

Rethinking Approaches to Community Development in India

13 – 23 January 2017



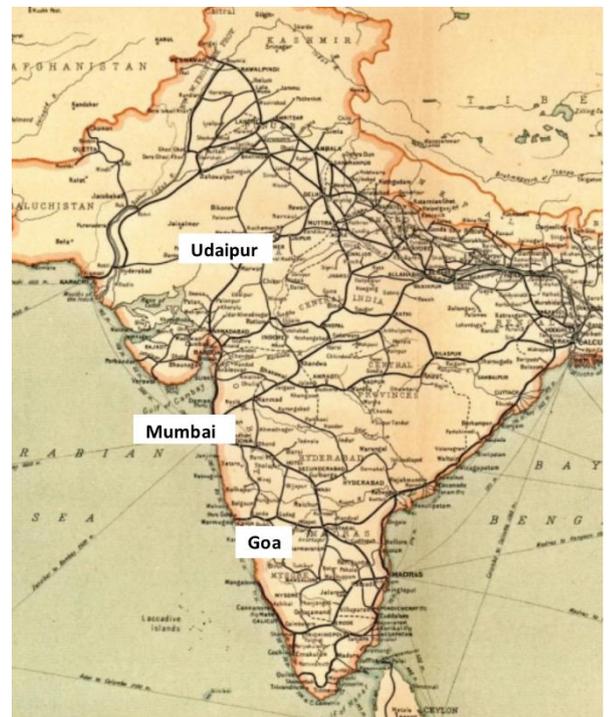
Background to CERES Global

CERES Global Trips aim to engage Australian people with the issues of development both overseas and at home whilst enjoying the richness of their cultures and the wisdoms they can add to our understanding of sustainable wellbeing.

For more information visit: <http://ceres.org.au/global/>

Trip Details

Join us on a journey through some of the most beautiful and iconic regions of India re-imagining the dialogue around community development and sustainability on a trip to coincide with the Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) Festival in Goa. Immersed in the vibrant culture and traditions of the sub-continent, our focus will be on mutual cross-cultural exchange and experiential learning. The aim of the trip is to build on and challenge our notions of community development and what it means to be a practitioner, student or participating citizen in this area. The intention is to engage new thought processes, inspire new ideas and motivate us to bring better more conscious practices into our lives, our work, our neighbourhoods and the world in which we live.



Over 10 days we will travel from the festival in Goa in the south, through Mumbai and on to Udaipur in the North where we will meet with Shikshantar, the Institute of unlearning.

Itinerary

January 2019	Activity	Location
Sat 12 – Sun 13	Optional Pre Festival Full Day Master classes in Community Development	Panjm,Goa
Sun 13	Welcome Dinner in Gardens of International Centre Goa	Panjm,Goa
Mon 14 - Fri 18	International ABCD Festival Goa.	Panjm,Goa
Fri 18	Last day of festival and overnight sleeper train from Goa to Mumbai	Panjm,Goa
Sat 19	Day in Mumbai – Dharavi slum tour, overnight sleeper train to Udaipur	Mumbai
Sun 20	City tour of Udaipur with Shikshantar our partner organisation	Udaipur
Mon 21	Full day with Shikshantar institute of unlearning	Udaipur
Tues 22	Full day with Shikshantar	Udaipur
Wed 23	Morning check out with Shikshantar. Fly home	Udaipur

Goa: Asset Based Community Development Festival

The trip will begin with 5 days at the Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) Festival in historic beach side Goa providing a great background and start to the rest of the trip.

Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) is a global movement committed to strengths focused, place based and community driven development. ABCD builds on the assets that are already found in the community and mobilizes individuals, associations, and institutions to come together to build on those assets rather than concentrating on their needs.



Goa will also provide the perfect “gentle” introduction to India. The region stands out from the rest of India with its laid back vibe, extraordinary Portuguese influenced architectural and colonial heritage, palm tree lined beaches and beautiful spice filled vibrant street scenes.

