



Sangam
INDIA
World Association
of Girl Guides
and Girl Scouts

Coming to Sangam

We are delighted that you are coming to Sangam World Centre. You have the opportunity to visit India, experience Indian culture, make friends with Girl Guides and Girl Scouts from around the world, relax in the peace and tranquillity of Sangam, encounter the commotion of the city, learn, grow and enjoy every day! The entire experience may be exciting, amazing, confusing, wonderful, tiring, inspiring, and so much more – all at the same time!

Sangam is a Centre for Community Leadership and you should experience something of this during your stay.

In Guiding and Girl Scouting, we treasure the friendships that are formed. At Sangam, that friendship is extended to the whole Sangam family – international and local staff, guests, volunteers, residents, participants, friends and neighbours - including you.



a world of possibilities

Sangam

Alandi Road, Yerawada, Pune 411 006, India
t: +91 (0) 20 6500 8066 e: info@sangamworldcentre.org
www.sangamworldcentre.org



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The word Sangam means 'coming together' in the ancient language of Sanskrit. Since the Centre's beginning in 1966, Sangam has been a safe, neutral place for members of Guiding and Girl Scouting to come together to share their experiences as well as the culture and traditions of their homelands and Member Organizations.

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The Sangam Family

WAGGGS Staff

There are two permanent WAGGGS staff positions at Sangam; World Centre Manager (WCM) and Deputy World Centre Manager (DWCM). There are two WAGGGS staff coordinator positions that are usually on 2 year contracts. These are the Programme Coordinator (PC) and the Guest Services Coordinator (GSC).

Local Staff

There are four local staff members who support the WAGGGS staff: Community Relations Manager (CRM), Office Assistant (OA), Guest Services Assistant (GSA), and Programme Assistant (PA). We also have a dedicated team for housekeeping, kitchen and maintenance. Most of the local staff members live in the neighbourhood around Sangam. The local staffs' knowledge and comfort with English varies, but they do want to get to know you.

Interns

There are three intern posts of 5 months each: Programme Intern (PI), Marketing and Communications (MCI), and Guest Services (GSI). The PI works supports the Community Programme and Programme. The MCI works within the WAGGGS network to promote Sangam and our activities. The GSI supports the work of Guest Services and ensures the highest level of hospitality to our guests.

Sangam Volunteers

Sangam Volunteers (SVs) are essential to Sangam's success. SVs work for either 3 or 5 months during Sangam's event season (June to March). They are responsible for much of the preparation for events as well as running event sessions.

Armaity Dastur Volunteer-in-Training Programme

Volunteers in Training are development positions open to the Nivedita Guide Troop, Sangam's local Guides, because of a generous donation by Armaity Dastur, a former Sangam Committee member who passed away. Volunteers in Training help the SVs in running events, share Indian culture and assist in daily tasks.

Tare

Sangam runs the Community Programme twice a year offering 12 week and 4 week programme sessions. We call participants in the Community Programme 'Tare,' which means 'stars' in Hindi. Tare volunteer four days a week with a Sangam Community Partner and spend Wednesdays participating in Hindi lessons, debriefing the week's activities at site, and going on field trips to local sites and other Community Partners. This programme is run by the Community Relations Manager and the Programme Intern.



Visas

A visa is necessary to enter India, if you arrive without one you will be sent back. Please apply for a Tourist Visa either through a Visa processing centre or through your country's Indian Consulate, Embassy or High Commission. Do not apply for any other type of visa, regardless of the type of event that you will be attending, as it is likely that your application will be refused. Please use the following links for visa advice for your country.

Check the latest advice from the relevant application centre or Indian Consulate, Embassy or High Commission. Sangam is unable to provide accurate and up to date information as rules change and every country's rulings may be different. Sangam can provide a letter of invitation should you be asked for one.

