Ecovillage design Education

DECEMBER 4 2016 - JANUARY 8 2017

A five week experiential course on the fundamentals of sustainability design

For youth from Auroville, its Bioregion, India & the World

Auroville
Auroville-GEN Desk: gen@auroville.org.in
INDEX:

• HOST ECOVILLAGE – Auroville
• HOSTING SITE – Pitchandikulam Forest
• ECOVILLAGE DESIGN EDUCATION
• EDE AUROVILLE VISION
• GEN AND GAIA EDUCATION
• EDE MANDALA
• EDE AUROVILLE PROGRAM
  o SOCIAL DIMENSION
  o ECOLOGICAL DIMENSION
  o ECONOMICAL DIMENSION
  o WORLDVIEW DIMENSION
  o DESIGN
• FACILITATORS AND HOSTING TEAM
  o Ethan Hirsch-Tauber
  o Joss Brooks
  o Kosha Anja Joubert
  o Michael Dieter Salvador Marco
  o Kavitha Urvasie Selvaraj
  o Nikethana Venkatesan
  o Riccardo de Amici
• OUR ECONOMIC VISION
• MINI EDE 2016
• SITE VISITS
• ACCOMODATION
• TRAVEL INFORMATION
  o Weather
  o Health
  o Money
  o What to Bring
  o Visa for India
  o How to Reach Us
• LINK TO REGISTRATION FORM
• CONTACT
Auroville (City of Dawn) is an experimental township in Viluppuram district in the state of Tamil Nadu, India, near Puducherry in India. Inspired by the philosophy of Sri Aurobindo, Auroville was founded in 1968 by the Mother (Mira Alfassa) in accordance with her dream of a universal township living in harmony with itself and the wider world.

Receiving support from UNESCO and the government of India Auroville is today an endorsed ongoing experiment in human unity and transformation of consciousness, also concerned with - and practically researching into - sustainable living and the future cultural, environmental, social and spiritual needs of mankind.

Aurovillians currently come from some 49 nations, from all age groups, from all social classes, backgrounds and cultures. The population of the township is constantly growing, but at the moment stands at around 2,400 people, of whom approximately one-third are Indian.

The activities pursued by the inhabitants are many and various. They include village development, education, business, land restoration and afforestation, research into renewable energy and experimental construction, health care and varied cultural activities.

Whatever Auroville’s material achievements, however, the main aim is inner change, for the Aurovillians understand that without a radical change in consciousness no permanent change can be effected.
HOST SITE

Pitchandikulam Forest

Pitchandikulam Forest is dedicated to the preservation and restoration of the Tropical Dry Evergreen Forest. It was established in 1973 as one of the pioneering Auroville green belt communities engaged in the initial reforestation work that was necessary on the bare eroded township site. Since then the 70 acre site has been transformed into a complete ecosystem with more than 800 species of plants. Pitchandikulam, hosts a bio-resource center and manages outreach programs for sustainable enterprises, environmental education and afforestation in Auroville’s bioregion. It is one of the leading experts in ecological restoration and water conservation.

In 2004, Pitchandikulam Forest Consultants was created to implement restoration work in other areas of Tamil Nadu including the city of Chennai. The Pitchandikulam team has experience in working with state and national government, and has implemented a project called Sustainable Enterprise Development in the Auroville Bioregion (SEDAB). Pitchandikulam Forest has helped launch the Auroville Sustainable Livelihood Institute in collaboration with the Tamil Nadu Government working to train rural development officials and community groups primarily from Tamil Nadu and also other states in India in helping enable sustainable livelihoods.

Pitchandikulam Forest serves as the current base for the Global Ecovillage Network (GEN) office in Auroville.
ECOVILLAGE DESIGN EDUCATION

The Ecovillage Design Education (EDE) curriculum was developed by the Global Ecovillage Network (GEN) and Gaia Education in recognition of the immense potential for growth in human consciousness and behaviour.

Recognised by UNESCO, the EDE was specifically designed to enable people and communities coming together to reclaim responsibility for their living situations - at local and regional levels. A universal framework, adaptable to the local environment, the EDE offers an education that assesses the current state of the planet and local area followed by place-based solutions relevant to the local community.

