

January



Study Abroad in Sustainable Communities

India

Low-Carbon Living at Sadhana Forest

Leave behind the competitive and consumerist Western lifestyle and learn what its like to live well *and* more lightly and sustainably at Sadhana Forest. Dedicated to veganism, appropriate technologies and simple living, the community works to regenerate the Tropical Dry Evergreen Forest near Auroville, India. Sadhana is an ideal environment to learn to measure and reduce your Carbon Footprint and contribute to indigenous seed and tree planting, contour bunding, organic gardening, natural fenceing, and soil management with Effective Microorganisms (EM).



Come prepared to wake early, work hard, live simply, learn deeply, and leave inspired. Both theory and practice of ecological living and habitat regeneration will be emphasized along with community building and personal development. There are countless opportunities for mentorship and learning practical strategies for living in a post Peak-Oil world.

Program Highlights

- ☀ Learn about conservation forestry through hands-on projects that benefit local people and the environment
- ☀ Engage with committed professionals in the field of sustainability
- ☀ Participate in a lively international community focusing on simple living, non-violence, and ecological restoration
- ☀ Visit leaders and engage in projects within Auroville, one of the world's leading intentional communities
- ☀ Contribute to indigenous seed and tree planting as you give back to a community dedicated to embodying and inspiring social and ecological change



Academic Credit and Program Dates

Earn 4 transferable credits through University of Massachusetts Amherst

Course: Independent Study (Natural Resources Conservation 596)

January Term – 3 weeks Late Dec. - Mid Jan. (see Website for dates)

Living Routes is an independent, non-profit educational organization whose academic programs are accredited by UMassAmherst.



India



Sadhana Forest

The mission of Sadhana Forest (part of the Auroville intentional community) is the reforestation of 70 acres of severely eroded Tropical Dry Evergreen Forest in Tamil Nadu, India. This forest type is found only in South India and Sri Lanka (only 0.01% of the original habitat remains) and provides rare biological richness due to its very high species abundance. The Sadhana Forest community, founded in 2003 by Aviram and Yorit Rozin, pumps water by hand, prepares vegan meals, powers itself via solar, and is comprised of simple thatched huts (built by community members) and a beautiful natural swimming hole. This is an experience of what Auroville was like 30 years ago during its pioneering days. Sadhana Forest enjoys strong community spirit and cooperative relationships with its Tamil neighbors.



Application Deadline

(Rolling admissions, contact us for late availability)

September 30

Cost

Tuition, room and board, travel insurance and in-country travel . . . see Website
UMassAmherst credit included

Course Topics

- ☀ Sustainable living including: compost toilets, solar energy, building design, use of chemical-free products and organic farming
- ☀ The Tropical Dry Evergreen Forest and its vital environmental, social, cultural, and economic role in creating a more sustainable bioregion
- ☀ The role of humans in preserving and protecting nature, and the impact of our ecological footprint
- ☀ Community and personal responses to Peak Oil and climate change
- ☀ Water conservation, Soil erosion control, Sustainable forestry



Lead Faculty

Min Ameen, MBA. Manchester Business School, UK.; B.S. Mechanical Engineering, Vikram University, India. Ameen lives in Auroville, India, and works with the Sadhana community on environment and sustainability issues at the local and national level. In addition to working at Auroville's Center for Scientific Research, he is involved with projects throughout India including carbon offsetting, sustainable development, influencing government policy and rural empowerment through renewable energy and awareness. Ameen works with the Ministry of Renewable Energy in India to develop favorable policies that will accelerate solar water heater distribution throughout the country. His current passion is developing a program to deploy solar energy solutions for lighting and pumping water in deprived regions of India.