

ETOSE 3E Camps for Students

Introduction

ETOSE would like to offer **3E** (*exposure, education and enjoyment*) **camp**s in India as part of its travel service (www.etose-tourism.org). The aim is to take students brought up in the developed world, or those from a better social standing, and introduce them to a fast-developing country like India, to its culture, history and people, to problems of development, to poverty, to the Indian hospitality, to social problems, to environmental issues, and so on.

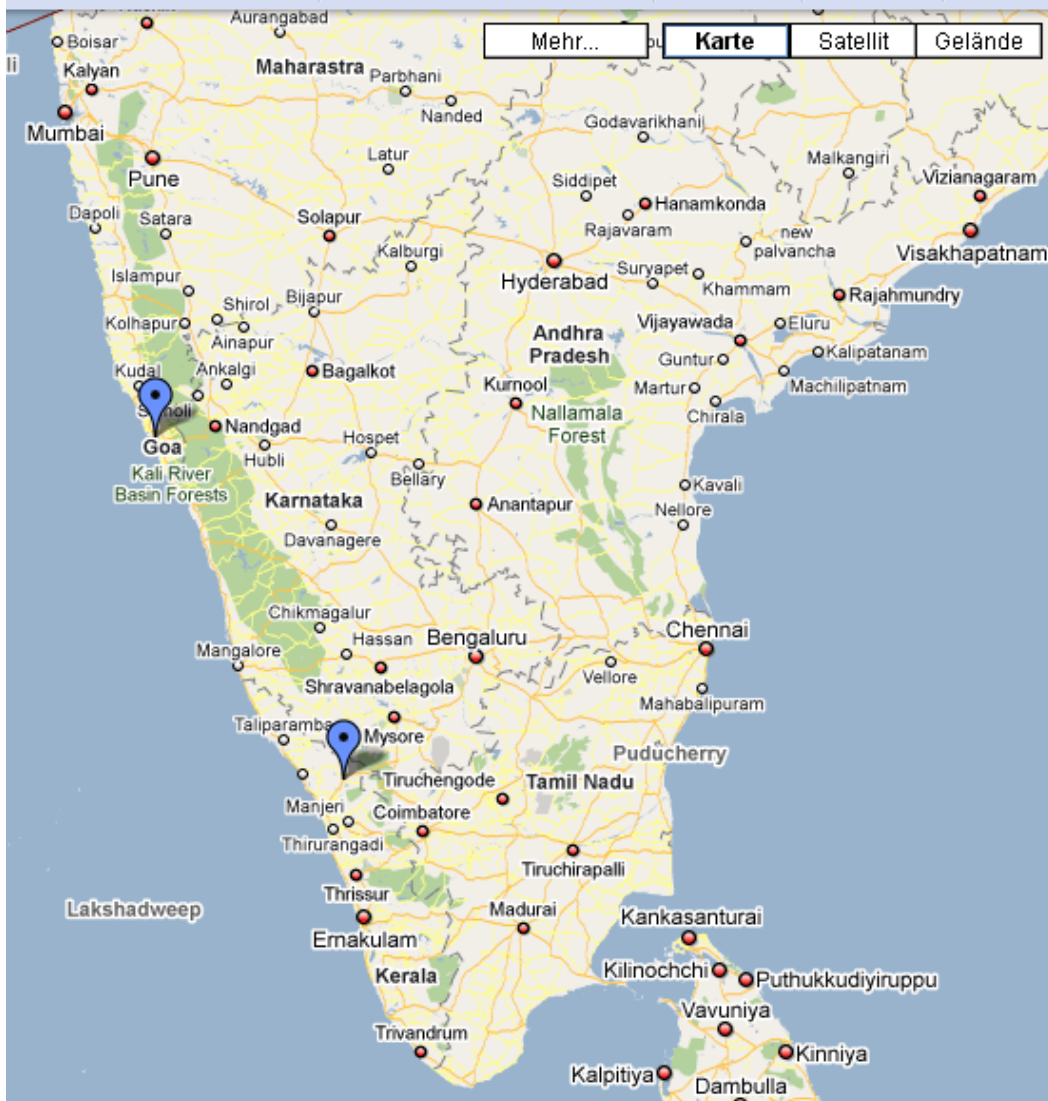
The overall idea is to *expose* and *educate* students about this country and most importantly to allow them to *enjoy* a different kind of adventure. The camps are targeted for students between the ages of 12 and 18 years. The reason for targeting this teenager group is that children this age are easily influenced and it is hoped that what they experience in India will impact their lives positively (behavior, studies, careers, future).