EDE AUROVILLE: VISION

The EDE Auroville program currently being designed has evolved from the recognition of the need to engage youth in Auroville and its bioregion in uncovering their purpose and engage in meaningful work. It has emerged after the mini-EDE 2 day workshop held in Pitchandikulam in early January 2016 where the participants identified key issues facing Auroville and rural Tamil nadu, expressing their wish to feel more empowered to act in face of these immense challenges.

This EDE will be 5 week course for youth from Auroville, its Bioregion, India and the World aimed to:
- immerse in transformational processes and experiential earning
- encourage the design of locally relevant, paradigm shifting projects
- empower through building capacities in youth as future trainers
GEN and GAIA EDUCATION

The Global Ecovillage Network (GEN) is a growing network of sustainable communities and initiatives that bridge different cultures, countries, and continents. GEN serves as umbrella organization for ecovillages, transition town initiatives, intentional communities, and ecologically-minded individuals worldwide.

People and communities meet and share their ideas, exchange technologies, develop cultural and educational exchanges, directories and newsletters, and are dedicated to restoring the land and living a cooperative sustainable lifestyle.

For more information:
http://gen.ecovillage.org/en

Gaia education is a leading-edge provider of sustainability education that promotes thriving communities within planetary boundaries. Initially envisioned as the educational branch of GEN, Gaia education now functions as an independent organization offering a holistic systems approach to education for sustainable development.

Gaia Education works in partnership with global educators, government and nongovernment agencies, ecovillages, universities, and the United Nations to bring sustainable development solutions, curricula and transformative learning programmes to communities and ecosystems everywhere. Gaia Education’s flagship curriculum is an official contribution to the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development.

For more information:
The Ecovillage Design Education is a comprehensive course in the fundamentals of Sustainability Design.

It is organised as a mandala that we call the sustainability wheel, encompassing what we perceive to be the four primary dimensions of human experience – Worldview, Ecological, Social and Economic aspects.

Each of these four dimensions contains five modules, coming to twenty subject areas in total.
In this week participants will learn to:

- Create a common vision for the design projects linked to Auroville, our bioregion and the world.
- Reflect on local social and community structures.
- Improve leadership skills and initiate inclusive group membership processes.
- Make decisions that everyone can accept and support, using Auroville as a case study.
- Treat conflict and diversity as a source for ideas, beliefs and solutions create spontaneous and intentional rituals and celebrations.
### ECOLOGY DIMENSION

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<th>Monday</th>
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<tr>
<td>7 – 8 AM</td>
<td>Optional Morning Practice (ATR, Yoga, Meditation)</td>
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<tr>
<td>8 – 9 AM</td>
<td>BREAKFAST</td>
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<td>9 – 9:30</td>
<td>Check in and Sharing</td>
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<td>9:30 – 12:30 PM</td>
<td>Intro to Ecology EDE (Ethan 30min)</td>
<td>Food Production in Auroville Context</td>
<td>Cobbuilding and Lowcost Housing</td>
<td>Energy in Auroville Tour: Alternative energy in PF</td>
<td>Kulams and Watershed in Auroville</td>
<td>Whole Systems Thinking/Design</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Joss &amp; Team, Pitchandikulam</td>
<td>Christian &amp; Team, at Auro Orchard</td>
<td>Manu and Rene at Sacred Groves</td>
<td>Alok M/Toine/ Carsten, Pitchandikulam</td>
<td>Kireet &amp; Jaap/ Jean Francois, Pitchandikulam</td>
<td>Ethan/Bindi, Pitchandikulam</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:30 – 2 PM</td>
<td>LUNCH</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 – 6 PM</td>
<td>Farm, Food and Music</td>
<td>Soil Restoration &amp; Seed Conservation</td>
<td>Building with Earth Blocks/ Bamboo</td>
<td>Irumbai/Solar Story Soil &amp; Carbon</td>
<td>Sadhana Forest Tour</td>
<td>Permaculture Design session</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Krishna, Solitude Farm</td>
<td>Bernard and Deepika, Pebble Garden</td>
<td>Lara/Satprem/ Balu, Earth Institute/ Bamboo Centre</td>
<td>Michael/ Deoyani, Pitchandikulam</td>
<td>Aviram/ST Team, Sadhana Forest</td>
<td>Ethan, Pitchandikulam</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 – 8 PM</td>
<td>Dinner and Music with Krishna, Solitude Farm</td>
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<tr>
<td>8 – 9:30 PM</td>
<td>DINNER</td>
<td>Free Time for Reflection/ Evaluation</td>
<td>Full Moon Ritual, Pitchandikulam (Optional)</td>
<td>Council &amp; Reflection: Ethan, Pitchandikulam</td>
<td>Dinner/ Film night, at Sadhana Forest (Optional)</td>
<td>Free Time for Reflection/ Evaluation</td>
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Participants will:

- Design integrated systems: worldview, social, ecological, and economic.
- Visit and experience Auroville’s farms and forests learning to rebuild and restore nature and ecological settlements, urban and rural.
- Study and apply permaculture principles, agro-ecology, water conservation, eco-building techniques and waste management.
Participants will learn to:

- Recognize dominant global patterns and activate leverage points for change.
- Design various elements of a resilient local economy.
- Design and utilize alternative community currency systems suited to local contexts.
- Bring personal economic activities into alignment with ecological values.
- Explore Auroville’s social enterprises and start designing their own.
- Gift Economy though a special Christmas dinner cooked together and inviting the wider Auroville community.
### World View Dimension

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<td>30/12/16</td>
<td>31/12/16</td>
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<tr>
<td>7 – 8 AM</td>
<td>Awareness Through the Body (Aloka/Suryamayi)</td>
<td>Leave Early to Nadukuppam</td>
<td>Group Meditation, at Nadukuppam</td>
<td>Back to Auroville</td>
<td>To Puducherry</td>
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<td>8 – 9 AM</td>
<td>BREAKFAST</td>
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<td>9:30 – 12:30 PM</td>
<td>EDE WorldView Opening Session</td>
<td>Tour of NEEC - Local School, Social Enterprises, and Forest</td>
<td>Deep Ecology</td>
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<td>Samadi at Ashram / Ashram story</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Manoj/Ethan</td>
<td>Joss/Lourdes/Parvati/Ramanan, at Nadukuppam</td>
<td>Joss/Ethan, Nadukuppam</td>
<td>MORNING OFF for Self Reflection</td>
<td>12:00 PM Lunch, at Ashram Dining Hall</td>
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<td>12:30 – 2 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 – 6 PM</td>
<td>On Auroville Philosophy</td>
<td>Ayurveda</td>
<td>Deep Ecology</td>
<td>Vaastu traditions of Tamil Nadu/India</td>
<td>Aravinda/Manoj, at Pondicherry Ashram</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Shradavan, Savitri Bhavan</td>
<td>Dr.Bee, Nadukuppam</td>
<td>Joss/Ethan, Nadukuppam</td>
<td>Mona, at Irumbai Temple</td>
<td>4 PM Back in Auroville</td>
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<td>6 – 8 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>8 – 9:30 PM</td>
<td>Free Time for Reflection/ Evaluation</td>
<td>Ayurvedic Dinner with Dr. Berengere</td>
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<td>Women’s/Men’s Circle</td>
<td>Council</td>
<td>Tying together threads of Worldview Ethan and Joss</td>
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**Participants will learn to:**

- Work with their self in relation to the world through various body practices and meditative spaces.
- Reflect on paradigms defining their world view and how it affects actions.
- Explore deep ecology and their connection to nature.
- Explore Tamil traditions and traditional healing systems such as Ayurveda.
- Visit the Aurobindo Ashram in Pondicherry to learn the story of Auroville and its connections to the ashram.

