

EXPERIENCE OF A LIFETIME

Insight Trip to India

MARCH 5 – 11, 2011

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

CELEBRATE OUR CLIENTS' SUCCESSES at Opportunity International's Women's Day festival. Be inspired by the richness found in the life experiences of our clients, loan officers and staff in Chennai, India's fourth most populous city. Take part in Trust Group meetings where you'll hear stories of our clients' struggles and successes and see development in action. Learn how Opportunity commits significant resources for the transformation and training of our staff and clients in India.

IMMERSE YOURSELF in the sights and sounds of Chennai, which has retained its traditional Tamil roots while acquiring a modern and cosmopolitan character. The city is famous for its sandy beaches, parks and historic landmarks. The people of Chennai have a special interest in the music, dance and other art forms of South India.

THROUGH THESE EXPERIENCES, you'll be able to envision a world in which all people have fair access to economic opportunities, along with the inspiration to move beyond poverty. And you'll have a renewed sense of how you personally can help make that world a reality.

Deepa (right) comes from a marginalized gypsy community in Chennai, India. Before joining Opportunity, she collected waste paper and sold it to earn \$1 to \$2 per day. Then Deepa met Opportunity Loan Officer Valamarthi (left), who was previously a loan client herself. With Valamarthi's help, Deepa joined the Roja Trust Group and took out a loan of \$65 to start a container business. Her second loan of \$173 was used to purchase materials for fancy necklaces, which she sells at a decent profit. Deepa is now able to provide a much better standard of living for her family.

Since then, other members of the gypsy community have become Opportunity loan clients and are working together to sell their products in the marketplace. Deepa and her friends each earn up to \$6.50 per day, and are thankful to Opportunity India for loans and training that are truly transforming their lives.



Itinerary

SATURDAY, MARCH 5: Depart the U.S.

SUNDAY, MARCH 6: Arrive in Chennai, India. Local Opportunity staff will meet you upon your arrival and take you to your hotel for a good night's sleep.

MONDAY, MARCH 7: Meet your fellow travelers for an early breakfast and orientation. Walk from the hotel through the bustling market and visit clients on the way to GO Finance Headquarters. Have lunch with GO Finance CEO, who will give you an interactive economic briefing and overview of Opportunity's present mission and future plans in India. After lunch, put on your walking shoes for an afternoon in the field with our loan officers.

TUESDAY, MARCH 8: Take part in our International Women's Day festival, where more than 25,000 women will celebrate the role of women in the success of their businesses, families and communities. The festival serves to encourage clients in their business efforts and to motivate women by sharing stories of social, economic and spiritual transformation. In the late afternoon, enjoy high tea with an Indian anthropologist who will discuss the eastern mindset and its cultural implications.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9: Meet for breakfast with the U.S. and India commercial attaches. Travel outside Chennai to visit loan clients in a more rural area. Experience devotions at a branch office and then go into the field to meet more clients and attend Trust Group meetings. Rest before heading out for dinner at a local restaurant overlooking the city of Chennai.

THURSDAY, MARCH 10: Eat breakfast with International Justice Mission staff. Then join a Trust Group meeting and visit with individual members. Enjoy lunch on the beach and spend the afternoon at the ruins in Mahaballipuram and the shops at Dakshin Chitra. Share observations at a final debrief dinner with the GO Finance CEO.

FRIDAY, MARCH 11: Bid farewell to India and your traveling companions. Fly back home with amazing memories and the inspiration to become more involved in Opportunity's mission to help end global poverty.

Spotlight on Chennai

LOCATION: Southeast coast of India in the state of Tamil Nadu

CLIMATE: Tropical

TERRAIN: Flat coastal plane

POPULATION: 7 million

LANGUAGE: Tamil, English, Hindi, Urdu, Malayalam

GDP PER CAPITA: \$2,900 (India)

OUR PRIMARY FOCUS IS YOUR SAFETY AND COMFORT

In our 20 years of conducting Insight Trips, we have always provided a safe and rewarding visit for our participants. Every trip is carefully planned in conjunction with local Opportunity staff and hospitality experts to ensure your safety and comfort. We will also offer you a guidebook that includes everything you need to know about traveling in that particular country.

Registration

HERE IS HOW TO REGISTER FOR YOUR INSIGHT TRIP:

- 1) Contact your regional director or Adele Nandan in Opportunity's international education department, at anandan@opportunity.org or 630-242-4147. Registration deadline is January 24, 2011.
- 2) Go to Opportunity.org/insight Complete the registration form and submit payment to secure your place.

SUMMARY OF COSTS:

\$1,529 payment to Opportunity
Includes all meals and beverages, local transportation, translator services, emergency evacuation insurance, and partner and staff costs.

\$1,800 estimated airfare (from Chicago)
Airfare to be booked and paid for by the traveler.

\$780 hotel costs
Hotel cost estimate is per person, based on double occupancy. Hotel costs are paid by each traveler upon checkout.

\$4,109 total cost estimate

**Incidentals, shots, passports, visas, souvenirs and optional sightseeing not included.*

- 3) Make travel arrangements once all of the trip participants have registered. We strongly discourage booking your air travel before you hear from us. If you require booking assistance, contact Opportunity's preferred travel partner, Travel Inc., at 877-548-2995.
- 4) Prepare for departure.
Make sure your passport is valid for at least six months after your intended departure date. Visit www.vp2go.com for assistance in obtaining a passport. Consult your doctor for any necessary immunizations and vaccines. For a traveler's health clinic near you, go to www.cdc.gov/travel.

To learn more, visit opportunity.org

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