

# INDIA 2012 ITINERARY

## OCTOBER 4-18 // EXT "A" 18-23 // "B" 23-26



May be subject to slight variation | [www.slowfiberstudios.com](http://www.slowfiberstudios.com) | [wikitravel.org](http://wikitravel.org)

MEALS : B = breakfast included in entire program // L = lunch /// D = dinner

	DATE	EVENT	HOTEL
1	Oct 04 Th	<b>GROUP MEETS IN DELHI (SFS PROGRAM BEGINS)</b> Stay: Delhi (Dinner 1)	
2 -- 3	Oct 05 F  ----- Oct 06 S	Fly to Kochi, Kerala. In Kochin, you will visit a shop with the largest traditional textile shop in Ernakulam (kochi), then sightseeing of Old Kochi Fort and Jew Town; onward to Alleppey for stay on a house boat (2nts)  ALL DAY: enjoy backwater rides, observe the way of common people's life in Kerala, explore old towns/villages along water where you may visit an old Christian church or woodcarver's studio, taste freshly made palm toddy, etc Sightseeing: Paddy fields, coconut lagoon, resorts on banks of Lake, Kumarakom Bird Sanctuary, temples, snake boat, etc. (Lunch 1 Dinner 2,3)	
4	Oct 07 Su	<b>930 AM:</b> depart House Boat. Drive to Munnar -- through mountain roads, from sea level to high range to lush forest, winding through spice, coffee, rubber plantations. Stop for snack en route to Spice Garden (if the driver can find it), <u>you may want to pick up some fruits and snacks in one of the towns before entering forest area.</u> There is an area where basket makers are working on the roadside (tell the driver to stop if interested). Sometimes you can see roadside vegetable stalls (unusual items at reasonable prices), great to bring to Shrishti lodging to be cooked for our meals (you need to tell the driver to look out for it). After snack at a café, finally, head to Kannan Devan Hills to arrive at Aranya Naturals (natural dyeing of cloth and yarns) for workshop series over next 4 days. Late afternoon arrival. Munnar (4nts) (Dinner 4)	
5 -- 6 -- 7	Oct 08 M --- Oct 09 T ----	<b>AM: Aranya Workshop, Next 4 Mornings</b> (tea, light lunch included). Vicky at Aranya will conduct a natural dye workshop 1/2day for 4 days. Remainder of day open for own activities, eg s/seeing, studio work, etc. Yoshiko will instruct some shaped resist dyeing techniques. Your ikat tied yarn can be dyed here.  <i>All basic natural dye supplies and materials, plus assistance from dyers in finishing your work, is included in program. ½ day at Athulya paper-making studio is also included.</i>	
	Oct 10 W	PM: Other activity options: s/seeing, own work, relax, local paper studio adjacent Aranya. Munnar is well known for its lush natural landscape and expanses of tea plantations, exotic flora, tea and spice factories. You may want to purchase from the great fresh selection of estate teas or spices. (Lunch 2,3,4 Dinner 5,6,7)	
8	Oct 11 Th	<b>AM: Aranya Workshop, Day 4</b> (tea, light lunch included) PM: after lunch, drive through National Park forest to Pollachi . Stay: Pollachi (3nts) Accommodation may be in Pollachi or Vedic village depending on availability. (Lunch 5, Dinner 8)	

