

AWE: International Council Meeting 2016
Practical information

Address:

**MITRANIKETAN, VELLANAD
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,
KERALA 695543 India**

**Contact person: Reghu Rama Das
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Email: kvmitraniketan@gmail.com**

Visa

Most participants will need a visa to India.

From many countries it is possible to apply for an electronic visa online. Please check the homepage of the Indian Embassy close to you. If you are eligible to apply for an electronic visa, you may do so with 34 days of your departure date, otherwise we recommend you apply about 2 months in advance. You may need an invitation letter from Mitraniketan. Please send an email to Reghu with name, address, date of birth, passport number.

Airport

Please book your flight ticket to **THIRUVANANTHAPURAM (Trivandrum) International Airport**. The airport code is **TRV**.

On Arrival

Before exiting the airport in Trivandrum, if you do the following things your life will get easier:

- Withdraw (using your debit card) cash from the ATM at the airport or change some money into Indian Rupees (it is easier to change US Dollars, British Pounds and Euros).
- Buy a local SIM-card with access to the Internet. You can use it in your mobile phone or you can additionally buy a dongle to be used together with your computer. Make sure it works before leaving the airport. They will assist you in the shop. (This can also be done in the Idea shop in Vellanad).
- In order to use it on your smartphone, please make sure that your phone is factory "unlocked." There is no WI-FI in the guesthouse, where you are going to stay.

Getting to Mitraniketan

Mitraniketan is a compound with many buildings situated in a town called Vellanad. Contact Reghu for pick up arrangement, when your ticket is booked. The cost of your airport transfer arranged by Mitraniketan is included in the registration fee. If you choose to make your own arrangement, you can arrange with a pre-paid taxi from the airport. Go to the pre-paid counter, and ask for a pre-paid car to Vellanad. It costs about 800 Rupees (February 2016) – this is about 10-12 US\$. If you arrange for your own transportation, the cost will not be covered or reimbursed.

The guesthouse

The 1960 guesthouse at Mitraniketan is designed by the famous architect, Laurie Parker. It is a beautiful but basic house built to suit the local climate with lots of open-air facilities. It is, however, not protected against mosquitoes but there are no mosquito-born diseases in Kerala.

The house is well used, and it has not been modernised quite a bit since it was build. There is no air-conditioning in the guesthouse but each room has a ceiling fan. The temperature in Kerala at the end of October is mild at about 24°C degrees on the low side and 30°C degrees on the high side. There are water and toilet facilities attached to each room but no showers (you will need to pour water from a bucket in your bathroom). Each room will have two to three hangers and a clothes line with a set of clothes' pins. **Be aware that power cuts are not an unknown phenomena in Kerala.** ☺

What to bring

- Flashlight
- Towels (a thin towel would be ideal)
- Possibly – Umbrella or a thin rain coat
- Sandals that can withstand moisture and is easy to remove
- Protection against mosquitoes (mosquito spray and/or mosquito repellent)
- Extension chord (there is only one powerplug in the room) 220v
- Shampoo, body soap and soap for laundry (please note that you can also buy these at the local store)
- Light clothes in cotton with short and/or long sleeves and light pants (not shorts)
- Outerwear is not necessary. The temperature will not go below 25 degrees at night
- It works well to have 3-4 sets of clothes to change from (you may rinse clothes every time you change).
- You can buy beautiful fabrics on site and there is a local tailor workshop at Mitraniketan who sew simple clothes made to measure (no suits).