**NEW YEARS EVE**
- Tibetan
- Matrimandir Gathering

**NEW YEAR DAY**
- Community Option
### Participants will learn to:

- Work on integrated design projects in groups.
- Design using various tools offered in the course.
- Explore real-world implications of such projects and learn tools to bring them to reality.
MAIN FACILITATORS

Ethan Hirsch-Tauber

Ethan is an earth pilgrim, having traveled widely as an educator and coordinator of ecological projects and community-based initiatives around the world. While American-born, he has spent most of the past six years living in a range of communities outside of the US, working as a sustainability educator, and becoming increasingly involved in the ecovillage movement. From 2009 to 2012 he taught as a faculty for Living Routes in Auroville. In mid-2013 he became the Director of Living Routes’ Lotan program, until Living Routes closed its doors in January of 2014. As an educator, Ethan loves to support others in cultivating their passion for life on this planet, for making connections between human-beings, and for knowing themselves more deeply. Along with rebuilding NextGEN, the youth network of GEN, he has helped to develop regional networks, primarily in Africa and the Middle East. Prior to his shift towards ecovillages, Ethan spent four years working in the United States in the field of green building and energy efficiency, and then completed his Masters degree in Environmental Education at the Audubon Expedition Institute through Lesley University. In 2015, he was a part of the primary faculty for the EDE Azores in Portugal and co-held the Ecology and Social weeks of the course. Ethan is the primary facilitator for this EDE and will co-hold the Social, World view and Design weeks.

Contact: ethan.hirsch-tauber@ecovillage.org

Joss Brooks

Grew up in the Australian state of Tasmania, a place full of wild natural beauty and came to Auroville in 1970 after living in Europe and Africa. He joined the early pioneering efforts in land restoration at Auroville and founded the Pitchandikulam community in 1973 which is now a vibrant 60 acre forest with 800 species of plants in the grasslands, a nursery and an ethnomedicinal forest. In 2002, he embarked on environmental education to the villages by setting up Nadukuppam Environment Education Center in a village near Auroville. He also
founded, Pitchandikulam Forest Consultants, a business unit to provide environmental restoration services and has directed the restoration of bio-diversity at the Adayar Ponga in Chennai. The Pitchandikulam team has experience in working with state and national government, and so has also been implementing a project called Sustainable Enterprise Development in the Auroville BioRegion. He has recently helped launch the Auroville Sustainable Livelihood Institute in collaboration with the Tamil Nadu Government. Joss is a GEN Elder. He will hold the Ecology week of the EDE.

Contact: joss@auroville.org.in

Kosha Anja Joube

Kosha (MSc Organisational Development) is an international facilitator, trainer and consultant. She has worked extensively in the fields of curriculum development, building of training teams, international collaboration and sustainable development. Kosha currently serves as President of the Global Ecovillage Network (GEN-International) and as the Managing Director of GEN-Europe, the European branch of GEN-International. Kosha is a co-founder of Gaia Education and sits on the Certification Board of Gaia Education. Kosha has worked as an organisational consultant since 2006, specialising on leadership development and gender issues. She has regularly organised and facilitated conferences, especially in multi-cultural settings in Europe and Africa (Egypt, Senegal, South Africa, DRCongo), also since 2006. She has worked as a sustainability trainer and educator from 1996 onwards, specialising on courses on communication skills, leadership, facilitation, decision-making, conflict-facilitation, collective intelligence, holistic sustainability and resilience. She has led 4-week courses in international settings in Germany, Italy, India, Senegal and South Africa.

Contact: koshajoubert@gen-europe.org
Michael Dieter Salvador Marco

Michael was born in France from a german mother and a spanish father. He did all his studies in France in a University of Law first, to become a business lawyer specialized in tax law, finance and accountancy. After a first professional experience as a lawyer, he studied in a business school to add management and economy to his skills. Michael found Auroville in 2010 during a one year travel he did after quitting his job because of a lack of meaning in his work. He came back in 2011 and worked during one year to develop the office of volunteers, Savi, by creating tools and following up the experience of volunteers in Auroville. This led him to start in 2012 a PhD with the University of Montpellier in Management about volunteerism with Auroville as a study case. He spent 3 years studying volunteerism in Auroville running a volunteer camp community experimenting theories about self-sufficiency. He also studied and participated to numerous seminars about alternative economy, post monetary systems, community development, alternative construction and farming. Since 2016, he has started a new exploration of Auroville and a new community to develop around the principles of gift economy, time banking, self sufficiency and all forms of alternatives construction, energy production, water treatment and farming. He will hold the Economy week of the EDE.

