



# SAGE: Studies Abroad for Global Education

## 2007 Summer SAGE Trip Description

---

### Arts and Religions of India

July 1<sup>st</sup> – July 24<sup>th</sup> 2007

#### **Arrival and Orientation to India, July 1<sup>st</sup> - July 7<sup>th</sup>**

On the first day of travel, SAGE participants and Trip Leaders will meet at the U.S. airport of departure (to be determined). The group then travels to Bangalore, and will be stationed at the Sangam Arts Center, where participants begin an orientation to India. During morning and afternoon sessions, students will learn about India, exploring topics such as religion, culture, politics, and current social and development challenges. Participants will also experience the sensations of daily Indian life by shopping in the local bazaar, visiting Hindu temples, viewing videos and Bollywood films, and by exploring the cosmopolitan city of Bangalore. Toward the end of the week, SAGE students will visit local community service organizations, such as a home for abandoned and neglected girls, a center that serves street children, and an arts-focused and innovative village school.

#### **Arts of India, July 8<sup>th</sup> - July 13<sup>th</sup>**

From Bangalore, the group will travel by overnight train to Kerala, a fascinating tropical state on the southwestern shore of India. Students will be based at the Vijnana Kala Vedi Cultural Center in the village of Aranmula. At the cultural center, SAGE participants will choose from a wide variety of private/group lessons and become intensive students of traditional south Indian arts. Participants can take classes in Kathakali mythological drama, classical Carnatic vocals, or learn the traditional dances of Kerala and Tamil Nadu. Students can also take lessons in Hindu mural painting, Kerala cooking, woodcarving, Hathayoga, Kathakali make-up techniques, and in Kalarippayattu, one of the world's most ancient martial arts. Other evening and afternoon activities will include speaking with a traditional astrologer, visiting a local temple, and taking a captivating boat ride along Kerala's famous "backwaters."

#### **Religions of India, July 14<sup>th</sup> - July 18<sup>th</sup>**

On the first day of this segment, SAGE students will travel from Aranmula to Cochin, a city located along an ancient spice trade route. Here they will explore a 16<sup>th</sup> century Jewish synagogue and learn about Indian Judaism. SAGE participants will then depart from the state of Kerala and take a chartered bus through the mountains, stopping at a wild elephant preserve, and arriving in the southern state of Tamil Nadu. Over the next several days, students will learn how diverse religions are practiced in the Indian context and will visit three historical religious centers. They will spend time at the Meenakshi Temple, a world famous Hindu site and a structure so stunning, that it was considered for selection as one of the seven modern wonders of the world. Participants will explore the Christian pilgrimage center of Vailankani, a place where believers have witnessed the apparition of the Virgin Mary. They will also make a stop in Nagapattinam, where they may visit a local mosque and experience the confluence of three major religions (Hinduism, Islam and Christianity) that exist harmoniously within this predominantly Muslim community. Along the journey through Kerala and Tamil Nadu, SAGE participants will visit open markets, see craftsmen at work, and experience the warm tropical culture of South India.

#### **Reflection & Action, July 19<sup>th</sup> – July 23<sup>rd</sup>**

On the next segment of this amazing journey, students will set out for Auroville, "The City of Dawn," an intriguing village township dedicated to international unity, spiritual consciousness, and environmental sustainability. Over the next few days, SAGE participants will learn about Auroville's progressive ideals and explore its wide array of service and economic activities. Students will also take a day trip to the former French colony of Pondicherry. In Pondicherry, they will visit the Sri Aurobindo Ashram, an educational and yoga center founded on the philosophy and spiritual teachings of the renowned Sri Aurobindo and his collaborator, "The Mother." In the final days of their SAGE tour, students will spend time reflecting and thinking critically about their experiences in India. They will discuss what they have learned over the course of the journey and determine how these new concepts and lessons can be applied to their daily lives. They will share insights with their peers through a final presentation. On the last day of the trip, participants will take a final swim in the Bay of Bengal, fill out program evaluations, and say farewell to India. The group flies out from Chennai in the evening and returns back to the US.

*\*Please note that trip content is subject to change*



# SAGE: Studies Abroad for Global Education

## 2007 Summer SAGE Trip Itinerary

### Arts and Religions of India

July 1<sup>st</sup> – July 24<sup>th</sup> 2007

Date	Activity	Evening Location
July 1, Sunday	Meet at U.S. airport of departure; evening flight to Bangalore	Overnight flight
July 2, Monday	Arrival in India	Bangalore hotel
July 3, Tuesday	Morning orientation to the Sangam Arts Center and to India; afternoon orientation to SAGE; teambuilding activities	Sangam Arts Center
July 4, Wednesday	Morning class; visit to local temple; teambuilding activities; evening activity	Sangam Arts Center
July 5, Thursday	Community service activity at a local school	Sangam Arts Center
July 6, Friday	Day in Bangalore; Bollywood movie; traditional Indian lunch	Sangam Arts Center
July 7, Saturday	Rest/free day; evening train to Kerala	Overnight train
July 8, Sunday	Orientation to Vijnana Kala Vedi Cultural Center	Vijnana Kali Vedi guest house
July 9, Monday	Art, music and dance classes at the Cultural Center; evening activity	Vijnana Kali Vedi guest house
July 10, Tuesday	Art, music and dance classes at the Cultural Center; evening activity	Vijnana Kali Vedi guest house
July 11, Wednesday	Art, music and dance classes at the Cultural Center; evening activity	Vijnana Kali Vedi guest house
July 12, Thursday	Art, music and dance classes at the Cultural Center; evening activity	Vijnana Kali Vedi guest house
July 13, Friday	Art, music and dance classes at the Cultural Center; evening Kathakali dance performance	Vijnana Kali Vedi guest house
July 14, Saturday	Visit to Cochin; possible Kerala backwater trip	Vijnana Kali Vedi guest house
July 15, Sunday	Day bus ride to Madurai; lunch at Periyar Wildlife Preserve	Hotel Royal Court or Hotel Pandiyan, Madurai
July 16, Monday	Meenakshi Temple in the morning; another temple in the afternoon; evening activity	Hotel Royal Court or Hotel Pandiyan, Madurai
July 17, Tuesday	Explore and visit sites in Madurai; evening activity	Hotel Royal Court or Hotel Pandiyan, Madurai
July 18, Wednesday	Bus to Vailankani; visit to the Shrine Basilica	Vailankani guest house
July 19, Thursday	Bus to Auroville; lunch in Nagapattinam; possible visit to mosque	Auroville guest house
July 20, Friday	Morning introduction to Auroville; afternoon swim; Sri Aurobindo Memorial in evening	Auroville guest house
July 21, Saturday	Reflection and action activities in Auroville	Auroville guest house
July 22, Sunday	Reflection and action activities in Auroville; final presentations; farewell party	Auroville guest house
July 23, Monday	Morning trip evaluations; evening bus to Chennai; evening flight from Chennai to U.S.	Overnight flight
July 24, Tuesday	Arrival in U.S.; onward flights to home cities	Flights home

*\*Please note that trip itinerary is subject to change*