

# **INDIA 2017: JOURNEY TO THE CENTER OF YOURSELF**





Earth to Aether: The Alchemy of the 5 Elements as the Cosmic Dance of Life

Join our experts of the ancient indigenous traditions from India, Liesbeth Pankaja, from Egypt, Patricia Awyan and from Australia, Stella Wheildon, along with Geologist, Suzan Moore, and our Host,

Nayantara Chakravarthi on a magical journey of self-discovery.











LIESBETH will share her vast scope of knowledge and wisdom gained from her study with Raja

Deekshithar, one of the high priests of the Chidambaram temple, as well as her continued research.

As an accomplished temple dancer, she will dance and and share her insights about the significance..

PATRICIA will hold a space for your meditation and spiritual work, as well as *offering an Al Khem-ical* approach to understanding the secrets within the symbolism and mythologies of the ancients.

She will cite the remarkable similarities between the symbolism of Egypt & India, providing a deeper understanding the nature of our reality.

STELLA will offer us her uncanny ability to map the starlore at ancient sacred sites worldwide, as well as pointing out the reflections of symbolism and mythology with that of the Australian Original People.

Her scope of knowledge about global indigenous traditions is incomparable.

SUZAN, our Techno-Spiritual Team's paradigm changing Geologist, will introduce us to a fresh and unique perspective on the labelling, consistency and the alchemical potentials of the mixture and selection of rocks and materials used to create the many ancient and megalithic structures found in India.

NAYANTARA, a long-time student of ancient traditions in India and the significance of the many sacred sites throughout this treasure filled country, will act as our guide and host throughout the journey.

Our physical reality is manifested from spirit into the material from Purusha and Prakriti through several steps of devolution. Akasha or AETHER, Vayu or AIR, Tejas or FIRE, Apas or WATER, and finally Prithivi or EARTH, are the elements that combine to create our perception of Matter.

We will visit Five powerful temples dedicated to each one of the Five Elements that were constructed on a Major Magnetic Ley Line in Southern India where we'll be offered our own opportunity to transform from LEAD into GOLD - from PHYSICAL to ETHERIC states of being.

Each Element is represented in the symbolic *Linga*, 'the formless-form of the Absolute', represented as Shiva, the Pure One, which is reflected in each inner sanctum or Holy of Holies.

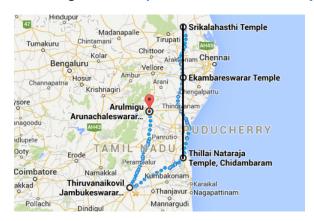


This will be a pilgrimage of birth and renewal that will take us through the physical expression, fully *experiencing the sensation* of each Element from Earth through to the Akasha, the *Field of Aether*, in the sacred city of Chidambaram.

We will walk the transformational path of the Alchemist, evolving through the stages of physical experience, finally merging and re-uniting with our Source at the Heart Chakra of the world.

We will ponder the significance of the *Pancha Mahabuta*, 5 Great Beings as the 5 Elements Five Tirthas - Crossing Points with Temples, each telling a unique story of the pathway of the Soul

These Tirthas, Vortexes or Crossing Points, are portals where the soul can journey to other realms.



Earth (Prithivi) – Ekambareswarar Temple at Kanchipuram
Water (Neer) – Jambukeswara Temple at Thiruvanaikaval –
Fire (Agni) Annamalaiyar Temple Tiruvannamalai
Wind (Vayu) – Chitoor – Srikalahasti Temple
Sky (Akasha) – Chidambaram – Chidambaram Nataraja Temple



**EARTH, Kanchipuram** 



WATER, Trichy



AIR, Srikalahasti



FIRE. Thiruvannamalai



AETHER, Chidambaram



We will speak to the Alchemy of 'Maya'----the Illusion of the physical realm and how to navigate its patterns beginning with a grounded understanding of what it means to participate in this illusion of the physical...our challenges and rewards---within the matrix of the mind.

As above, so below... Our outer world reflects the wisdom that is within. First we recognize the patterns (root word for father) in order to change our interaction with matter (root word for mother). Form follows function.