- From UK; <http://in.vfsglobal.co.uk/>
- From USA; <https://indiavisa.travisaoutsourcing.com/homepage>
- From Canada; <http://www.blsindia-canada.com/>
- From Australia; <https://indianvisaonline.gov.in/visa/>
- From New Zealand; <http://www.hicomind.org.nz/>

If your country does not appear above please use the Indian Ministry of External Affairs website. <http://meaindia.nic.in/mystart.php?id=8700>

You can use the following details as references for your visa application:

Jen Barron
World Centre Manager
Sangam World Centre
Alandi Road
Yerwada, Pune 411 006
Phone +91 (0)20 6500 8066, +91 9764155287

Minakshi Jadhav
E-3 Lokpriya Nagari
Dhanari Rd
Vishrantwadi Pune-15
INDIA

Indian visas become valid from the date of issue, and not from the date of travel. Please plan your visa application accordingly.



Preparation and Packing

Communication

Sangam welcomes people from all over the world and this means that many people will be speaking and working in English as their second, third or fourth language. We ask everybody to make an effort to speak clearly and slowly.

The native English speakers come from different countries and all have different accents that can also be challenging to understand. At any time, please feel free to ask people to slow down or to repeat anything you did not understand.

Currency

The unit of currency used in India is the Indian Rupee, INR or ₹ . One hundred paise make up one rupee. Notes are ₹ 1000, 500, 100, 50, 20, 10 and sometimes ₹ 5. Coins are ₹ 10, 5, 2 and 1.

The Indian Central Board of Excise and Customs has prohibited the import and export of Indian currency. When you arrive into your India Port of Call, please change enough money to last you several days or for your whole stay unless you wish to go to a money exchange establishment during your stay. Sangam does not offer money exchange onsite. The rates at airports are reasonable and there are usually several counters to choose from. There is also an ATM at the Mumbai International Airport.

When changing money it is helpful to ask for some notes of lower denominations to pay for small costs as people will not always have change and you may end up paying too much. It is important to check that notes are not too ripped up or damaged as people will refuse to accept them. Banks will exchange dirty or torn notes for new ones.

It is necessary to keep all encashment certificates issued when changing your money. If you have money left at the end of your stay, you will only be able to change this back at the airport and you must present the encashment certificates. When leaving India, you can also produce your ATM receipts as proof for exchange.

We advise to have a mixture of payment methods including cash, traveller's cheques, debit and credit cards. Money exchangers in India usually do not accept travelers cards but they will work in some ATMs and credit/debit card machines. Most major international currencies can be changed easily in India (GBP, USD, CAD, AUD and Euro). ATMs are available in many areas of the city, and credit cards are accepted in some of the more modern shops. Visa and Master Card are the most commonly accepted; American Express cards are not always accepted.

It's impossible for us to tell you how much money will last you one week, and suggest that you have a look at several travel guides for India to get an idea of budgets. India is a land of extremes – travel is possible here on everything from £10 to £1,000 a day.



Smoking

Smoking is not allowed in the buildings or in the courtyard in Sangam. People who smoke may do so in the smoking area, which will be shown to you upon arrival. In India, it is not appropriate for women to smoke in public, so please keep this in mind for the duration of your trip.

Alcohol

Drinking alcohol is allowed at Sangam if you are of legal age in designated areas, which you will be shown upon arrival. However, in many sections of Indian society, drinking alcohol is not acceptable. We therefore ask that you are discreet in the storage, consumption, and disposal of containers.

Health

We recommend that you visit your doctor for advice regarding immunisations and medicine you should consider for the trip. Sangam is not able to provide any medical advice.

Mosquitoes abound all year round and insect repellent, along with appropriate clothing to wear at dusk and dawn when mosquitoes are the most active, is strongly recommended. If you are particularly sensitive to insect bites, please bring your own antihistamine cream and tablets. Mosquito nets are provided.

In addition to having a member of staff acting as First Aider, Sangam has contacts with very well-trained and reliable doctors. Illnesses here can

progress very quickly so it is important that if you are not feeling well during your stay, you let someone know. Most medicines are readily available from pharmacies here but you should bring enough of your regular prescription medications for your entire stay. For convenience and comfort, we advise you to bring your own medicines for common ailments such as diarrhoea, constipation, colds, menstrual cramps, allergies, etc.

