

Castleton

A V E R M O N T S T A T E C O L L E G E

Study Abroad Program — India: Darjeeling & Sikkim

Course Title:	
India – Art & Ritual in the Himalayas	Semester: Winter Break
Course Title: Sacred Visions – The Art of Tibet	Student Contact Hours: 90
Site: India: Calcutta, Darjeeling & Sikkim	Instructor: Jim Hagan
Credits: 6	Contact us for exact dates and costs

Course Description

This program is offered during winter sessions between the fall and spring semesters and is based in Calcutta, Darjeeling and Sikkim, the former Tibetan Buddhist Himalayan kingdom. During this intensive study abroad program students are submerged into India's urban and rural environments where they will examine and study the sacred art, architecture, and religious traditions. In Calcutta students will conduct fieldwork research on the spiritual traditions of Jainism, and Hinduism with visits to local temples and shrines. In Darjeeling and Sikkim the focal point of study will be Tibetan Buddhism. Each day the student's classroom will be a different Buddhist monastery where students will receive lectures from prominent local scholars and Buddhist monks who share their in-depth knowledge and personal experience. Buddhist meditation will be taught and practiced each day. Students will also learn and study the timeless traditions of creating Buddhist sacred art by studying with some of the most famous artists in Sikkim.

Course Objectives

- To learn the religious traditions of Jainism, Hinduism, and Tibetan Buddhism.
- To observe religious festivals, temple worship and religious rituals.
- To study Buddhist philosophy and practice Buddhist meditation.
- To learn the timeless traditions of creating Buddhist sacred art and to learn its symbolic meaning.
- To experience directly the monumentality and symbolism of Buddhist architecture.

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