This is the duality of **EARTH**, where we are held hostage as seeds (spirit) planted firmly in the earth (physical form), contained or entombed by our polarity, Yin & Yang. This is how consciousness experiences itself. It is the physics of the ATOM--and the cosmic breath of atomic energy.

**WATER** and **AIR** are related to AtmoSPHERE (and the magnetic Torus Field)--- Magnetics and Electricity; the dance of Hydrogen and Oxygen...the flow of energy in this matrix and understanding **how these elements spark** and nurture the SEED or self ---as it sprouts (breathes out) into the Sine Wave that illustrates our cyclical dance in this illusion where Time and Space can be measured.

"We are all just clever water...and we come from the SKY!" is one of my favorite quotes from Stella.

We are etheric---spirit, our consciousness contained or limited by an illusion of form.

And **FIRE**.....the fire in the middle, **the art of getting to the Heart of the Matter or Wisdom within the Form.** 

Our adventure culminates in Chidambaram, **AETHER**, **our metaphoric SKY.....** where we consider the process of coming back into resonance---transmuting our polarity and returning to source—our Heart Center, **where it is said that one can enjoy moments of pure 'Enlightenment'**, **infinite bliss---with a 360 degree sense of awareness.** Here we can create a new Vision and initiate our personal journeys with a deeper understanding of this reality and our own self-empowerment.

### 1st Day: Sunday January 22<sup>nd</sup> Arrival Chennai

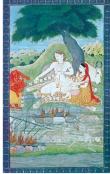
A transfer representative will meet you at the airport to assist you with entry formalities and escort you to our Hotel in **Chennai**. We will all enjoy a **Welcome Dinner** together followed by a meeting for introductions and lectures. After an introduction by Patricia, **Liesbeth Pankaja** will speak on cosmological and spiritual concepts opening our minds to fully experience the significance of the symbolism and energies offered by the sacred sites throughout our journey. Overnight 4 or 5 Star Hotel - **Chennai** (D)

As above so below; and as within so without. With this knowledge alone we can manifest miracles!

## 2nd Day: Monday January 23rd Kanchipuram EARTH - Planting the Seeds

After breakfast we'll travel in our air-conditioned motor coach to **Kanchipuram**, the city of a thousand temples, known as *'Heaven on Earth'*. This ancient capital of the Pallava Dynasty and centre of devotion, learning and arts, is where we will visit the majestic **Kailashanatha temple** and the *Shri Ekambaranatha*, which *embodies the Earth Element*.







The **Kailashanatha**, with its towering pyramidal sanctum offers us an overview of Hindu cosmology. Dedicated to Shiva as Lord of the Cosmic Mountain, the Earth's Axis, it's lay out and sculptural plan reflect ancient cosmology through depictions of myths and manifestations of Shiva. The manifestation most depicted here is Shiva with his consort Parvati.

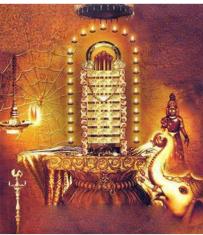
The divine union between male and female energy gives birth to the six-headed warrior Skanda, the son of the Pleiades, who will destroy Padmasura, the embodiment of entropy.

After lunch we'll visit the **Ekambaranatha**, **'Lord of the One Fruit Mango Tree'**, where the Element Earth manifests. The temple tree is a 3,500 year old mango tree whose branches are said to yield four different types of mangoes from its four branches. As we move via the sacred water pond through the ancient hallways to the sanctum with the Earth Linga and the courtyard of the Mango Tree, we experience the living tradition of this ancient energy field. Inspired by the vision of the Goddess **we truly begin our spiritual journey by embracing the Element EARTH and its Sense, SMELL, the perception of Scent.** Overnight 4 or 5 Star Hotel – **Kanchipuram (B, L)** 

### 3rd Day: Tuesday, January 24th Srikalahasti AIR – Breath

After an early Breakfast, we embark on our a/c motor coach to **Srikalahasti**, where we'll check into our hotel and have Lunch, before visiting the magical **Srikalahasteeswara Temple**, dedicated to **the Element AIR or WIND**, which we experience through its sense perception of **TOUCH**. This manifests in the inner sanctum through an airflow which continuously moves the lamp burning for the Shiva Linga.