The 3E Camp will involve participation in active sports, visits to social projects (which make a difference to poverty elevation) from our partner organizations, sight-seeing, project work, cross-cultural exchange of ideas with local people, and so on. Steps will be taken to ensure that each day is a combination of all 3 E's and fun for all.

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The location



Currently, two locations, **Wayanad** (Kerala) and **Goa** are available for a 3E Camp in India. The *education* focus of a Camp in Wayanad will be more on nature, bio-diversity and tribes, whereas that in Goa will be more on tourism,

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urban planning and environment. The selection of the location will be based on the interests of the school/teachers/students:

1. In **Wayanad** the facilities of our partner organization, "The Community Agrobiodiversity Centre (CAbC)" of the M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (www.mssrf.org), will be used. The students (and the accompanying parents/teachers) will be housed on the campus of MSSRF or in nearby hotels, depending on the size of the group.

Wayanad is home to exotic legends, ancient ruins, mysterious mountain caves, aborigine tribes, hidden treasures, jungle trails and exotic wildlife. It abounds a multitude of plants and animals in diverse kinds of vegetations. The hills, rocks and valleys which contribute to the very unique terrain of Wayanad provide for exceptional adventure experiences. Mountains and forests intersperse to create numerous outback trails, trekking routes and opportunities for adventure sports (see: <http://www.wayanad.com/index.htm>, <http://www.wayanad.org>).

Due to its high altitude, the weather conditions in Wayanad are fairly good throughout the year and the vast areas of "un-spoilt" nature can be enjoyed anytime.

For the Wayanad location, the 3Es (*exposure, education and enjoyment*) will be as follows:

Exposure to very different cultures, full of tradition, hierarchy and belief in different faiths, the extreme income disparities between the few very rich and majority poor, the masses of people, the poor infrastructure, the different flora and fauna, and so on will hopefully influence the students "mindset" in some form or another.

Education will play a vital role during the 3E camps. Students will be introduced to various issues by our partner organization and others involved in this project. Some of the issues addressed will be:

- The Indian history, culture and society
- Tradition, knowledge and culture of the various tribes that live in the area

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- Inter-cultural communication
- The importance of biodiversity, natural environment and its conservation
- The alternative forms of income generation for the poor
- Organic farming
- Cultivation of cash crops such as coffee, pepper, ginger, cardamom and vanilla
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The students will be required to do a Project of their liking during their visit. This can be:

- A report/article of what they have experienced or seen
- A few hours of volunteer work at a local school
- Documentation of a tribal song or myth
- Marketing or promotion of a project
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Enjoyment has to be part of the adventure camp to make them attractive to students and some of the activities planned to ensure this are:

- Trekking in the un-spoilt forests to enjoy the bio-diversity of the flora and fauna
- Wildlife spotting in the game parks close by
- Rock climbing
- Honey gathering with the tribes in the forest
- Butterfly spotting
- Playtime with tribal kids
- Visit to the Gurukula Botanical Garden
- Local sight-seeing (temples, caves, etc.)
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2. In **Goa** the 3E Camp will be held in partnership with URBZ (<http://urbz.net/>). Here a hotel/hostel will be sought to cater for the needs of the students and accompanying staff/parents. The *education* focus at this location will be on tourism, urban planning and the environment.

Goa is well known as a holiday destination for its greenery, sandy beaches, laid-back and friendly people, spice plantations and its colonial architecture (see www.goa-tourism.com; www.incredibleindia.com). Goa as a location is more fun for students who want "action" as there is probably more happening here than in laid-back and peaceful Wayanad.

To avoid the monsoon season, high temperatures and humidity, the best time to visit Goa is from mid-November to mid-April.

For the Goa location, the 3Es will be as follows:

Exposure (same as in the Wayanad camp)

Education:

- The Indian history, culture and society
- The importance of biodiversity, natural environment and its conservation
- Tourism and its impact on local people
- Architecture and the preservation of old buildings
- Urban planning
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The focus of the student Project here will be more on tourism and architecture.

Enjoyment:

- Trekking in the spice plantations to enjoy the bio-diversity of the flora and fauna
- Sandy beaches and swimming
- Water sports
- Sight-seeing
- Partying
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The final Program for the 3E Camp will be developed in partnership with the students' school and teachers, our partner organizations in India and ETOSE. All steps will be taken to ensure health, safety and comforts of the students.

Staff experience

The 3E Camps will be conducted by an international team of qualified staffs that have the experience of dealing with students and those who have accompanied students to India before, and by local Indian staff who are highly experienced and knowledgeable about India. Staff qualifications are available on request.

Cost

The cost of the 3E Camps will depend on the timing (number of days and time of the year), number of participations and location. A rough estimation is available on request.