony ALL		Campfire				
9:15 PM	TEA	TEA	TEA	TEA	TEA	TEA	

This schedule is subject to change but gives you an idea of the timetable you will have during your week with us. The updated schedule will be given to you at the beginning of your event.

Other useful information

SHOES!

Comfortable, supportive, but not too-hot ones for longer walking, open-toed feel cool, slip-on sandals are convenient for where we remove shoes before going inside temples and homes in the neighbourhood.

RESOURCES FOR SONGS AND GAMES *Optional*

Lyrics for campfire and action songs and game instructions for any favourites to share

VISIT TO INDIAN FAMILIES

Photographs to show, plus maybe a small gift (*optional*) from your country/region to give to the family that you will have dinner with. Remember - You will be in small mixed groups of 2-4 people with other participants whom you probably did not travel with, so please prepare for this *individually!*

CAMPFIRE ASHES *Optional*

Ashes and their history from a previous campfire in your country to add to Sangam's fire ring

BINOCULARS *Optional*

For those interested in watching the many local birds around Sangam

DONATION *Optional*

You may also wish to make a financial contribution (in Indian Rupees, you will have to change any foreign currency) to Sangam's community partner(s) / social organisation(s) that you visit. If you wish to bring *items* from your home country *please get in touch with us first*; together with the our partners we can advise you what is needed and what might better be purchased in India to be most effective.

In the Future...

Again, feel free to contact us. Remember, "There are no strangers at Sangam, only friends we have not met." We wish you a safe and enjoyable journey!

Yours in the Spirit of Sangam ~

Eszter Tóth

Programme Manager

pm@sangamworldcentre.org

Sara Malyon

Programme Assistant

pa@sangamworldcentre.org

Sangam World Centre

Alandi Road, Yerawada – Pune 411 006 – INDIA

info@sangamworldcentre.org

www.sangamworldcentre.org

Telephone: +91-(0)20-2669-3252

24 Hour Sangam Cell Phone: +91-99-7007-1392