Contact: michael.avifrance@gmail.com

Kavitha Urvasie Selvaraj

A third generation Aurovilian, Kavitha is Indian/Dutch by nationality. She studied at an International School in India receiving her International Baccalaureate and then studied Sustainable Development in the Netherlands. Kavitha has focused her thesis on intentional communities through the Auroville lens, and has since been working towards connecting Auroville to the Global Ecovillage Network. Kavitha has attended Monica Sharma (UN)’s workshops of Stewardship for New Emergence over the last years, and has been working to integrate these tools into shifting culture within the Auroville community and within teams such as YouthLink and the Auroville-GEN Desk. She continuous to be interested in developing her skills as a facilitator and is eager to explore holistic curriculum design for the Auroville community. She believes that there is potential for each intentional community to offer unique learning opportunities to the world and that
these conscious spaces are where the needed solutions will be born.

Kavitha is currently working as a YouthLink coordinator to engage youth in all aspects of the Auroville community. Kavitha and Ethan will jointly hold the Social Dimension of this EDE. Kavitha is a GEN Ambassador

Contact: kavitha.urvasie@auroville.org.in

Nikethana Venkatesan

Nikethana grew up in the town of Coimbatore in Tamil Nadu. Since her undergraduate study in Australia, she has worked in various odd jobs in India and travelled widely, exploring farming, community and alternative/un-institutionalised spaces for learning in India for two years. In 2015, she spent a year living in a Camphill Community in Scotland, living and working with people with learning disabilities. She worked primarily in the biodynamic garden, exploring ways to connect people with various abilities with the land and with themselves. Since the start of 2016, she has returned to further explore community and education, starting work with Pitchandikulam Forest in Auroville. She is primarily working to help develop the Global Ecovillage Network (GEN) desk at Auroville, seeing what it means to connect with different communities trying to live sustainably in this planet and also volunteers at AuraOrchard, an Auroville farm. She also joined Auroville YouthLink and is supporting Auroville-Next-GEN in helping design educational road trips around India for youth. She is a GEN Ambassador. She will help support Joss in holding the Ecology week.

Contact: nikethana2001@gmail.com

Riccardo de Amici

Riccardo was born in 1991 in the Netherlands to an Italian family and grew up in Milan. Whilst growing up, he frequented an Intentional Community called “Comunità di Etica Vivente” (community of ethical living), member of GEN, where he learned about service and group living. As part of his B.A., Riccardo went to Costa Rica where he volunteered in Permaculture farms and assessed the impact of the flow of “Permaculture Youth” volunteers onto the local village. After doing a Permaculture Design Course in Italy during the summer, he quickly took a M.A in Agriculture and Rural Development (also at UEA) and went to Auroville for his
Master’s dissertation looking at the sustainability of Auroville’s food system. In 2015 he created an Urban Farming project in Auroville, where he leads residents and volunteers to aid Aurovilians to grow their own food. The project has now been running for almost 2 years, and many gardens have been established on rooftops, balconies and in forested areas. Recently he joined Auroville YouthLink and is supporting Auroville-Next-GEN. Riccardo is a GEN Ambassador and will participate in the 2016 October NextGEN Thailand EDE. He will also support Joss in holding the Ecology week.

Contact: thejaof@gmail.com

OUR ECONOMIC VISION

Dear Friends, we would like to share our economic vision for the EDE Auroville which is guiding us in designing our economic policies. The core values we try to bring forth are sustainability, inclusion, transparency, simplicity and care for all. We would like to be rooted in our values as we work out the specific strategies for making this EDE possible.

Our sincere desire would be that the participants who join the course do so irrespective of their financial situation and we will try our best to support you with our existing resources.

As this EDE is aimed at youth, half from Auroville and its bioregion and the other half from India and abroad, it will be heavily subsidized. We are in the process of starting a crowdfunding campaign to raise funds to support those in the local and wider Indian community who can contribute less in monetary terms. Indian students please contact us for rates.

We have three different amounts for your financial contribution. Please tune in and find the one that feels right for you:

- **The Thrive Contribution** - this amount allows us to work in a more relaxed way, acknowledges the abundant nature of Life, allows us to collaborate more with the local Aurovillian community and also to support our host organization, Pitchandikulam Forest and will give us the possibility to offer more bursaries or finance the travel costs of
participants who cannot cover them.