Srikalahasti Temple is one of the most famous Shiva temples in South India, and is said to be the site where Kannappa was ready to offer both his eyes to heal the Shiva linga before Lord Shiva stopped him and granted him mukti or salvation.

The temple is part of a larger sacred landscape where hills, river and shrines that speak to several myths are located. Three hills represent the trinity of Shiva, his consort, Parvati, "she of the mountain" and their son, Skanda. *Parvati is also referred to as Gnana Prasunambika or 'one who took no sustenance', relating her to the 'Holy Spirit'*.







Parvati can be identified with Hathor and other divinely feminine Egyptian Neters or Aspects of Nature.

After breaking her vow of silence, Parvati was banished to earth. She lost her physical form, became a (holy) ghost. She renewed her dedication and performed strenuous penance near the Air Linga. Shiva sent a flood to test her. In her form of Durga she protected the Vayu Linga. As Durga she is present in a shrine on the northern hill. As she practiced yogic breathing Shiva appeared with a full moon in the constellation of Cancer. He gave her a new spiritual shining form as the embodiment of Wisdom, Freedom through Self-knowledge and her body transformed from black to a golden colour. She bestows Knowledge of the Self and fulfils our wishes.

Parvati and Shiva are often symbolized by a yoni and a linga respectively. In ancient literature, yoni means womb and place of gestation, the yoni-linga metaphor represents "origin, source or regenerative power"

The temple lies on the South bank of the Svarnamukhi (Golden Face) River. Here the river makes a turn towards the north creating a sacred place which generates the electro-magnetic energy for the Return to Source. The deity faces west and symbolizes liberation, the dissolution of ego and polarity at the rediscovery of the Self.

We will mediate on how we can resolve our own polarity within and find the freedom to become our fully realized, authentic selves!

Overnight: 4 or 5 Star Hotel – Sri Kalahasti (B, L)

## 4<sup>th</sup> Day: Wednesday, January 25<sup>th</sup> Drive to Chennai, Lectures & Workshops

After breakfast we will be driven to Chennai and check into our hotel. Following our meal together, you will enjoy a **Lecture** by **Patricia Awyan**. Overnight 4 or 5 Star Hotel - **Chennai (B,D)** 

## 5<sup>th</sup> Day: Thursday, January 26<sup>th</sup> Flight to Trichy Jambukeshvara WATER – *Universal Flow*

After breakfast, we will be driven to the airport for our flight to Trichy and check into our hotel before visiting the **Jambukeshvara Temple that embodies the essence of WATER. Jambukeswara** has an underground water stream and in spite of continual attempts to pump water out, it is always filled with water.







The Element Apas or Water manifests here through a perpetual source originating under the Shiva Linga in the sanctum. A spider and an elephant are said to be the original worshippers of this Lord. They have killed each other in their desire to worship Shiva in their own way. Liberated from their curse by Shiva as a reward for his devotion, the spider is reborn as the red-eyed Chola king Kocengannan, who is credited as the builder of this temple. Here we experience the transformative power of the Element, WATER and its sense perception, TASTE.

Parvati was banished from heaven for disturbing Shiva's penance through her playfulness. She formed a Linga from the Water of the river here and worshipped and performed penance. Eventually Shiva forgave and initiated her. Their relationship as guru and sisha is expressed through the placement of the shrines opposite one another. Shiva is faces West and Parvati is faces East.

The sacred landscape here illustrates the vision of Vishnu, reclining over the serpent, Adishesha, the Cosmic Serpent, the Sine Wave that is the Current of Water...the Electro-magnetic pulse of the universe.

Can you feel the pulse....the heartbeat of the earth?

After dinner, we'll enjoy a lecture presented by Stella Wheildon Overnight: 4 or 5 Star Hotel, Trichy (B,D)

## 6<sup>th</sup> Day: Friday, January 27<sup>th</sup> Thiruvannamalai Fire – Igniting the Current

Following our breakfast, we will leave for our visit to Thiruvannamalai to experience the **Element of Fire** at the Arunachaleshvara Temple, one of the biggest and grandest temples in Southern India.







