

# Indian Inspiration Creative Camp

19 Feb– 4 March, 2018.

## 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 and other plant based dyes 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, block printing, eco dye....

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 dying notes
- Our workshop will make a garment for you from your dyeing/ printing efforts..

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 Anokhi Blockprint Museum,  
Lots to do.....

## Day 1-Mon 19 Feb, 2018

Home/New Delhi

Arrivals and airport pickups at New Delhi Airport.

## Day 2-Tues 20 Feb, 2018

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 –Wed 21 Feb, 2018

Pushkar

First day at the workshop...let's introduce ourselves, spread our stuff around, discuss how we might develop your theme through the week.

Check out the block you designed – it will be oiled and waiting for you. 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 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– Thurs 22 Feb, 2018

Pushkar

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

Print yourself some cloth and our guys in the workshop will make up a garment for you.

## Day 5– Fri 22 Feb, 2018

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,

Cost – US \$2850 -twin share

Single US\$ 650

Deposit US\$ 1500 to book today

Booking Deadline 5 December, 2017

Full payment due 5 December, 2017

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# Creative Arts Safaris

- live, laugh, learn

lunch, dinner]

**Day 6—Sat 24 Feb, 2018**

**Pushkar**

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

**Day 7— Sun 25 Feb, 2018**

**Pushkar**

Sunday our workshop is closed, so enjoy a slow start to the day at your hotel and take a wander into Pushkar Village for a look around. 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 8— Mon 26 Feb, 2018**

**Pushkar**

Workshop day—good day to look at cloth folding, boil up some eco dye pots and see what effects we can achieve. We also put paper through the natural dye vats and make journals, if that interests you they need to be prepped as well. For lunch we will head into Ajmer, look through the old part of town and poke through the cloth and haberdashery market. [inc- breakfast, lunch]

**Day 9 -Tues 27 Feb, 2018**

**Pushkar**

Here we start to develop your interests. We have indigo, and other plant based dyes at our colour studio, there is blockprint, journal making, stitch ideas to follow up on. [Breakfast, lunch, dinner]

**Day 10— Wed 28 Feb, 2018**

**Pushkar**

We imagine today will be busy, finishing up, garments being finished off, much to do. [inc- breakfast, lunch]

**Day 11-Thurs 1 March, 2018**

**Jaipur**

Off to Jaipur today- Anokhi Museum of Blockprint in the afternoon and a beautiful stepwell, then some time to poke around Jaipur and back to the hotel in time for the sunset Puja Ceremony and Holi Fire [inc- breakfast, lunch, dinner]

[inc- breakfast]

**Day 12—Fri 2 March, 2018**

**Jaipur**

Holi, the Festival of Colours. The reason we love our hotel is the wonderful event they put on today— 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.

## 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.

**Tippling?** – 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.

**Day 13—Sat 3 March, 2018**

**Jaipur/Delhi**

Heading up to Delhi today in the morning, and a visit to the Craft Museum in the afternoon. A Farewell Diner in the evening [inc- breakfast, dinner]

**Day 14—Sun 4 March 2018**

**Delhi/ home**

Transfers will be arranged. [breakfast]

**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.**

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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