• **The Middle Path Contribution** - this amount gives the team a sense of ease in organising this EDE and it will already allow us to support Pitchandikulam Forest and the Auroville community a little more generously.

• **The Survive Contribution** – This amount will just about covers expenses and allow us to manage to organize the EDE.

**Thrive Contribution: 1300 Euro**

**Middle Path Contribution: 1100 Euro**

**Survive Contribution: 900 Euro**

*These fees cover food, accommodation and course costs for 5 weeks. They do not cover travel, insurance and visa costs.

As organisers of this EDE, it’s our sincere dream that financial resources are not a deterrent for people who want to attend this course. At the same time we are having challenges as we partially live in the money economy and depend on money to make this course happen. We want to find a balance between making it inclusive as well as economically sustainable.

If you want to raise the money to come to the EDE Auroville, please write to us. We also suggest two creative options:

1. Empowered fundraising, raising the money in your communities and networks through family, friends and well wishers, experiencing wider support webs;

2. Crowdfunding your course fee.

If you need our support or guidance for these two strategies please write to us. We offer some support with this, while also being aware that our team has limitations of time and energy.

We welcome those of you who feel called to use their talents and work towards the EDE Auroville fundraising campaign to join us in the spirit of co-creation of this EDE. If you want to be one of them please write to us.
Mini EDE 2016: Community Building

Ethan and Kavitha, Sharing Circle, Pitchandikulam Forest

Team Building, Pitchandikulam Forest
Nadukuppam mini EDE boating adventure

Learning about Nadukuppam from Joss
SOME SITE VISITS DURING EDE

Visiting the Matrimandir at the heart of Auroville

Food, farming and music at Solitude
Afforestation and Water Conservation activities, Sadhana forest

Working with Earth Technology, Auroville Earth Institute
Green Building with Bamboo, Auroville Bamboo Centre

Soil Regeneration and Seed Conservation, Pebble Garden
ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation for students from outside Auroville will be at Pitchandikulam forest in two or three person shared rooms. Those from Auroville and its bioregion will stay in their own spaces unless otherwise discussed.

Pitchandikulam Forest - Ecodorm

For two nights, the whole group of participants will visit Nadukuppam, a village 40 kms from Auroville where Pitchandikulam is active. There the students will camp out and cook for themselves.

TRAVEL INFORMATION

Travel Tips - With our understanding of what to expect in the sub-continent, we have put together some information and travel tips for your convenience.

WEATHER

South Indian weather can vary greatly. In the summer months temperatures can be severely hot around May and June (38°C ), which fortunately declines in July and August as rainfall becomes more frequent. During the day temperatures are warm, the nights are quite pleasant and humidity is generally high. Rainfall is unpredictable.

HEALTH

There are no compulsory inoculation requirements for entry into India, however, it is recommended to have current inoculations to protect against Tetanus, Hepatitis and Typhoid. Providing you take some basic precautions, you should be able to stay healthy during your visit. Don’t drink tap water, as it has not been sterilized. Avoid raw food such as salads and fruits and if not used to spicy food, have a simple plain meal regularly to give your system
time to adjust. Before your journey you should also have a dental check-up and obtain spare glasses prescription.

* Travel Insurance Highly Recommended and Required.

**MONEY**

Indian currency is the Rupee. Notes are printed in the denominations of Indian Rupee 1000, 500, 100, 50, 20, 10. Coins are minted in denominations of Rupee 5, 2 and 1, and 50 Paise. Exchange rates vary from time to time and all airports, banks and hotels provide fixed exchange rates for convenient conversion. All major credit cards are accepted. Most Travelers cheques are accepted and have to nearly always be exchanged in banks or hotels.

It is recommended that you carry local currency in small denominations for making small purchases or for providing personal tips. (approximate exchange rate 1 euro = 60 rupees).

**WHAT TO TAKE**

Keep your luggage to a minimum (you will be carrying it with you throughout your trip); get a few pairs of light cotton clothes such as shorts, swim wear, T-shirts, a small backpack, sandals, and walking shoes. A light jacket is also recommended as nights can be cool, and carry along a pocket umbrella.

During the day carry with you a hat, sun lotion, water bottle, mosquito repellent and bring along a camera! Remember to dress modestly in respect for the Indian culture.