Parvati was banished to Earth when she playfully closed Shiva's eyes and the universe was plunged into darkness. She was very sorry and wished to expiate her error. Sorry for her act, she performs tapas (spiritual practices including deep meditation and self-discipline in an effort to achieve self-realization.

She forms the Earth Linga in Kanchi before Shiva directs her to Thiruvannamalai where a Sage informs her of it powerful energy.

Shiva shows himself to her as a Pillar of Fire and in so doing, Light adorns the universe once more. A lamp is lit on top of the mountain as a re-enactment of this sacred event each year, when the full moon is in the Pleiades,

Afterwards, he merges with her and she becomes his left side, transforming into the polarized, half male, half female, or Ardhanareshvara.

Will we discuss how the sacred landscape here reflects the legends. We will take the time to meditate and truly experience the life force enhancing frequencies of this powerful temple.

Overnight 4 or 5 Star Hotel, Thiruvannamalai (B,L)

### 7<sup>th</sup> Day: Saturday, January 28<sup>th</sup> Thiruvannamalai Fire – Universal Spirit Unleashed

After breakfast, we'll spend the morning navigating around the **Sacred Hill** that is the embodiment of the **Cosmic Fire Pillar**, experiencing the sacred landscape and powerful vibrations of this *Field of Fire*. **Just as the Pyramid** (The word *Pyramidos* has been translated as "Fire in the Middle"), the Mountain embodies the FIRE. Here the sense is VISION or FORM.



When Vishnu and Brahma argued who was grander, *a Pillar of Fire* appeared between them and challenged them to find its head or feet, to determine who was the greatest. Brahma *flew up* in the form of a swan and Vishnu *dug down* as wild boar. Neither found the head or feet.

Brahma lied and said he had. *However, Shiva emerged from the Fire Pillar and declared that the Fire was the eternal primordial cosmic being, without beginning or end.* According to the legend, Brahma lost the privilege to be worshipped in temples.

Overnight 4 or 5 Star Hotel, Thiruvannamalai (B,L)

## 8<sup>th</sup> Day: Sunday, January 29<sup>th</sup>: Chidambaram AETHER - Field of Consciousness

After a very early breakfast, we will drive to **Chidambaram** and visit the **Nataraja Temple**, **the Field of AETHER**, and the Akasha. **This is the Heart Chakra of the world**, where on the south bank of a sacred pond, in what once was a forest of Tillai trees, is the Cit Sabha, **the Hall of Consciousness and Wisdom**. **We will experience the field of AETHER and its sense perception**, **SOUND**, in this sacred place that manifests the **Space of Consciousness**.

We have journeyed full circle...through the cycles, the perception of time and of space, the seasons, the elements and senses, and gained much insight through our experiencing. We will take our moment to meditate and breath into the still, quiet space at our Heart Center, releasing all that no longer serves as we harmonize our vibrations.

We will leave to check into our Hotel and have dinner, before returning to this mystical place for an evening visit.







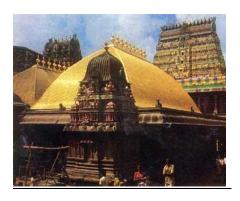
In the sanctum, the Chit Sabha or Hall of Wisdom we find divine presence as:

Form: As the Nataraja dancing the Ananda Tandava, the Dance of Bliss

Formless/Form or Abstract: Shiva as abstract form as Chrystal Linga, materialised moonbeams

Formless: As the Aether Linga, the Field of Space and unlimited potential for creation.

This evening we contemplate what we hope to release, resolve and create for ourselves as we experience Shiva's Cosmic Dance of Bliss, as Nataraja dancing in the central sanctum, under a golden roof which expresses the ancient precession numbers 21,600 and 72,000, reflecting the connection between Yoga and Astronomy. The Cosmic Dance symbolises the five activities of Creation, Preservation, Dissolution, Illusion and Grace.



The Aether Linga is the essence of the Secret of Chidambaram. The Divine is represented as Space, the Void with infinite, unmanifested potential. Behind it strings of golden bilva leaves represent the manifestation of creation: from nothing to everything in a moment, in the blink of an eye.

We will stand before the Golden Hall, see His Cosmic Dance and experience the fulfilment of our journey through the Elements. Where all movement is Illusion and realisation of the Dance happens as we attain inner stillness. Nothing is Created or Destroyed, only the experience of eternal transformation.