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9 -- 10	Oct 12 F --- Oct 13 S	<p><b>AM: Appachi Cotton Farm + Mill: Seminar.</b> Learn about Appachi and organic cotton production, from soil to goods. Topics: hand spinning, weaving on a traditional handloom, designing for a mechanical loom (tea, traditional lunch included)</p> <p><b>Topics:</b> politics of agriculture; economic impact of contract farming; insight into organic fertilizers, insecticide, and diversified crops for sustainability</p> <p>Other activities in Coimbatore &amp; Pollachi: wander through forest; visit Aliyar Dam Lake and villages for insight into the simplicity and naturalness of rural life in India (Lunch 6,7, Dinner 9,10)</p>	
11 -- 12	Oct 14 Su --- Oct 15 M	<p>AM: Fly to Ahmedabad. Arrive in afternoon</p> <p>Drive from airport to Adalaji step well, Sarakeji Roza to enjoy the sunset, and go to a village restaurant.</p> <p>Activities in Ahmedabad include: Early walk in Old City (founded 1411 by Sultan Ahmed Shah). Ahm'd is the 7<sup>th</sup> largest city in India with a city population of ~5.6million (metropolitan population of 6.4 million). 15:00h - 17:00h, Calico Museum (2 hrs to view Indian textiles and pichwai religious paintings in beautifully restored buildings); visit private homes/studios; etc</p> <p>Stay: guest house at National Institute of Design (2nts) (Lunch 8, Dinner 11,12)</p>	
13	Oct 16 T	<p><b>AM: NID tour of grounds and library, half day seminar with faculty and exchange presentations/ discussion with students;</b> Lunch at the NID students canteen.</p> <p>Activities and visits in Ahm'd: sightseeing (Gandhi's Sabramati Ashram, Shriyas Museum of Folk Costumes, Louis Kahn designed building)</p> <p>Optional Dinner at Agashiye, famed Gujarati restaurant on rooftop of House of MG</p> <p>Stay at House of MG, boutique heritage hotel (1nt) (Lunch 9)</p>	
14	Oct 17 W	<p>AM: 10:15 - 12:30 Visit Calico Museum and Le Corbusier designed private house</p> <p>Afternoon: Fly to Delhi</p> <p>Stay: Delhi (Dinner 13)</p>	
15	Oct 18 Th	<p>AM: after breakfast <b>SFS PROGRAM ENDS</b></p> <p><b>Optional exploration of Delhi. Group 1 leave at night for home.</b></p> <p><b>PM: OPTIONAL EXTENSION "A" BEGINS.</b> Group 2 takes an overnight train to Kothgodom. Stay: overnight train</p>	

**SFS reserves the right to vary details of transportation arrangements and daily activities as needed.**

SFS program not only benefits international participants but also the local artists and artisans. We aim to create reciprocal exchange of information therefore you willing to share your work and thoughts are much appreciated

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### EXTENSION "A" 18-23 Kumoan Himalayas

### EXTENSION "B" 23-26 Jaipur

15	Oct 18 Th	<b>EXTENSION "A" BEGINS</b> in evening. Group takes overnight train to Kothgodom. Stay: overnight train	
16	Oct 19 F	06:00 ARR at train station, drive to Avani Projects located in Tripuradevi (4000ft altitude, far up in Kumoan Himalayas)	
17	---	PM: Visit Avani Project (and AvaniCraft), a community powered entirely by solar energy and supporting sustainable livelihoods by combining technology and traditional crafts (textiles, farming, etc). Observe (and learn if you wish) spinning of Tibetan wool, wild tussar & muga silk, mulberry silks; hand weaving; natural dyeing. See how people successfully live ecologically. <a href="http://www.avani-kumaon.org">www.avani-kumaon.org</a>	
18	Oct 20 S --- Oct 21 Su	Embark on 3-hour hike to worthwhile villages at 6000 ft altitude. There will be wild cocoons including muga, and tussar ready for spinning. (*Option to stay behind at Tripuradevi; short hikes to nearby villages) Stay: Tripuradevi area (3nts) (Lunch 10,11,12, Dinner 14,15,16)	
19	Oct 22 M	AM: on own in Avani PM: Afternoon -- travel from Avani to train station for overnight journey Stay: train, overnight sleeper (Lunch 13)	
20	Oct 23 T	EARLY AM: Arrive in Delhi train station. DAY: <b>EXTENSION "A" ENDS</b> // Explore Delhi // Take evening flight home EVENING: <b>EXTENSION "B" BEGINS</b>	

20	Oct 23 T	<b>EXTENSION "B" BEGINS // Price TBD // costs will be shared basis</b> Evening Meet-up TBD	
21	Oct 24 W	EARLY AM: Delhi to Jaipur by car (5 hrs)	
22	--- OCT 25 Th	PM: Explore Jaipur Stay: Jaipur (2nts)	
23	Oct 26 F	EARLY AM: Jaipur to Delhi by car (5hrs) <b>EXTENSION "B" ENDS</b> // Take evening flight home	