

Getting in the mood...India [northwest mostly]

A little bit of preparation will not only enhance your anticipation for the coming journey, it will also enrich your experience.

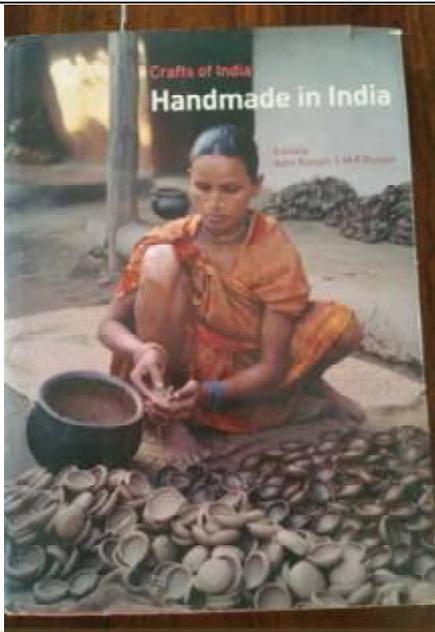
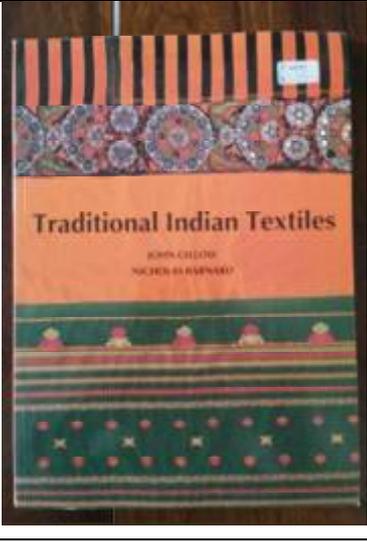
The locations we choose to visit we choose because they are great, of course, but also because they are not like back home so a bit of preparation can go a long way.

May we suggest raiding the local library and video store for whatever you can find covering our locations- **travel guides, histories, cook books, movies** all will start to develop some insight into the counties we are visiting.

Most travel guides have a potted history in the front

Fiction can be a great way to pick up details and insight.

Google or Goodreads will point you towards quite of list of interesting works.

<p>Book shops.</p>	<p>www.abebooks.com – great world wide resource to find second hand books- deliver successfully to me in remote India www.bookdepository.com new books, free delivery and reliable www.amazon.com good book section</p>
<p>Crafts Council of India</p> <p>Handmade in India</p> <p><i>My absolute favourite- well set out and researched....so many dreams of places and people to find</i></p>	
<p>John Gillows</p> <p>Traditional Indian Textiles</p> <p>Good reference, Great images</p> <p>- <i>Danger, danger, desire to travel will be tripped!</i></p>	

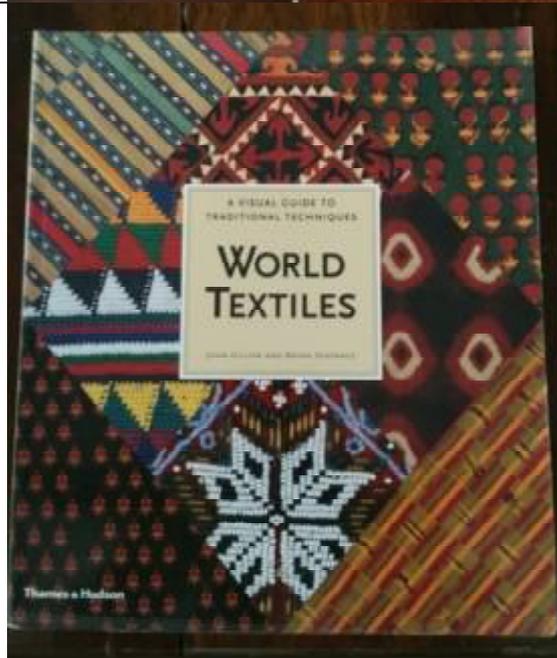
Publications by the Anokhi Blockprint Museum



World Textiles

John Gillows

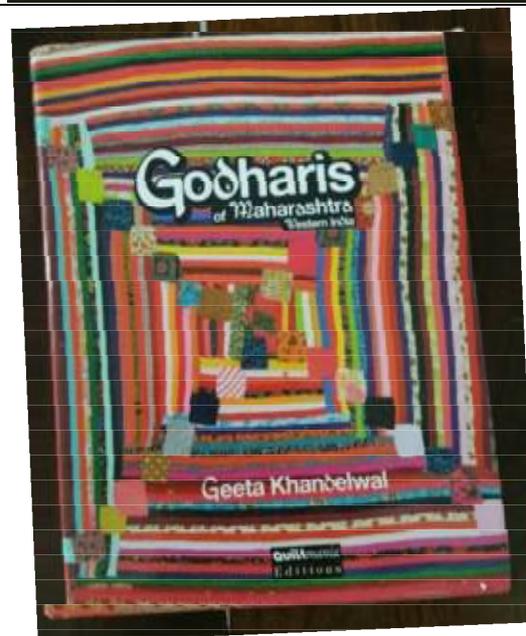
-excellent reference and inspiration



Godharis of Maharashtra

This is south of our travels, but so excited to see it – there is so much diversity and richness across India, an army of writers could be busy recording it and sharing it.

Vibrant folk quilts.



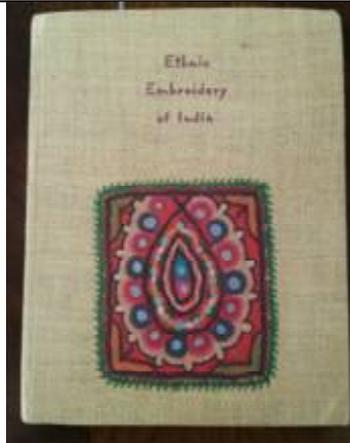
Publications by the Calico Museum.