Guests are requested to complete an Individual Form that should be returned to Sangam at least one month prior to your arrival. This information is kept confidential by the Sangam Team and held by the Sangam First Aider. It may be needed if a visit to the doctor is necessary during your stay.

It is the responsibility of the Member Organisation or individuals to ensure that they have adequate and appropriate insurance to cover: personal property, travel disruption, injury, medical expenses, general liability and life cover for the period of travel to, travel from and during the stay at the WAGGGS World Centre. As an organisation WAGGGS holds public/general liability insurance coverage that is reviewed regularly.

What to Wear

Inside Sangam it is acceptable to wear shorts (mid-thigh or longer) and sleeveless shirts (but not too tight, too low cut or too sheer). As Sangam is located in a conservative area of Pune, when you are out in the neighbourhood please cover your shoulders, knees, and everything in between. The weather is often warm, so materials such as cotton that are cool

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and dry quickly are useful, particularly if you plan to do your own washing. You may also like to bring a sweater or jacket for air-conditioned restaurants and movie theatres as they can sometimes be cold.

In certain parts of town, it is common to see women wearing tighter pants, shorter skirts, and sleeveless shirts. What you wear when you are out depends on where you are going, what you will be doing, and whom you will be with. Do remember that you must pass through Sangam and the surrounding neighbourhood on your way out and in, and should cover yourself accordingly.

We advise that you travel to and from Sangam in casual uniform. Please wear your Guiding/Girl Scouting scarf (necker) when travelling to Sangam as this helps the driver identify your group.

What to Bring

Along with clothes suitable for your stay, we suggest bringing the following items:

- Sturdy Water Bottle
- A Torch or Flashlight and spare batteries
- Mosquito Repellent
- Toiletries
- Sun hat, sun cream, sun glasses
- Camera, charger, spare batteries
- One-piece swimming suit

- Badges, stickers and small Guiding/Girl Scouting items for swapping
- Comfortable & Lightweight Shoes – Rubber shoes that can be easily put on and taken off are good during rainy season
- Raincoat/umbrella, if coming between June and September
- Lunch Box if you are participating in a Community Leadership Development Project or want to take a pack out lunch/dinner for your onward journey or anytime
- USB stick if you would like to take home some Sangam resources

Gifts and Donations

Sangam is currently raising funds for several large capital projects. If you would like to make a contribution to any of these projects or a general donation your gift would be very welcome. Please see our current 'Wish List.' This list also contains smaller items of immediate need such as stationary and kitchen resources.

Please check our website for the most up to date Sangam fundraising needs here: <http://www.sangamworldcentre.org/en/friends/wishlist>

If you are interested in bringing something to give away to our Community Partners, the most useful item is money! Our Community Partners find that the most effective donations are financial ones, since they are able to make any amount go a long way by purchasing items here in Pune, which also supports the local economy. Donations should be made directly to the community organisation. Please contact our Community Relations Manager, Minakshi, at crm@sangamworldcentre.org if you would like additional



information about making a donation to one of our Community Partners. Alternatively you can check our website that also has some practical needs for some of our Community Partners listed.

<http://www.sangamworldcentre.org/en/about/community/cpwish>

Accommodation and Facilities

Sangam can accommodate up to 48 people in dormitories and up to 18 people in double or triple rooms, depending on the time of year. Each dormitory and room has electric mosquito plug ins, a mosquito net, lockable cupboards, and a drying rack. Sangam provides pillows, bed linen, blankets, and towels. If you are travelling after your time at Sangam you may prefer to carry your own towel and/or linen.

Sangam has basic hand-washing and ironing facilities, so you do not need to bring a clean change of clothes for every day. There is a dhobi (washer person) service available. For a small fee, the dhobi will come to Sangam, collect your clothes, wash and iron them and deliver them back the next morning.