As you will be staying in a forest site, a torch light is an absolute necessity in the night, preferably with rechargeable, solar charge or wind up batteries.

For menstruating women we recommend a Mooncup, Diva Cup, Keeper or re-usable sanitary pads, which are an eco-friendly and cost effective alternative to tampons or sanitary pads.

**VISA FOR INDIA**

Please check if you need a VISA for India so that you can take care of this in time for the course.

If you need a visa, you have to obtain it from the Indian embassy in your country of residence. A Tourist Visa is usually a multi-entry visa, valid for a period of 180 days. Verify whether the visa starts from the date of issue or the date of arrival in India. As a rule, an extension of stay on a Tourist Visa will not be granted.
Auroville is 16 km by bus from Pondicherry and 163 km by bus from Chennai. The nearest airports are at Pondicherry, 11 km and Chennai, 142 km. If you are already in India and would prefer travelling leisurely by rail, Chennai Central Railway Station connects to all the major cities in India with its reliable express trains such as Tamil Nadu Express and Rajdhani Express (fully air-conditioned).

There are a number of ways of get to Auroville to suit different budgets. One can opt for public transport which is affordable and environmentally sound.

From Pondicherry

From the East Coast Road (ECR) junction
Take an Auto or call an Auroville Taxi (see details below)

Bus Station
Buses run from the Pondicherry bus stand to the Auroville Visitor’s Centre at 7:30am, 1:30pm and 4:30pm. Buses return to Pondy at 8:15am, 2:15pm and 5:15pm. Or take an Auto or call an Auroville Taxi (see details below)

Railway Station
Take an Auto or call an Auroville Taxi (see details below)

From Chennai

Chennai Koyambedu Bus Station
Take a bus for Pondicherry from across the road. Ask the driver to drop you at the Auroville junction on the ECR Road.

Chennai Airport
Call an Auroville Taxi (see details below)

At the Auroville bus stop a cluster of motorised rickshaws are stationed, eager to carry you up the 30 metres above-sea-level plateau which hosts Auroville. These vehicles are not organised by Auroville and you will need to bargain the price. To Pitchandikulam Forest it should not be more than 150 Rs.

Taxi

Book taxi before you reach: The journey from Chennai to Auroville takes about three hours by taxi. For the international traveller this is the safest, most convenient mode of transport. You can get a taxi at the airport but for the best low-stress experience, pre-book an Auroville Taxi to meet you at the airport as Auroville drivers are cognisant of Chennai roads and highways as well as the inside maps of Auroville. A Chennai-airport taxi driver may not know how to find your destination in Auroville especially if you arrive at night.

Auroville Taxi Services
1. **Auroville Transport Service** (New Creation)  
   Ph. 0413-2622183 or 2622400  
   E-mail: avtransportserv@auroville.org.in

2. **Auro Cabs, Travels & Tours** (Kuilapalayam)  
   Ph. 0413-2623200 or 201, mobile 96264-81620 or 98437-34825, 9787508301  
   E-mail: avcabs@auroville.org.in

3. **Maha Travels** (AV main road, near Purple Hotel)  
   Ph. 0413-2622915 or 102, mobile 9943881067  
   E-mail: mahatravels@auroville.org.in

4. **Unity Transport Service** (AV main road)  
   Ph. 0413-2623586 or 87, mobile 9047015801  
   E-mail: uts@auroville.org.in

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**To reach Pitchandikulam Forest**

To get to Pitchandikulam Forest depending on where you are arriving from, Auroville should be first mentioned. Once you are at the ECR road entrance to Auroville, you need to go to Kuilapalayam, the nearest village to Pitchandikulam. Once you get to Kuilapalayam, you need to continue on the main road past the village and about 300 metres after, there will be a small bridge like point at the road with two small roads going from either side. Take the mud road on the right and you will be at Pitchandikulam forest almost immediately.

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**REGISTRATION FORM**

You can register for this EDE by following the link:  

[http://goo.gl/forms/jW7xG1YlxWrh97sl2](http://goo.gl/forms/jW7xG1YlxWrh97sl2)

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**CONTACTS**

gen@auroville.org.in  
+91 7094716136

EDE Auroville Website:  