

Child Friendly Vacations
 Holiday Fun With your Kids!

India is one of the best holiday destinations for children - it can be both fun and offer unique learning experiences. From majestic forts, where they can hear stories of kings and sweeping conquests, to learning about tiger tracking from a naturalist to colourful market places, India offers a range of sights and activities that can stimulate the young mind. Peirce & Leslie designs itineraries that are exciting and adventurous and provides you with kid –savvy escorts who make sure that the children are having fun all the while.

In this newsletter we present a sample of the child oriented activities that we can provide:

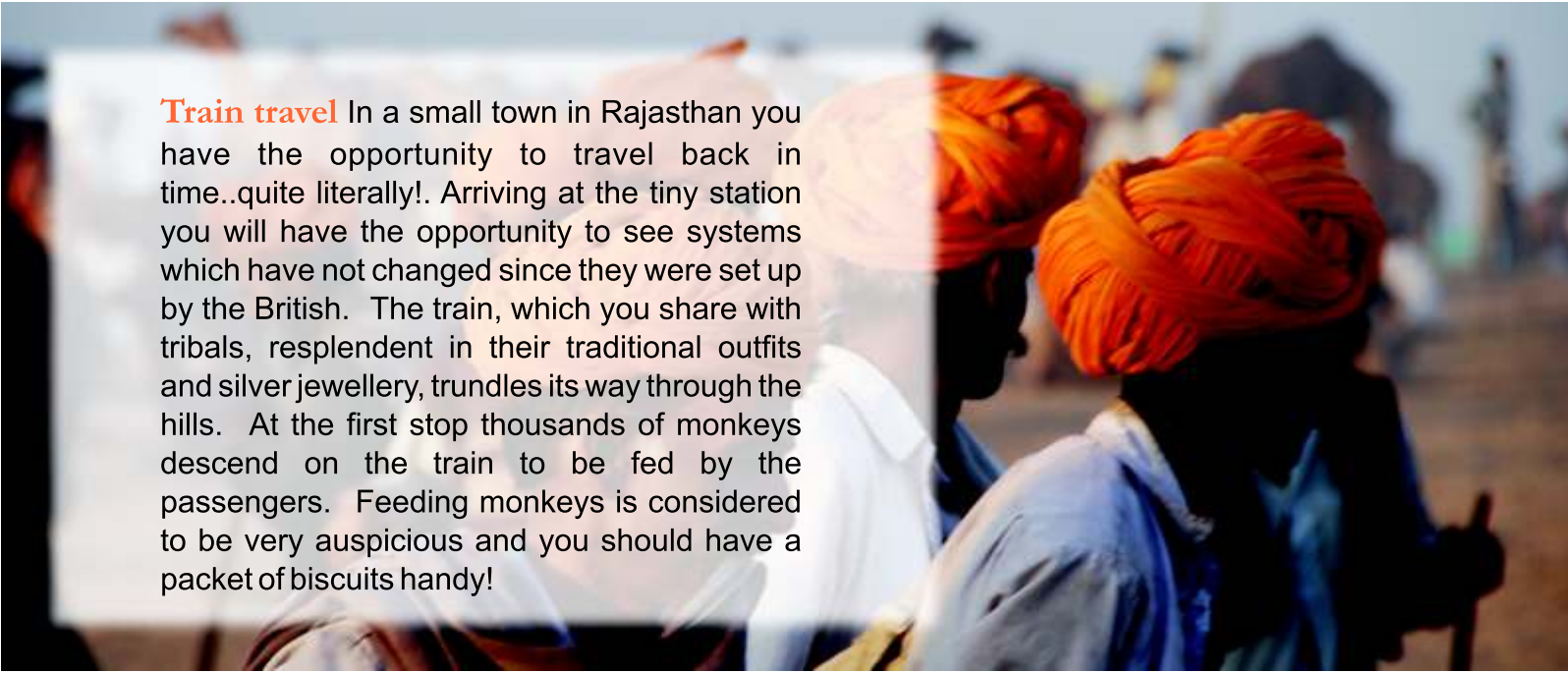


Schooling with a difference This school does not believe in only teaching math and science. Located in a little village outside the temple city of Kanchipuram in Tamil Nadu, the Kuttu Kalai Kudam also offers its rural students an education in Kattaikuttu or Folk Theatre as well. Kattaikuttu is a vibrant theatre form of the region. The young students drawn from the villages nearby are the next generation of performers, enthused by the thought of keeping the tradition alive. You can see a short performance by the school's repertory. Later, guided by the enthusiastic students, you can explore their school and homes nearby.



Shall we dance? Hip Hop or ballet, we know. Almost every community in India also has its own dance – whether it is, as part of a festival, or to participate in a ceremony or for the pure pleasure of movement. You can watch and participate in a dance and learn a step or two.





Train travel In a small town in Rajasthan you have the opportunity to travel back in time..quite literally!. Arriving at the tiny station you will have the opportunity to see systems which have not changed since they were set up by the British. The train, which you share with tribals, resplendent in their traditional outfits and silver jewellery, trundles its way through the hills. At the first stop thousands of monkeys descend on the train to be fed by the passengers. Feeding monkeys is considered to be very auspicious and you should have a packet of biscuits handy!

Weaving communities You take a whole day's excursion today into the heart of the great Indian Desert in Rajasthan. You will visit the Gomut village two hours from Jodhpur. This is the home of the Pattu weaving community. Pattu formed a part of the gifts given to a groom's family with the fixing of a marital alliance. The pattu, which literally means a narrow strip of cloth, is traditionally worn in two pieces stitched together. Whilst the checkered pattu is worn by women, the ones worn by the men are highly decorative. Despite the advent of the power loom, this small village, home to about twenty families, has done a remarkable job in keep this handloom alive.



Writing on leaves In India, before the invention and proliferation of paper, the palm leaf was a common material to record. In Tamil Nadu palm leaf manuscripts bring to mind the Thirukural, a seminal work on Ethics dating back to 31 BC, which was inscribed originally on the palm leaf. The children can have a hand at it themselves with a few seasoned palm leaves and a stylus. This will be followed by a tour around the Saraswati Mahal Library in Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu, which holds one of the richest collection of old palm leaf manuscripts. The children can take home a palm leaf manuscript of their own with their name or a message of their choice inscribed on it.

Of course not all activities are structured. The family can sit down for a impromptu game of chess, a game invented in India or the children can enjoy a unique treasure hunt – looking for ingredients for an Indian recipe in the local markets.