More information on the festival program visit: abcdfestivalgoa.com/about-abcd/

Optional Master class (Goa) Asset Based Community Development 12 - 13 Jan

On the two days leading up to the trip there is the option to arrive early and attend a series of optional Master classes at the commencement of the festival. The cost of each Master class will be US\$99 plus around \$60 - \$80 per day for food and accommodation. For more information on the master classes to choose from visit abcdfestivalgoa.com/masterclasses/



Mumbai: Dharavi Slums

We will arrive in Mumbai in the early morning of the 3rd and will spend the day visiting Dharavi, one of the largest slums in Asia and home to 1 million inhabitants. Although incredibly poor, Dharavi is also an amazingly industrious and vibrant place, sometimes called the beating heart of Mumbai. The visit will offer a unique glimpse into the chaotic beauty, and nuances, as well as the challenges and struggles of informal and unplanned spaces and life in the slums. **For more information visit:** realitytoursandtravel.com/dharavi-tour.php

In the evening we will catch another overnight sleeper train from Mumbai to Udaipur.

Udaipur Rajasthan: Shikshantar

In Rajasthan we will head to the magical "white city" of Udaipur in the desert. The city has a romance of setting surrounded by shimmering lakes and stretching hills. Here we visit and work with the inspiring organisation Shikshantar. Also known as the institute of unlearning, Shikshantar is a life movement and was founded to challenge the culture of schooling and institutions of thought-control. They believe that it is necessary to engage communities in regenerative modes of lifelong societal learning which grow from a larger understanding of and respect for human potential and dignity. **For more information visit:** shikshantar.org/

Our activities with Shikshantar will include:

- Village visit to learn about the ancient food and farming traditions working alongside the farmers in the field, learn about the local seed trail and tribal forest communities.
- 1 – 2 day meet and stay with Swaraj University youth learners at Tapovan Ashram. Learn about their self-directed learning process that invites learners to identify their hearts' visions and engages them in developing the skills, relationships and practices they need to manifest those visions. It also has a focus on green entrepreneurship.
- Explore topics and conversations in gift culture, unlearning and reclaiming our learning processes.
- Generate meaningful critiques of education, development and progress and imagine and re-imagine their own complex shared visions and practices.
- Wisdom Walk (to explore traditional knowledge) in the old city of Udaipur.
- Visit illegal mining sites, local dump site and engagements with the community who live there.
- Workshops on Up-cycling Waste, Herbal Soap Making, Slow Food Cooking and natural ayurvedic medicine @ Shikshantar and EcoHut
- Visit to different organisations around Udaipur working on solutions (traditional water, traditional healers, gift culture projects, organic food).
- Visit to local artisans & traditional communities (potter, bamboo, miniature painter, broom maker, etc).

Accommodation: Accommodation is as far as possible in twin-bedded rooms (sharing with a participant of the same gender). It is in modest, comfortable hotels, guesthouses or guest rooms with our partner organisations. When in villages or small towns on project visits, accommodation can be basic but comfortable.

COST: \$1750

This price includes all festival costs plus all internal transport, meals, accommodation, the purchase of carbon credits to offset airline travel, administration and project running costs. This price does not include flights to and from India. Participants can expect to spend just a few more rupees on items of a personal nature.

Flights: Arrival at Goa's International Airport Dabolim is the closest airport – approximately 30 kms south of the Festival Venue. Internationally, you can fly in from Kuala Lumpur, Dubai, Kuwait and Doha. There are also regular domestic flights, trains and buses to Goa from most major Indian cities.

Udaipur has an airport that you can fly out of and connect with international flights. Alternatively you can train in and out from major cities. Mumbai and Delhi have international airports.

Visas: All trip participants will need to obtain a **Tourist Visa for India**. This can be obtained in advance or on arrival. Further details can be found here:

A note before travelling with CERES global: Remember, this is not a tour and our facilitators from CERES are not tour guides, but facilitators or enablers – working alongside you to achieve insight and understanding of the communities we visit, and to engage discussion within the group and with community members on social and environmental issues. It is expected that you will show some initiative and make a contribution to the journey, through sharing of your own knowledge and experience, and working within the group to ensure a cohesive and insightful experience is shared by all. Most of all, enjoy this trip and embrace India, there is an incredible energy within the culture that is warm and welcoming, vibrant and alive! Step out of your comfort zone and into a world like no other; be prepared to walk through a journey you will never forget.

For any questions and for more information contact the CERES Global Team

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