The Goddess witnesses His Dance and beats the rhythm with her cymbals.

Overnight: 4 or 5 Star Hotel, Chidambaram (B,D)

9th Day: Monday, January 30th: Chidambaram AETHER - The Sea of Primordial Potential

### After breakfast we will return to Nataraja Temple

In the fresh morning we will visit the other significant structures of the temple complex where **Liesbeth Pankaja** and **Kandhan Raja Deekshithar** will share with you some of the other aspects of the temples doctrine and history, along with the unique forms and meaning of its sacred architecture, ritual performance and mythology.

**Kandhan**, as one of the hereditary custodians of the **Shiva Nataraja temple**, will be able to offer us a deeper understanding of the temple's traditions and doctrines.

The vision of the Vedic Sages, all Five Elements, the Chakras and other spiritual aspects of the human body, the Sound of Creation, and the ultimate unity of male and female are integrated into one's experience at this magical temple, culminating with the final exit from the confines of the physical matrix of the mind breathing back into the freedom of the still quiet peace of the heart.

Three aspects of the Divine Feminine (Shakti or Power), are embraced separately here as (1) MIND, THOUGHT, WISDOM & INTUITION in a shrine, as (2) WILL, ACTION & INTENTION in the bedroom and as (3) MANIFESTATION, CREATIVITY & INSPIRATION in the Golden Hall.

Liesbeth & Kandhan will share the mystical secrets of the legends that speak to the sacred design and layout of the temple, as well as the surrounding landscape.









Liesbeth and Patricia will lead a discussion on the unique amount and significance of Indian Sphinxes that guard all significant ritual spaces at Chidambaram. No other temple has as many sphinxes as part of the sculptural program.

We will take the time here to BREATHE.

## The Soul is like a woman longing to be united with her beloved.

We have encountered the metaphorical Goddess who has been banished from the heavens into the container of human form in order to learn the truths of the Cosmos. With dedication, commitment and focus she practiced the austerities, and after passing through many phases and realisations she finally reunites with her consort, as Shiva-Shakti, Ardhanarishvara, bestowing Grace and Wisdom to all.

Late in the afternoon, we will leave to check into out Hotel rooms at the luxorious 5 Star Windflower Resort and Spa at Pondicherry for a free evening. Overnight: Windflower Resort and Spa at **Pondicherry (B,L)** 

## 10th Day: Tuesday, January 31th: Windflower Pondicherry Resort & Spa





### Backwaters To The Left Of You. Deep Blue Sea To The Right.

Set in picturesque Little Veerampattinam, the Windflower Pondicherry is perched between backwaters and ocean. Stroll along the beach, if the mood strikes you. Race the gulls to the horizon. Step around seashells, and spider crabs. Watch the sun set into the Bay of Bengal. Or, take a romantic little cruise along the backwaters. Have a quiet picnic lunch on the banks of a stream. Walk about shooting the birds on film. This unique place will offr us a unique opportunity to relax, discuss, meditate on and integrate our eexperiences throughout our journey!

Today is free to do as you wish. We will offer options to attend a lecture on Yoga and/or on Ayurvedic Medicine and treatment and/or take advantage of the Spa or other facilities on this spectacular property.

Tonight we will have our Farewell Dinner and Roundtable Discussion. Overnight: Windflower Resort and Spa at **Pondicherry (**B,D)

### 11th Day: Wednesday, February 1st: Departure Chennai

Following breakfast you will be driven to the Chennai International Airport for your final departure. (B) Hotel arrangements can be made for anyone who wishes or needs to spend an extra night in Chennai.

NOTE: This itinerary is subject to change due to circumstances beyond our control Copyright © 2016 The Khemit School of Ancient Mysticism, All rights reserved.

## **Speakers:**



Patricia Awyan

KSAM Co- Director, Khemitologist, Speaker, Researcher, Explorer, Symbologist, Spiritual & Intuitive Life Counsellor and Artist

From a very young age, Patricia knew that she would one day be "going home" to Egypt. Having been born with a "need to know", she has spent much of her life on a personal quest for knowledge, wisdom and spiritual fulfilment. Patricia's strong and vital connection to Nature and interest in the mystical and physical sciences propelled her into a lifelong study of the ancient mysteries.

