

It's time you breakaway  
from the tired notions of travel.



# breakaway

*Journeys off the map*



Breakaway is not a travel company as much as a company of travellers who love nothing more than to help fellow travellers look into the eyes of India's people and thus, into her very soul.

Founded by a traveller who is a walking encyclopaedia on the country's heritage and supported by a team of wanderers who love sending travellers off as much as setting off themselves, Breakaway is where you can choose a carefully curated itinerary or ask to have one made especially for you. And to ensure that you get a truly unique and authentic taste of the land you're breaking away to, we ensure you savour as much local cuisine as possible. With the locals, of course.

We specialise in arts, crafts, and textiles tours and our national footprint also spans plantations tours, social sector interactions, bespoke travels, and our very own Beyond The Brochure experiences.

So come, discover a new paradigm to travel. Come, Breakaway.

A close-up, blurred photograph of a textile loom. The image shows a dense array of threads in vibrant yellow and red colors, creating a sense of motion and texture. The background is out of focus, showing parts of the loom's wooden frame and other threads.

# Crafts & Textiles

At Breakaway, we pride ourselves on offering an unmatched range of experiences and interactions in the crafts and textiles sectors. Our tapestry of experiences covers the country and lets you discover the warp and weft of India's proud textile and handicraft traditions.

### Tamil Nadu

- Visit Kalakshetra, a vocational guidance centre for weaving and an art and culture academy in Chennai
- Discover traditional Palmyra basketry (called Kottan) in Chettinad
- Marvel at Kandanghi, Chettinadu, and Kancheepuram saris
- Drop in at the famed Athangudi tile making unit in Karaikudi
- Buy Chungadi Sarees in Madurai
- Enter the world of Upasana, an organic and khadi design studio in Auroville, Puducherry
- Get transported back in time at the Gandhigram Trust, a khadi spinning and weaving centre set up by none other than Mahatma Gandhi in Dindigul near Madurai

### Andhra Pradesh

- Delve into Kalamkari textiles
- Lose yourself among Ikat, Telia Rulam, Mashroo and Himroo fabric looms
- View antique textile collections
- Interact with textile designers
- Visit a natural dyeing and Block Printing workshop

### Kashmir

- Visit the renowned carpet weavers of Kashmir
- Watch walnut wood carvers in action
- See how Pashmina, Jamewar, and Kani shawls are woven
- See Papier Mache boxes being crafted by hand
- Enjoy a traditional Wazwaan meal with a Kashmiri family

## GUJARAT

In Gujarat, we offer unique experiences across different parts of the state.

### Ahmedabad

- Marvel at Mata Ni Pachedis, exquisite pen drawings rendered in kalamkari style
- Drop into and shop at a handcrafted & hand-stitched apparel design studio
- Enjoy interactions with textile experts
- Wander through the Calico Textile Museum and view archived textiles from the Mughal and Provincial Courts with a display of intricate dyeing, weaving, printing, and embroidery techniques from across India
- Ruminare in a quaint book store
- Meet the last remaining family of weavers still practising Double Ikat (Patola) weaving in Patan

### Kutch

- Travel to Bhujodi to see different forms of cotton and wool weaving
- View antique textile and traditional craft collections
- Drop in at Ajrakhpur and Dhamadka for ajrakh and indigo printed textiles
- Get tied up by the wonders of Tie-and-Dye Bandhani textiles
- Discover the Single Ikat Patola
- Visit Kalaraksha in Sumarasar for Kutchi Embroideries in Jat, Soofi, Mochi Bharat, Rabari, and Sindhi styles

### Baroda

- Participate in a Design & Colour Workshop
- Visit a Discharge and Pigment Printing design studio
- Enjoy special interactions with textile designers
- Drop in at a pottery studio
- Meet contemporary artists at work





### Jaipur, Rajasthan

- Enjoy a visit to understand Indigo and Natural Dyes in Bagru, with a focus on block printing
- Acquaint yourself with the Shahi Bager form of printing in Bagru
- Visit the studios and workshops of master Miniature Painters
- Drop in at a block maker and printing studio
- Visit a Gota Patti workshop
- Discover Jaipur's distinctive Blue Pottery art and its heritage
- Slip into the world of Lac Bangles and Beaten Copper Vessels
- Go shopping for contemporary crafts at a Design House cum Studio

### Bagh & Maheshwar

- Fall in love with Bagh printing in Dhar
- Uncover the intricacies of Maheshwari weaving

### Mumbai

- Get maximum exposure to an exquisite block printing workshop in Maximum City

### Delhi

- Be enthralled at a Shibori studio
- Visit the many Textile Museums in the capital
- Interact with Madhubani artists
- View the antique textile and traditional craft collections of an avid collector
- Drop into and shop at a quaint textile store
- Enjoy interactions with textile experts



# Art & Heritage Trails





India's proud heritage of art extends back to the prehistoric cave paintings that have been uncovered in sites across the subcontinent. At Breakaway, we have put together memorable experiences that let you paint yourself in the traditions of a particular region. We also create bespoke Breakways to regions whose art you'd like to discover for yourself.

