

Indian Inspiration Creative Camp

5- 18 March, 2017.

Hosted by Fiona Wright and Praveen Nayak.

Usually we travel here and there during our tours, soaking up ideas and attending a few workshops. Our Indian Inspiration Creative Camp, a new idea now in its second year, we stay put -well almost, and spend most of our time working on ideas and inspiration.

You could do this anywhere, I hear you say....but we can offer a very Indian twist to the idea.

- Design the stitch pattern for your own pair of traditional Indian embroidered Jooti [leather slippers]
- Design a wooden block for printing your own fabrics [we'll take it to our carver and have it ready when you arrive]
- Natural indigo workshop
- Indian market to raid for bling braid
- Clothing tailor-made for you from your printed/ indigo dyed fabrics
- Sanju Devi our friend from Bihar will come and lead a Sujani embroidery experience...Sujani is a folk embroidery often producing story pieces, the simple technique produces rich surfaces that can be used in many ways. Notes and links to inspire you will be supplied.

In our home studio there is space and facilities to try your hand at eco dyeing, hand stitching, journal making....

Many things— it depends on what YOU want to explore. Our Stitching Project workshop is close by with a blockprint workshop, lots of sewing machines stashes of re-cycled silk saris and a trunk of treasures that might be useful - stash in other words for you to dive into :)

In preparation for the camp you will receive

- Notes to help develop a theme to work to in our time together, it will help you focus your time. Often something from the natural world is good— leaves, flowers, graffiti has been effective, geometrics— lines and dots
- Details for designing the embroidery for your leather slippers and a pattern to draw into.
- Details to design your own wood block
- By sharing info via a group email we can see what others are thinking, others are bringing and percolate new ideas to explore.
- journal making notes, ideas, eco dyeing notes
- A visit to our friends in Bagru to use their indigo vats.

We will encourage our Stitching Ladies to visit ...again we hope they will learn from seeing what the guests are up to and you will enjoy meeting them.

And then a palace in Jaipur for a bit of a breather, enjoying Holi, the Festival of Colours, we will visit Sangaraner for hand made papers as well, Anokhi Blockprint Museum, Lots to do.....

Day 1-Sun 5 March, 2017

Home/New Delhi

Arrivals and airport pickups at New Delhi Airport.

I will be in Delhi this day...so if you arrive early enough I'll take to for a wander around.

Day 2-Mon 6 March, 2017

Delhi/Pushkar

Early start—what is a nice way to say our train departs at 6.05 am? We take the first class Shatabdi Express train to Ajmer and then a transfer to our hotel in Pushkar, we will arrive in time for lunch. This little adventure is the quickest and easiest way to get to our home AND they serve you newspapers and breakfast on the train.

To welcome you with desert hospitality we will have a camel safari [or camel cart if you like] out to our place for dinner, then Gypsy Dancers to perform as we have a traditional Rajasthani Dinner.

This is also an opportunity to introduce you to our facilities and start settling you in for the next 2 weeks,

Our home, our workshop, the block print studio and your hotel are all a little distance apart so we will shuttle you around each day....an easy routine will develop.

[breakfast, lunch, dinner]

Day 3 -Tues 7 March, 2017

Pushkar

First day at the workshop...let's introduce ourselves, spread our stuff around, discuss how we might develop your theme through the week. Look through our blockprint samples for ideas to explore printing. Start poking into shelves choosing threads from our stash for your shoes.

Introduction to blockprint and print a scarf to whet the appetite and then after lunch we will head out to Govindgarh village, just up the road to drop off the shoe designs.

General Routine of days

- Breakfast
- Pick up around 9.00am and heading out to our house, the workshop / block print studio— dependant on your plans for the day
- Gather for lunch
- Work through the afternoon
- Dropping back to hotel around 5.00pm

NOTE —Pushkar is a Holy Town and so fully vegetarian, the hotel you are staying has a wonderful restaurant and there are many great places in the town...for a little variety we do eggs at lunch some days, organize chicken dinner at our place [outside of Pushkar] during the week.

Day 4- Wed 8 March, 2017

Pushkar

A day to focus on blockprint, we have traditional blocks, contemporary and yours to use.

If you like to print enough cloth our guys in the workshop can make up a garment for you.

Day 5- Thurs 9 March, 2017

Pushkar

Sanju will be with us— Sujani Embroidery will be our focus the next 2 days.

After a pleasant day stitching, stay with us for dinner...something non-veg [chicken] if you like. [inc- breakfast, lunch, dinner]

Day 6—Fri 10 March, 2017

Pushkar

Sanju is here, blockprint comes up really well with stitch added inc- breakfast, lunch]

Day 7- Sat 11 March, 2017

Pushkar

Workshop day—good day to look at cloth folding, boil up some eco dye pots and see what effects we can achieve. [Might like to prep cloth to dye in indigo vats as well. After lunch we will head into Ajmer, look through the old part of town and poke through the cloth and haberdashery market. [inc- breakfast, lunch]

Cost – US \$2600 -twin share

Single US\$ 560

Deposit US\$ 1040 to book today

Booking Deadline 5 December, 2016

Full payment due 5 December, 2016

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Day 8– Sun 12 March, 2017**Pushkar**

Last day in our workshop, probably busy finishing off work and getting your garment made. In the afternoon we will set out in camel carts for a picnic at the Faraway Tree– peaceful and beautiful to see the lights of Pushkar in the distance.

