

MISSION AWARENESS TRIPS

trip information

The following information is for **2013** trips. The dates and trips to specific countries change from year to year depending on interest, the political situation within the countries and the ability of CFCA projects to host a mission awareness trip. A detailed schedule and additional information will be sent one to two weeks prior to departure in the pre-departure packet.

SOUTH INDIA

Trip Dates: Jan. 12-23, 2013 (Breads, Chennai, Palay and Trichy)

CFCA will host two mission awareness trips to India in 2013. Each will visit different regions of India. Sponsors should register for the trip that corresponds with their sponsored friend's project. Please refer to the map for help selecting the correct trip. If you have questions regarding which trip to take, please call the trip coordinators at (800) 875-6564 or (913) 384-6500.

Trip Cost:

\$800 (Includes food, lodging and in-country transportation.

Airfare **not** included.)

Minimum group size: 12



On your trip to India you may do some or all of the following activities:

- Meet your friend and possibly the family
- Visit subprojects and learn about the reality and potential of CFCA families
- Learn about the realities that CFCA families, staff and communities face
- Be welcomed into the homes of CFCA families
- Learn about the diverse experiences and unique perspectives of sponsored friends and their families
- Visit cultural and regional sites of interest

Entry and Exit Requirements

A **passport valid for at least six months beyond the end of your intended stay and an Indian tourist visa** are required for entry. **All Indian visas must be obtained online through the government-appointed agency *Travisa* at <http://indiavisa.travisaoutsourcing.com>.** You will receive instructions in your confirmation packet. It may take a number of weeks to obtain a visa. The total cost for a six-month, multiple-entry visa for U.S. citizens is \$76 plus shipping. *All fees are subject to change.* While in India, participants should carry a passport or a photocopy at all times. Participants who will be traveling with a minor should contact a CFCA trip coordinator for additional information.

Airport and Arrival Arrangements

Applicants should await receipt of the confirmation letter before making airline reservations. In the meantime, we strongly encourage you to research airfares with a travel agent, the airlines, or via the Internet. Vista Travel, (800) 537-5066, may also be contacted regarding airfare. The agency is familiar with our programs and schedules.

Trip participants will arrive and depart from **Chennai International Airport (MAA)** in Chennai. Those traveling from the U.S. will arrive in Chennai one or two days after departure due to overnight travel and passing through multiple time zones. Participants should arrive in Chennai between 5 p.m. on Jan. 13 and 10 a.m. on Jan. 14. **CFCA staff will meet all travelers at the airport who arrive within the stated hours. Do not accept any offers of**

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Airport and Arrival Arrangements (Cont'd.)

transportation from anyone other than the CFCA team. Activities will begin midday on Jan. 14.

The last scheduled activity will occur on Jan. 22. Participants should depart from Chennai between 7 p.m on Jan. 22 and 5 a.m. on Jan. 23. Participants returning to the U.S. will arrive in the U.S. on Jan. 23.

Accommodations and Food

All trip participants will stay in simple accommodations, usually in some type of retreat center or hotel. Private rooms are available for married couples and families. Individuals will be assigned a roommate. Running water is available, but it may not be heated. Some regions visited may not have traditional western showers. Tap water is unsafe for drinking. The project will provide bottled water. Alcoholic beverages are not included in the trip cost.

You will have the privilege of trying a variety of Indian foods. Typically, a selection of food is available at each meal. All food is prepared with purified water. All meals will be eaten with the group. Do not purchase food from street vendors. Meals are often served at a later hour than most Americans are accustomed to eating. We recommend bringing snacks such as dried fruit and nut mixes, raisins, granola bars, etc., as you may want something to eat between scheduled meals.

Participants wishing to use personal electrical appliances during the trip should carry an electrical converter and adapters to fit types C and D outlets. Diagrams of the outlets are available at www.electricaloutlet.org. The **electrical current** in India is 230V versus 120V in the U.S.

Climate

This trip visits the city of Chennai and areas in the state of Tamil Nadu. Participants should be prepared for cool mornings and high temperatures in the afternoons. Even the coolest months (November to mid-March) may feel very warm to people not used to such a climate. Average January temperatures in southern India range from mid 60s to the mid 90s.

Health/Medical Preparations

Contact your medical doctor or local health department for immunization recommendations based on your health history. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website at www.cdc.gov/travel has country specific recommendations regarding immunizations. You may also contact them by phone at 800-CDC-INFO (800-232-4636). According to the CDC the regions of India with marlaria include areas that will be visited on this trip. CFCA staff members are not qualified to offer advice on immunizations.

You should also consult with your medical insurance company prior to traveling to confirm whether your policy applies in a foreign country. **If your policy does not cover emergency expenses such as a medical evacuation, we urge you to consider the purchase of temporary travel insurance.** You may find further information on travel insurance through a travel agent or through research on the Internet.

This trip involves a particularly rigorous schedule. It may be challenging for those with physical limitations. Please contact your doctor and a CFCA trip coordinator with your concerns.

Currency Exchange and Handling

The local currency is the Indian **rupee** (INR). Your lodging, food and in-country transportation are included in the trip cost. You should bring additional money for the purchase of snacks and souvenirs. You should not carry bills in denominations greater than \$20 because they may be difficult for local banks or vendors to exchange. Do not bring torn or severely worn currency. You can bring U.S. dollars into the country. You will be provided with an opportunity to exchange money upon arrival either at the airport, at the lodging, or another method. Traveler's checks are not recommended, and ATMs are not readily available.