Quaint, often out of print, full of good info and techniques when you can get your hands on them.



Great for techniques

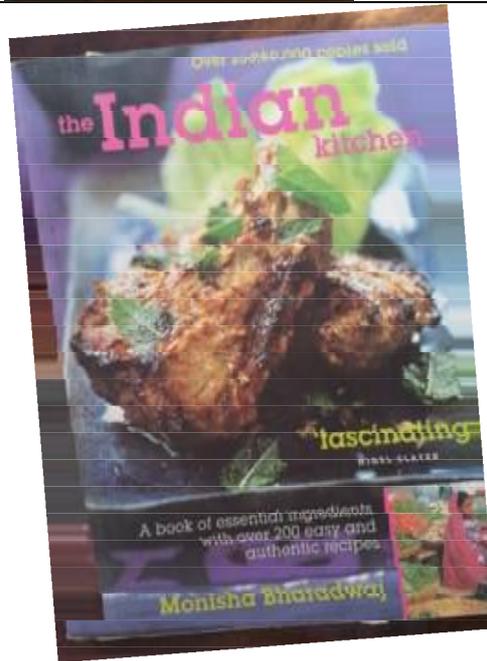
Stitch crazy



Food is always a big part of somewhere new- and we love to try out regional specialties.

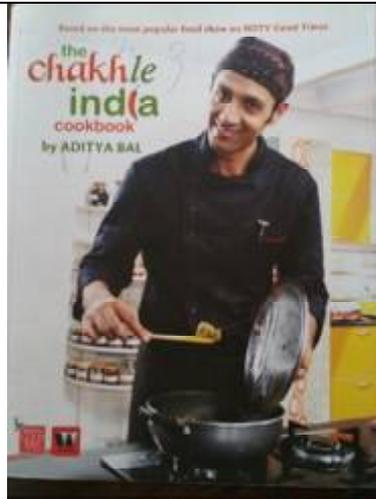
In our Rajasthan tour we have cooking class and send out recipes and links to take home, other places we look for foodie opportunities and have recipe collections to take home.

This is an excellent introduction for beginners and reference with good recipes for Indian food lovers

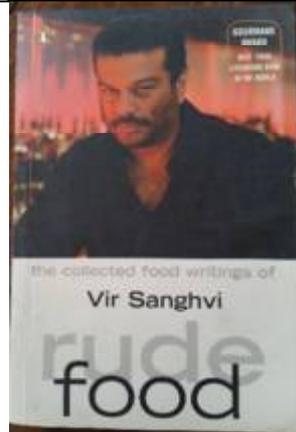


This is from a popular TV show, Aditya Bal on NDTV, I think you can find it on YouTube.

He travels up and down the country looking for authentic regional tastes, recipes are easy to use and delicious.

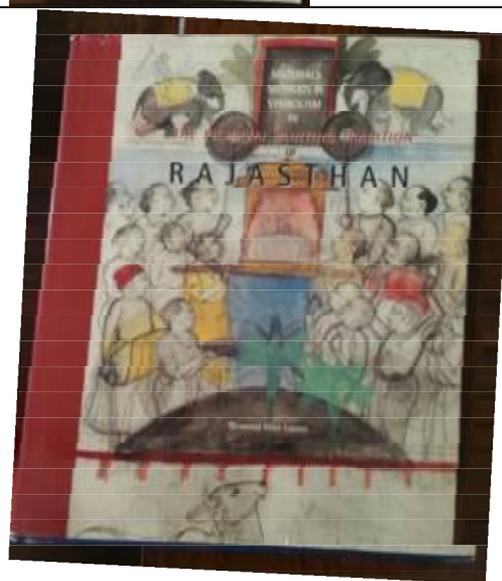


If you like reading about food- well written, smart...bit of history and this and that.



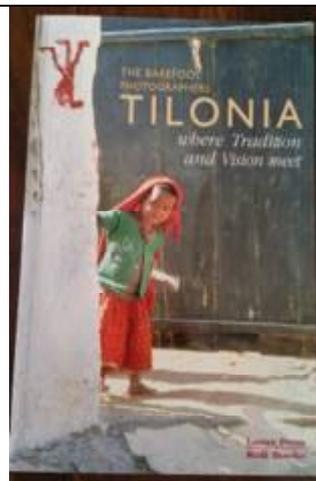
The Pichhavi Painting Tradition of Rajasthan.

You might not be a painter but insight into composition, symbolism of colours etc is fascinating in itself and might lead you to thinking about what you embody in your own work.



A lot of India might not have much money; what India does have is a wealth of people who have done what they could to improve the lot of others.

www.barefootcollege.org is one such group. So inspiring.



Books

- **Michael Woods**– *A History of India*. Excellent book or DVD very approachable and concise history of India– Great introduction to this ancient and continuous culture.

Fiction

India has such a wealth of fabulous writers,

Hard to know where to start, here is a list [http://www.creative-arts-safaris.com/in the mood](http://www.creative-arts-safaris.com/in_the_mood)

We come across book shops in our travels.

Here are a very few highlights to get you started

- My latest finds have been by **Indu Sundaresan** "*The Taj Trilogy*" great background history in the form of novels for the times around the creation of the Taj Mahal. Good read
- **William Dalrymple**- a British writer who lives in India, anything he writes is worth a Read.
 - City of the Djinn*- a year in Delhi- great insight into the history of Delhi.
 - White Mughals*
 - *The Age of Kali*
- **A Fine Balance**- Rohinton Mistry.