Sangam has both Western and Asian flush toilets. Toilet paper is provided at Sangam, but many bathrooms outside of Sangam will not have toilet paper and we recommend that you carry some with you when you are outside of the Centre if you require it. Toilet paper is readily available for purchase in

India. Sanitary napkins are easily available and affordable. Tampons are becoming more common but are also more expensive than sanitary napkins.

Participants attending an event stay in dormitories, sharing with people from other groups and countries. The event fee includes all room and board charges for dormitory accommodation. Twin or triple rooms may be available during your event. If you would like to upgrade your accommodation for an additional charge, email guestservices@sangamworldcentre.org to enquire about availability.

Electricity in India is generally unreliable and it is common for the power to go off in short bursts, or even for several hours. Because the power levels fluctuate, it is important to have stabilizers for any valuable electrical equipment that you bring. You may also need power converters or plug adapters. India's power voltage is 220 with 2 and 3-round prong plugs. Guest Services has a small supply of adapters if you forget your own.

Our Environmental Handprint

Sangam has a very large environmental footprint. In order to reduce this, we ask our guests and residents to add many handprints to reduce the impact of our environmental footprint. We ask that you use reusable bags as often as possible and do not bring or use plastic bags.

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Food and Water

The food served at Sangam is a mixture of Indian and international dishes, and both vegetarian and non-vegetarian is available.

Typically, breakfast is toast, cereal, fruit and an egg option, lunch is Indian, and dinner is a combination of international and India. The vegetarian Indian lunch is usually rice, dal (a lentil sauce), chapattis (flat bread), and vegetables - typical food for the state of Maharashtra. Spices are served separately so that people may add as much or as little as they want to suit their own taste.

If you have any serious food requirements or allergies, please ensure that they are listed on your Individual Form or let us know. Sangam will cater to your dietary needs wherever possible.

All of Sangam's drinking water is filtered and safe, and filtered water is used to wash all fresh fruits and vegetables served at the Centre. We advise you to bring a good quality water bottle with you to fill from the water coolers at Sangam. Bottled water is available for purchase throughout India and we recommend that you purchase Bisleri or Aquafina.

Snack foods and other treats are widely available at grocery and convenience stores for your onward journeys. There is a refrigerator available for guests to store drinks, snacks, medications etc. while you are here.

Swimming Pool

Sangam has an unheated swimming pool that you may use between 7am and 10pm. There is no life guard, swimming is at your own risk. When going to and from the pool, please cover yourself from shoulders to knees and sun-bathing is not allowed. Both of these guidelines help ensure comfort of our local staff. Please wear a one piece costume, or wear a t-shirt over the top of a two piece set.

Internet

We have 2 guest computers available for you to use for free. As infrastructure in India is developing, we don't always have a constant or reliable internet connection.

Travelling after Sangam

Sangam has been working in partnership with Perfect Travels to provide tours to our guests for many years. There are tours of varying lengths and costs, and they include visits to cities all over India. We recommend that you plan your itinerary so you come to Sangam first and then travel afterward. Many guests benefit from the way the Sangam programme gradually develops your independence in India. For more detailed information on the tours available please visit our website here:

<http://www.sangamworldcentre.org/en/visitus/Travel>

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Friends of Sangam International

If you would like to talk to, or get some support from someone who has been to Sangam before, there may be a Friends of Sangam contact in your country. Here are the contact details of the regional chairs for Friends of Sangam International. If you contact the chair in your region, she will be able to put you in touch with your closest Friends of Sangam group.

Lynda Spittle	Asia Pacific Chair	lyndaspittle@xtra.co.nz
Becky Hinton	Europe Chair	hastingsbex@gmail.com
Miriam Otieno	Africa Chair	otienomiriam1@gmail.com
Allison Kaufmann	Western Hemisphere Chair	alikat11@gmail.com
Charlotte Haber	Arab Chair	charlottehaber@hotmail.com

The information included in this book is provided as a general introduction to Sangam. If you have any questions regarding your booking or would like more information regarding your stay please contact info@sangamworldcentre.org

If you are coming to an event, you will receive further communication regarding the specifics of the event six months and one month prior to your arrival.