



# Discover Your Potential IV

Saturday 21 – Monday 30 November  
2009

*Event Letter #2 for Participants*

## **Greetings from Sangam!**

Here at Sangam we are enjoying the Indian winter, which is much dryer than the monsoon and cooler than the Indian summer. Do remember to bring some small rain protection as well as effective sun protection, as strong sun is still expected and we may have some wet days as well.

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 up to fifty-two participants from the United Kingdom enrolled in this event. Our international staff comes from Hungary, India, the United States of America, Canada and Australia. Additionally, the Sangam family has over twenty members of staff who live in the local area.

Registration is no longer possible.

## **Written Materials**

If you (or your group leader) have not sent your health forms or travel arrangement form, please send them immediately to our Event Administrator at [info@sanagmworldcente.org](mailto:info@sanagmworldcente.org). 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 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. Drivers often take a short tea break halfway into the journey.

### **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.

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.



## Sangam Challenge

The Sangam Challenge is a new challenge that anyone who comes to Sangam can choose to participate in. Tasks can mostly be completed in your free time. When you arrive you can purchase the Sangam Challenge booklet and challenge yourself while learning about Sangam, International Guiding, Indian Culture, Pune, Yourself and providing a Service to Sangam. If you successfully complete the clauses you will be presented with the Sangam Challenge Badge! We hope you'll take up the Sangam Challenge and have lots of extra Sangam fun along the way.

## Fundraising

If you would like to surprise Sangam with a small item, at the moment on our wish list there is:

- Alcohol free medical wipes, for first aid kits.
- Taco Seasoning
- Vegemite
- Zip lock Bags, all shapes and all sizes.
- Scissors and glue sticks. Left handed scissors welcome, please let us know if you plan to bring it as we would not like to end up with too many.

If you are interested in bringing something to give away to Sangam or to our community partners, the most useful item is money! We find that the most effective donations are financial ones, since they are able to make any amount go a long way by purchasing items here in Pune, which also supports the local economy.

## 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 ~

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## **1 months prior arrival - checklist**

- Send back health form
- Check validity of your passport and obtain your visa
- International evening: activity to share, snacks, display materials, swaps
- Binoculars for bird watching (optional)
- An optional donation if you wish to make a financial contribution (in Indian Rupees, you will have to change any foreign currency) to Sangam or our community partners.
- Any of the things on our 'Wish List'!