

Getting in the mood...India [West Bengal- east of our India]

We have a print out on India on our website, do take a look.

This sheet is more specific to Bengal, its unique crafts and history

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

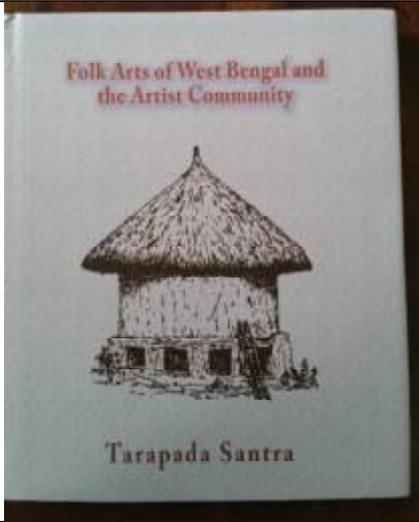
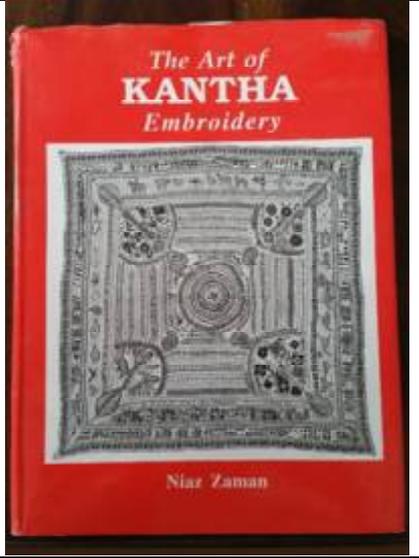
The locations we choose to visit we choose because they are great, of course, but also because they are not like back home so a bit of preparation can go a long way.

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.

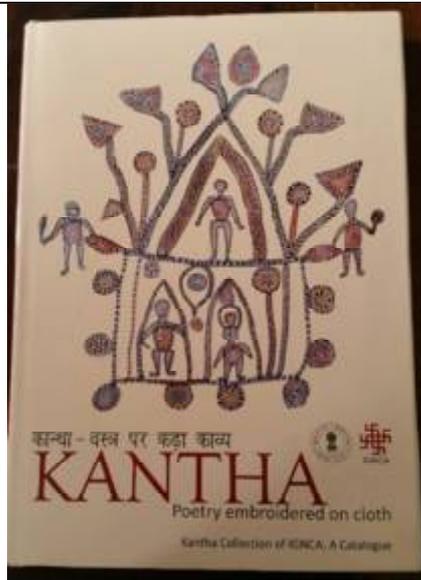
Most travel guides have a potted history in the front

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.

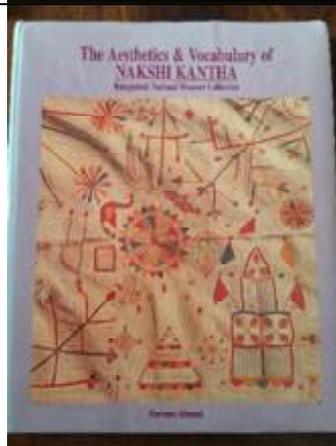
<p>Book shops.</p>	<p>www.abebooks.com – great world wide resource to find second hand books- deliver successfully to me in remote India www.bookdepository.com new books, free delivery and reliable www.amazon.com good book section</p>
<p><i>Folk Arts of West Bengal and the Artist Community</i> Most known for Kantha outside of India ...and for Kantha and fine weaving inside of India, Bengal is a treasure trove of many crafts.</p> <p>This lovingly researched book is very useful</p>	
<p><i>The Art of Kantha Embroidery</i></p> <p>The first publication on Kantha- over 20 years old and still a fine reference. Published by The University of Dhaka in Bangladesh,</p> <p>It is also a reminder that this art form stretches across borders that cut the old kingdom of Bengal</p>	

Kantha- Poetry embroidered on cloth
Lots of pictures and good information.



The Art and Vocabulary of Nakshi Kantha

Also a good reference



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

We come across book shops in our travels.

- Tagore https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rabindranath_Tagore beautiful verse, the first non-European to be awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1913.

Bengal and especially Kolkata have been greatly shaped by the Colonial British presence, the stories we have come across will help develop an imagination of the times and breath life into some of the architecture of today.

Here are a very few highlights specific to Colonial times and East India to get you started

- Amitav Ghosh <http://www.amitavghosh.com> well written stories, his Ibis trilogy starts in Bengal during Company times
- John Masters- stories set during company times
- Rumer Godden- Black Narcissus

Nice introduction to food, click through for recipes

<http://food.ndtv.com/lists/10-best-bengali-recipes-695796>