She is a gifted Intuitive, clairaudient and clairvoyant. As a long time student in metaphysical, spiritual and esoteric subjects and traditions, Patricia's eclectic

spiritual background serves as a strong foundation to support to her work. She became of student of Khemitology after meeting world renowned, Khemitologist, Abd'el Hakim Awyan, on her first trip to Egypt in 2005.

Patricia devotes much of her time to the study and exploration of ancient mysteries, symbolism and mythologies worldwide. She has travelled to sites in Australia, Great Britain, France, Spain, Lebanon, Peru, Bolivia, India and all over America and Egypt, researching the clues that support the concept of a very advanced civilization, technologically and spiritually, that once spanned the globe possibly tens of thousands of years ago and left a legacy of knowledge and wisdom for us to decipher.

Patricia presents lectures that illustrate how *the ancients left us a blueprint that maps out the truth of the beauty, perfection and infinite possibilities that exist within and outside every one of us—* if we are willing to view our world from a higher perspective, as symbolized by the eye of Horus.



## Liesbeth Pankaja

Dancer, Teacher, Researcher, Author, Speaker and Explorer

Her love for Indian dance and history brought **Liesbeth Pankaja Bennink** to Chidambaram, the Home of the Dancing Shiva and the City of Cosmic Dance. It was here that she was invited by **Raja Deekshithar**, Independent Scholar and also one of the high priests of the temple, to partner with him in his quest to preserve, understand and share the great treasures of the ancient Indian civilisation. For 25 years they worked together on various topics and discoveries, which included the

meaning behind the symbolism of temples, their architecture, ritual, and mythology.

Trained in Bharata Natyam under Smt. Rajamani (Amsterdam, Mumbai, Bangalore) brought her into the ancient tradition of Indian temple dance. Residing with Raja's Deekshithar family and travelling the length and breadth of South India assisting in his field work, offered Liesbeth Pankaja an *unequalled experience of the living Indian tradition and its many hidden aspects and treasures*.

Liesbeth's study of the Sphinx of India (discovered by Raja Deekshthar), astro-archaeology (the Orion Correlation in Chidambaram and the living tradition), Vedic Cosmology, the Great Elements and the Akasha, and their role in spirituality, alchemy and healing, provides her with a unique and in-depth understanding of the powerful and revealing heritage of India.

Leisbeth continues to share the legacy of wisdom and knowledge left by Raja Deekshithar since his passing in 2010. Her aim is to convey an understanding that India is a treasure trove of ancient and valuable knowledge which could aid humanity with the challenges that we face today. She collaborates with Raja Deekshithar's family, especially his sons Kandhan, Jayakumar and Sankar, in her efforts to continue his wealth of research and fieldwork.

Liesbeth continues to dance and to teach Bharata Natyam, while dedicating time to continuing the many threads of study that began with her work with Raja - with a focus on symbolism, astro-archaeology, history, mythology and ritual, as well as how they are represented within visual and performing arts.

All aspects of Hindu tradition are part of the integrated whole. To understand one is to understand all and yet at the same time, one needs to understand all in order to understand the one. It is a form of yoga, it is part of yoga, and it is unification...of becoming One.

Website: <a href="http://www.chidambaramhiddentreasure.com/">http://www.chidambaramhiddentreasure.com/</a></a>



## **Stella Wheildon**

Explorer, Researcher, Writer and Speaker

**Stella Wheildon** was born, raised and still resides in the Tweed Valley on the most eastern point of the Australian Continent. Growing up in the foothills of one of the most significant sacred mountains of the ancient Aboriginal culture, Mount Warning or **Wollumbin** – "on the pathway of the sun".

From a very young age, Stella listened and learned the Aboriginal stories from her Komillaroi grandmother, who instilled in her a strong and vital

connection to Nature and interest in the historical, mystical and physical lore of the ancient oral indigenous wisdom traditions. She was also a witness to the suppression and denial of the ancient wisdom by contemporary post-colonial systems.