[inc- breakfast, lunch, dinner]

Day 9 -Mon 13 March, 2017**Jaipur**

Early start this morning, off to Bagru and our indigo dye guy, we will supply a piece to print mud on to make a mud resist print scarf, if you have other cloths with you, you will be able to dip them into the vat. We'll also visit Mr Satnaryan the gentleman who carved your wooden block, and look around the area. Afternoon visit to a recycled cotton paper mill– always enjoyed and beautiful hand made papers are loved.

In the evening we settle into our Heritage Hotel and can join the Fire Ceremony that starts off the Holi celebration

[Breakfast, lunch, dinner]

Day 10– Tues 14 March, 2017**Jaipur**

Holi, the Festival of Colours. The reason we love our hotel is the wonderful event they put onto day– the gardens give way to a private colours party– and bags of vibrant powders supplied to throw at each other. SOOO much fun, for those who would prefer there are peaceful terraces to view the fun.

[inc- breakfast, lunch]

Day 11-Wed 15 March, 2017**Jaipur**

Today is a rest day, there are beautiful gardens to sit and stitch, we could wash out our indigo and dry it on the lawns.... Might venture out in the afternoon for a bit of shopping.

[inc- breakfast]

Day 12–Thurs 16 March, 2017**Delhi**

Anokhi Museum of Blockprint this morning and a beautiful stepwell , then on to Delhi [inc- breakfast, lunch, dinner]

Day 13– Fri 17 March, 2017**Delhi**

Got to fit in a little of Delhi before we go....Craft Museum or Old Delhi Sparkle Market...we will decide as a group and then Khan Market...retail therapy and a glimpse of the great hand work some of the top designer use. Farewell Dinner.

[inc- breakfast, dinner]

Day 14—Sat 18 Feb 2017**Delhi/ home**

[inc- breakfast] Transfers will be arranged.

If you would like to see a little more of India whilst you are here, we are happy to organize trips and sightseeing for you.

Notes

Weather – At this time of year is warm in the daytime but perhaps evenings and mornings can be a little cool even cold.

Clothing – light weight layers of clothing is good. To respect local customs it is best for skirts or trousers to be mid-calf length at least, tops not too revealing. Light, loose layers work well with the climate. Generally I find 3 or 4 outfits sufficient, there is always the opportunity to pick up things along the way. Pack a pair of socks and cardigan for the cool of the morning.

Shoes – sensible walking shoes such as sneakers or strapped on sandals are the best options. Surfaces are often rough and you really want your footing stable so you can focus on all the wonderful things everywhere to look at! Pair of rubber thongs or flip-flops are good – often bathrooms are marble and can be slippery when wet.

Money – ATMs are everywhere so you can use a travel card, visa debit or credit advance easily. If you plan to use a card overseas DO warn your bank to expect overseas activity – some will freeze the card wondering what is happening.

Money changes can be found to change travellers cheques or currency.

Power – 240 volts, European adaptor plugs are the most useful.

Begging? – is generally not to be encouraged. Giving gifts of pens and lollies to children is encouraging them to learn a begging mentality [if you like to give a gift to children we can hand it onto a school].

There is no pension in India – a few rupees to a very old person or a handicapped person is very kind.

Tippping? – it is the local custom so have a pocket full of small change to be ready If you receive a personal service – e.g. bags into or out of hotel, cup of tea through room service, laundry delivery, it is customary to give a tip [10-50 rp].

Step lightly on our environment, be frugal in water use, turn off power switches, take rubbish with you where possible.

Say NO to Plastic! Please bring a cloth carry bag.

Be the change you want to see in the world

Gandhi

Do and in doing...

Become.

Sartre

Our aim is to create a place,
a space for you to come
and play, and make and do.

...a little time to explore,

Time to sit....and chat textile ideas....

...make notes or draw in your journal.

Follow your ideas.

We are seeding your experience with the shoe embroidery that you design, wooden block to your design...suggestions and ideas from our printing experience....notes and instructions around journals, stitch and eco dye

Really a little bit of this and a little that....Those who come will have an impact on how it all works out....

You will have a small Indian based body of work to take home with you.

We have Sanju Devi from Bihar....her naïve folk work Sujani embroidery is beautiful and leads to developing ideas for what running stitch can do... you will be inspiring to her too, I know.

Into this mix comes you and your ideas.

Creative Arts Safaris tours include:

- pickups from the airport for arrivals on Day 1
- departures last day of tour

[we are happy to organise pick-ups if you arrive earlier or depart later at an extra fee, we are also happy to help with accommodation etc if you wish to stay longer]

- accommodation from the evening of Day 1 up to and including the night of our Farewell Dinner

Our accommodation is generally mid-range. We use heritage hotels where we can. All places are clean, friendly and have western bathrooms! It is ambiance and friendliness we are looking for. This is the range where we may meet locals as well – top end is far removed from this and just full of foreigners!

- all transportation, road taxes and fuel costs for the tour
- all breakfasts and many other meals

Food is a reflection of the culture and we are pleased to say we will sample a range of good dining experiences.

- all tuition fees

You need to cover:

- some meals
- all drinks
- laundry
- the one expense that we can't guestimate' for you is shopping! *[this is not a shopping expedition but you will see some amazing things and you will probably want to indulge!]*

- **airfares**

- **travel insurance**

- **visa**

We support Fair Trade and Self-Help organisations where we can and so the only 'shops' listed on our itinerary come under this category [more info in the notes to follow] Don't worry there are also lots of other markets and bazaars we can visit too!

In India we look after our drivers and support staff and only use hotels where our drivers also receive good quality accommodation [some hotels look after their guests and treat their driver miserably]. We have decided to use heritage hotels where we can. They are wonderful, atmospheric places and we believe it helps to keep them maintained rather than leave them deteriorating...

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