

WHV – Heritage awareness camp

Santiniketan, India

Cultural property inscribed on the World Heritage List (2023)

PROJECT DATES

01 - 15 August 2024

THE SITE - Established in rural West Bengal in 1901 by the renowned poet and philosopher Rabindranath Tagore, Santiniketan was a residential school and centre for art based on ancient Indian traditions and a vision of the unity of humanity transcending religious and cultural boundaries. A ‘world university’ was established at Santiniketan in 1921, recognizing the unity of humanity or “Visva Bharati”. Distinct from the prevailing British colonial architectural orientations of the early 20th century and of European modernism, Santiniketan represents approaches toward a pan-Asian modernity, drawing on ancient, medieval and folk traditions from across the region.

OBJECTIVES - Implemented for the first time by the Visva-Bharati university itself, the project aims at raising awareness about the challenges of maintaining a harmonious balance between the academic environment and the national and international tourist influx. It focuses on creating opportunities to work closely with the youth and local community for the proper maintenance of the site.

ACTIVITIES - The volunteers will take part in targeted trainings for the students through lectures, field visits, interactions and study of available resources, in order to maintain a harmonious balance between the academic environment and international/national tourist influx; volunteers will also contribute to draft a proposal for upgraded facilities addressing the growing concerns of tourists of at this newly designated World Heritage property.

PARTNERS - Archaeological Survey of India; INTACH; IGNC; Government of West Bengal; Visva-Bharati alumni association; Asramic Sangha; Alaponi Samity; Kormi Mondal; Village Development Societies.

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