In 1998 Stella commenced an environmental campaign to defend the sacred mountain, Wollumbin, from industrial mining and deforestation by the crown government. This led her to meet Mrs Marlene Boyd, the Ngarakwal traditional lore holder of the mountain and a direct 'bloodline to country' descendant of the Seven Sisters Starlore - the ancient matrilineal culture of traditions, lore and customs of the Bird Tribes of Australia. Over the course of a decade Stella worked closely with the Ngarakbal and its marriage clan the Githabal peoples, learning the lore and using it to protect the land. Amassing a vast collection of previously unrecorded ancestral knowledge and studying its profound layers of meaning, Stella became an intrinsic part of the tribe and assisted in halting genocide attempts of the land, lore and language of its ancestral people and the ancient culture they embody.

Stella's life work has become synonymous to the empowerment of the ancient traditions of the Ngarakbal and the truth of its connection to all tribal nations of the earth.

Website: http://stellawheildon.com

YouTube: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCo-9xoQg3y0ZJnqB9nlXZQg">https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCo-9xoQg3y0ZJnqB9nlXZQg</a>



**Suzan Moore Geologist** 

Born and raised on the prairies of Saskatchewan Canada, Suzan developed a keen interest in nature, rocks and stars at an early age. That passion later led her to pursue a Geology degree with a minor in Astronomy. Suzan has been working as a **Geologist** in Canada for over 40 years. She originally worked in both mining and regional mapping of granites and metamorphic rocks in northern Saskatchewan and the North West Territories. She has been working for many years as a **Sedimentological Specialist** in the Oil and Gas industry in Calgary Alberta, specializing in the Jurassic of North-Western America.

She has always had an interest in Ancient Egypt and, since her first visit, returns regularly. After a trip to Peru in 2013 she developed a passion for understanding megalithic structures and the rocks they are carved from which led her to explore their implications in Egypt as well. She is currently trying to incorporate how weathering, time and source of the rocks affect the construction and preservation of many of the megalithic structures.

Suzan offers a unique and fresh perspective on the description, consistency and use of the various types of rocks and materials used in the ancient structures here.



Nayantara Chakravarthi
Our Host from Bangalore, India

Nayantara Chakravarthi lives in Bangalore, South India.

She is a consumer behaviour researcher and strategist by profession, and a history explorer, by passion. She speaks 6 of the Indian languages and loves to explore sites of deep antiquity in India. She is currently researching the iconography and symbolism of Indian architecture. Coming from a family of spiritual seekers, She has learnt the correct method of chanting some major Hindu Mantras from the Vedas.



Kandhan Raja Deekshithar Custodian of the Shiva Nataraja temple in Chidambaram

As the eldest son of Raja Deekshithar (R.N.Natarajarathina Deekshithar 1949-2010), and member of the Deekshithar community, Kandhan Raja Deekshithar is a hereditary custodian of the Shiva Nataraja temple in Chidambaram. His upbringing and education in the temple traditions and doctrines, along with his father's personal training in synthesising modern science with ancient knowledge, has opened his vision to understanding the deeper meaning and perspectives of the unique Indian spiritual traditions.

His formal education includes mathematics and physics, and sociology. He also followed his father's footsteps in Tantric sadhana. The family is connected as ritual specialists to the Tillai Ambal and Tillai Kali temple in Chidambaram. Kandhan has been performing Vedic fire sacrifices or Yajñas, such as the Chandi Homam since his adolescence.

Kandhan and Liesbeth Pankaja are collaborating to develop a deeper understanding of the Sthalapuranas, the Indian temple myths as well as publishing some of the (almost lost) ritual texts belonging to the traditions of the Chidambaram Nataraja temple.

## Price per Person, double occupancy: \$3,950.00 USD (Land Only)

## Optional Single Room Supplement: \$500.00 USD

<u>NOTE:</u> This is the additional amount you will pay if you choose to have your own private room throughout the journey. ROOMMATES: If you're not travelling with anyone you know, we would be happy to assist pairing you up with a fellow traveller.

Per our Terms and Conditions, we will hold the registration open until 30 days before the tour begins (or later if possible) in order to try to match you with someone. If by that date we have not been able to do so, you will be responsible to pay for the single supplement. Please try to register early if you would like to be matched with a roommate.

