

The following information is for **2012** trips. The dates and trips to specific countries change from year to year depending on interest, the political situation within the countries and the ability of CFCA projects to host a mission awareness trip. A detailed schedule and additional information will be sent one to two weeks prior to departure in the pre-departure packet.

NORTH/CENTRAL INDIA

Trip Dates: Oct. 19-30, 2012 (Bhagalpur Dumka, Bhagalpur, Delhi and Hyderabad)

CFCA will host two mission awareness trips to India in 2012. Each trip visits a different region. Sponsors should register for the trip that corresponds with their sponsored friend's project. Please refer to the map for help selecting the correct trip. If you have questions regarding which trip to take, please call the trip coordinator at (800) 875-6564 or (913) 384-6500.



Trip Cost

\$750 (Includes food, lodging and in-country transportation. Airfare <u>not</u> included.)

On your trip to India you may do some or all of the following activities:

- Meet your friend and possibly the family
- Visit subprojects and learn about the realities and potential of CFCA families
- Learn about the realities that CFCA families, staff and communities face
- Learn about the diverse experiences and unique perspectives of sponsored friends and their families
- Visit cultural and regional sites of interest

Entry and Exit Requirements

A passport valid for at least six months after arrival and an Indian tourist visa are required for entry. All Indian visas must be obtained online through the government-appointed agency Travisa at http://indiavisa.
travisaoutsourcing.com. You will receive instructions in your confirmation packet. It may take a number of weeks to obtain a visa. The total cost for a six-month, multiple-entry visa for U.S. citizens is \$73 plus shipping. All fees are subject to change. While in India, participants should carry a passport or a photocopy at all times. Participants who will be traveling with a minor should contact a CFCA trip coordinator for additional information.

Airport and Arrival Arrangements

Applicants should await receipt of the confirmation letter before making airline reservations. In the meantime, we strongly encourage you to research airfares with a travel agent, the airlines, or via the Internet. Vista Travel, (800) 537-5066, may also be contacted regarding airfare. The agency is familiar with our programs and schedules.

Most trip participants traveling from the U.S. will depart on Oct. 19. You will arrive at your destination one to two days after departure due to overnight travel and passing through multiple time zones. Your arrival airport will be determined by where your sponsored friend lives. To help you select an arrival airport, call the trip coordinators (phone numbers above). CFCA staff will meet all travelers at the airport who arrive on the scheduled arrival day. Do not accept any offers of transportation from anyone other than the CFCA team.

The last scheduled activity will occur on Oct. 29. All participants will **depart from Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (HYD) in Hyderabad between late afternoon on Oct. 29 and early morning on Oct. 30.** Participants returning to the U.S. will arrive in the U.S. on Oct. 30.

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Accommodations and Food

All trip participants will stay in simple accommodations near the CFCA projects, usually in some type of retreat center or hotel. Private rooms are available for married couples and families. Individuals will be assigned a roommate. Running water for showers is readily available, but will likely <u>not</u> be heated. Tap water is unsafe for drinking. The project provides bottled water. Alcoholic beverages are not included in the trip cost.

Participants will eat simple, nutritious meals. You will have the privilege of trying a variety of foods. Typically, a selection of food is available at each meal. All food is prepared with purified water. All meals will be eaten with the group. Do not purchase food from street vendors. Meals are often served at a later hour than most Americans are accustomed to eating. We recommend bringing snacks such as dried fruit and nut mixes, raisins, granola bars, etc., as you may want something to eat between scheduled meals.

Participants wishing to use personal electrical appliances during the trip should carry an electrical converter and adapters to fit types C and D outlets. Diagrams of the outlets are available at www.escapeartist.com, a website for overseas job seekers. Search for "diagrams of adapter plugs." The **electrical current** in India is 230V versus 120V in the U.S.

Climate

The geography of India is diverse so the weather varies. From mid-July to September, certain regions of India experience monsoon rains. Participants should be prepared for cool mornings and high temperatures in the afternoons. Even the coolest months (November to mid-March) may feel very warm to people not used to such a climate. Average October temperatures range from 70 to the mid 80s in central India, and from the mid 70s to 90 in the north.

Health/Medical Preparations

Contact your medical doctor or local health department for immunization recommendations based on your health history. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website at www.cdc.gov/travel has country specific recommendations regarding immunizations. CFCA staff members are not qualified to offer advice on immunizations. You should also consult with your medical insurance company prior to traveling to confirm whether your policy applies in a foreign country. If your policy does not cover emergency expenses such as a medical evacuation, we urge you to consider the purchase of temporary travel insurance. You may find further information on travel insurance through a travel agent or through research on the Internet. This trip involves a particularly rigorous schedule. It may be challenging for those with physical limitations. Please consult your doctor or a CFCA trip coordinator with your concerns.

Currency Exchange and Handling

The local currency is the Indian **rupee** (INR). Your lodging, food and in-country transportation are included in the trip cost. You should bring additional money for the purchase of snacks and souvenirs. You should not carry bills greater than \$20 because it may be difficult for local banks or vendors to make change. Do not bring torn or severely worn currency. Traveler's checks are not recommended, and ATMs are not readily available.