### Painted Histories of Rajasthan

Rajasthan is home to numerous remarkable artistes who are the custodians of skills and traditions passed down through the generations. And perhaps the most astounding of these skills is the Miniature Painting, a style of painting that dates back centuries. Using a palette of natural colours derived from insects, shells, minerals, and vegetable matter, as well as silver and gold, these artistes depict humans, animals, and trees in breathtaking detail and on an impossibly small scale.

On our Painted Histories trail, we introduce you to 3 of the more definitive schools of miniature paintings in Rajasthan.

- **Bundi** – This school of painting is characterised by rich and glowing colours that bring alive illustrations of Krishna. Fine colour combinations, compositional unity, and delicate line-work combine to create a distinct style.
- **Kota** – This school emerged a few centuries ago and its paintings centre around themes of tiger and bear hunts which were popular with their royal patrons of the time.
- **Kishangarh** – This school of painting developed in the 18<sup>th</sup> century AD and it usually depicts Lord Krishna with his gopis and cows. This is one of the more popular styles of miniature painting and is instantly recognised by its unique side profile depiction of Radha, Lord Krishna's consort.

Apart from artistes belonging to these schools, this Breakaway will also introduce you to painters who are using their traditional skills and applying them to new media like ancient government documents to create a memorable memento.



# Plantation Tours

India makes some of the world's most prized teas as well as some of its popular coffees. To help you get a better taste of India, we organise Breakaways that will steep you deep in plantations and their unique cultures that combine the remnants of the British Raj with the enterprise of modern India. Live in colonial marvels, savour planters' cuisine, and discover just why our tours are perfect to the tea.

We offer Breakaways to:

- Tea plantations in Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Darjeeling, and Assam
- Coffee plantations in Coorg and Chikmagalur

Breakaway was founded by a woman who has travelled across India's villages and cities over the last 2 decades and has ensured that we're fully sensitised and completely geared to create safe yet immersive itineraries for solo women travelling across India. From selecting the right hotels to ensuring support staff like guides and drivers who provide a sense of security too, we ensure that solo women travellers never feel like they are on their own in India.

# Solo Travels For Women





# Bespoke Travels

While we're proud of our array of unique trails and experiences, we're seasoned enough to know that different travellers have different needs. That is why we specialise in either customising existing Breakaways to fit your needs or even creating a custom Breakaway that is as unique as you are.

Some of the bespoke Breakaways we have created are:

- A grassroots experience across India
- An Initiation into Design in India for a group of German students
- Organic farming interactions coupled with a break in Goa





# Social Sector Interactions

At Breakaway, we offer you a chance to do something truly unique – a chance to move from being shareholders to stakeholders. Experience what grass root enterprise is all about. Learn of social ventures and rural BPOs from community minded groups and individuals as they re-engineer social and economic change in their communities. Witness how these community-minded groups have been digging deep for change. Talk, interact, and glean insights from the self help groups who're tackling rural development from micro-to-macro levels and return with important life lessons to ponder when you're back home in the city.

## **Farm Stays**

These days, children don't run around much and parents run around too much. If you want to switch things around, you only need to Breakaway. Talk to us and we'll gladly take you to traditional Indian farms where you can replace the honking of cars with that of geese and see how you and your family can actually take some time to quite literally smell the roses.





# Beyond The Brochure

India is a much photographed and advertised destination and its brochures are well thumbed by all who come to visit her. But at Breakaway, we offer you a truly unique experience – Beyond The Brochure.

Our intrepid team of adventurers has gone travelling through some of India's most visited landscaped and dug deep to find gems so hidden that they are even off the beaten track! These have been compiled into immersive itineraries that will give you a taste of the food, culture, and heritage of those destinations that few others might have savoured.

We currently offer Beyond The Brochure in:

- Kutch, Gujarat
- Kerala
- Rajasthan
- Assam

So put down that brochure, switch off that television, and come discover a side of India that few have seen. Come, Breakaway.

On every Breakaway, you can be sure of getting:

- Clean and courteous foreign language experts in Mumbai and Delhi as well as English speaking local guides and facilitators across India.
- Trustworthy, well spoken drivers on all your road journeys.
- Safe places to stay, always. All properties have been checked by us personally or are chosen on recommendations by people whose opinions we trust.
- A detailed list of additional things to do which includes places to eat and shop at.
- A Travel Advisory which not only talks about what to wear and pack, but also guides you on tipping, interactions with local communities, and distances and times between destinations.
- Cooking demonstrations/classes and dining with local families.
- Interactions for Indian Festivals like Ganpati, Holi, and Durga Pooja, to name a few. We also arrange interactions for lesser known festivals.
- In-depth interactions with acknowledged experts and specialists in various fields, which is something truly few in the travel business can assure.

So get in touch and let us plan you a Breakaway that will redefine how you travel.

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Shilpa Sharma  
Bindu Menon

shilpa@break-away.in  
bindu@break-away.in

+91 93100 69102  
+91 93100 07855

break-away.in