### A Non-Refundable Deposit of \$600.00 per Person will be required at the time of Booking.

Visitors from most countries must obtain an **India Tourist Visa** (*Easily obtainable for most travellers at* **www.indianvisaonline.gov.in**). Each guest is responsible for this.

## **Your Land Package Includes:**

- 1. Airport transfers to and from your Hotel in Chennai
- 2. Domestic flight in India: Chennai/Trichy
- 3. Daily buffet breakfast, hotel taxes and service charges
- 4. Other meals included: 5 lunches, 5 dinners
- 5. Baggage handling at airport and hotels
- 6. Visits to the temple sites including transportation and entrance fees
- 7. Lectures and workshops
- 9. Patricia Awyan and Nayantara Chakravarthi as your Hosts and Speakers
- 10. Stella Wheildon, Liesbeth Pankaja, Suzan Moore and Kandhan Raja Deekshithar as your Speakers
- 11. Daily water bottle and package of fruit juice during road trips

### **NOT INCLUDED:**

- Roundtrip international airfares
- India Tourist Visa (Easily obtainable for most travellers at www.indianvisaonline.gov.in)
- -Travel & Health Insurance
- **Meals not included** (As indicated in the itinerary)
- -- **Personal items** (Such as laundry, beverages during meals, and telephone calls or any item not listed on the itinerary)

### **Travel Documents**

All travellers need a passport valid for at least six months after the date of entering the country. Holders of American, Australian and European Passports can apply for their visas easily at www.indianvisaonline.gov.in.

### **Baggage**

Between North America and Indian destinations, each passenger is allowed up to two pieces of checked baggage. Please check with your domestic airline for specifics on the size and weight of your allowed baggage.

### **Reservation and Payment**

A non-refundable Deposit of \$600.00 per Person will be required at the time of booking. To insure your Reservation, final payment will be due 60 days prior to Tour start. Bookings made within 60 and 31 days preceding Tour start will require final payment 30 days prior to the start of the Tour. Bookings made within 30 days of Tour start, will require full and final payment immediately upon booking. It is the responsibility of the traveller (or agent) to determine that final payment reaches us on time. No booking will be considered until final deposit is received by the Tour Operator. Payments are to be made via Bank Transfer. Any fees charged, will be the responsibility of the sender. Please inquire about this before you make your bank transaction.

#### **Cancellation and Refunds**

Due to high preparation costs, Cancellations must be received in writing within 60 days of travel date. Cancellations received more than 30 days prior to departure will have a penalty of \$500 per Person; those received between 30 and 25 days will have a penalty of 50% of the full cost per Person; those received between 25 and 20 days will have a penalty of 75% per Person. Cancellations received 20 days or less before departure will receive no refund. No refund will be made for transfers, city tours or any other services (including meals, accommodations or transportation) voluntarily not taken.

### **Changes**

This Itinerary is subject to changes in order to adapt to possible alterations in domestic flight times or other unforeseen circumstances.

#### **Insurance**

We recommend that all participants obtain Travel Insurance. Travel Insured International offers insurance for trip cost, trip cancellation & interruption, and pays for loss due to unforeseen circumstance, death, injury, or illness to you or a member of your family. It also includes coverage for missed connections due to weather, pays for lost deposits due to the financial default of the airline, or the tour operator. It pays for baggage delays, travel delays, medical expenses and emergency assistance.

## **Waiver of Responsibility**

By signing up to the Tour you agree to our Terms, Deposit Conditions and Waiver.

The Khemit School of Ancient Mysticism, its agents and our Tour Facilitators have worked diligently to make all of the arrangements for our journey together in India. However, the Khemit School of Ancient Mysticism, its agents and our Tour Facilitators will not be held liable for delays, theft, damage, injury or any other irregularities that may occur during the course of the journey. We will not be held liable for any changes or delays in airline schedules or missed connections; injury, loss, or damage to persons or property; additional expenses resulting from changes in exchange rates, tariffs or itinerary; any transportation issues or problems with vehicles utilized on the tour; additional expenses incurred due to illness, weather conditions, protests, war, terrorism, quarantine or other causes; and losses due to cancellations not subject to our Terms and Conditions.