



MAHABALESHWAR

Art Retreat

2026



THE TOWN FORGOTTEN BY TIME



MAHABALESHWAR

A mere 2 and a half hours away from Pune is one of the most gorgeous hill stations in Maharashtra. This is Mahabaleshwar, which gets its name from an ancient Shiva temple of the same name.

Mahabaleshwar and its twin town Panchgani have a special place in the hearts of people of western Maharashtra. This has been the most popular holiday destination for Summer for everyone from schools, families, honeymooners, college groups and even international travelers. The first thing that hits you when you enter Mahabaleshwar is the breathtaking, lush green mountain tops. The entire town has been settled on a verdant hill and from many places along the road you will find view points with cute names like Parsi point, Arthur seat and so on. This is one popular activity for visitors, to drive from one view point to another to enjoy the stunning sunrises and sunsets.



Most of the year the temperature in Mahabaleshwar is exceptionally cool. But the entire town closes its doors during the monsoon, which are nothing short of oppressive - a relentless, persistent downpour from June to August. Summers are incredibly cool here and winters can be freezing.

Within the town we have a smattering of charming old buildings from previous centuries, many of which have been converted to hotels. There are strict regulations on new constructions in the town, which has kept the place reasonably untouched by development and to some extent protected from the ravages of time. For some diversion we have a small market where you can buy some lovely crochet items, Ayurvedic cosmetics from a popular local brand, hand made wooden articles and, of course, plenty of strawberries, the biggest attraction in the region!

HERE'S A LOOK AT YOUR STAY



Nestled on top of a hill between mainland Maharashtra on the east and descending into the Konkan, on the west, at a height of 1300 ft. above sea level, Mahabaleshwar is truly paradise. It is blessed with a unique ecology sharply in contrast to other cities in its neighbourhood. This is why it became a welcome refuge for many British families to escape to, from the summer heat down in the valley. In 1881, some British officers got together and upon approval from the local collector, converted an existing army barracks into what we know today as the Mahabaleshwar club, one of the oldest social clubs in India. As soon as you enter the gates you feel you have stepped into a time machine and traveled back a century.

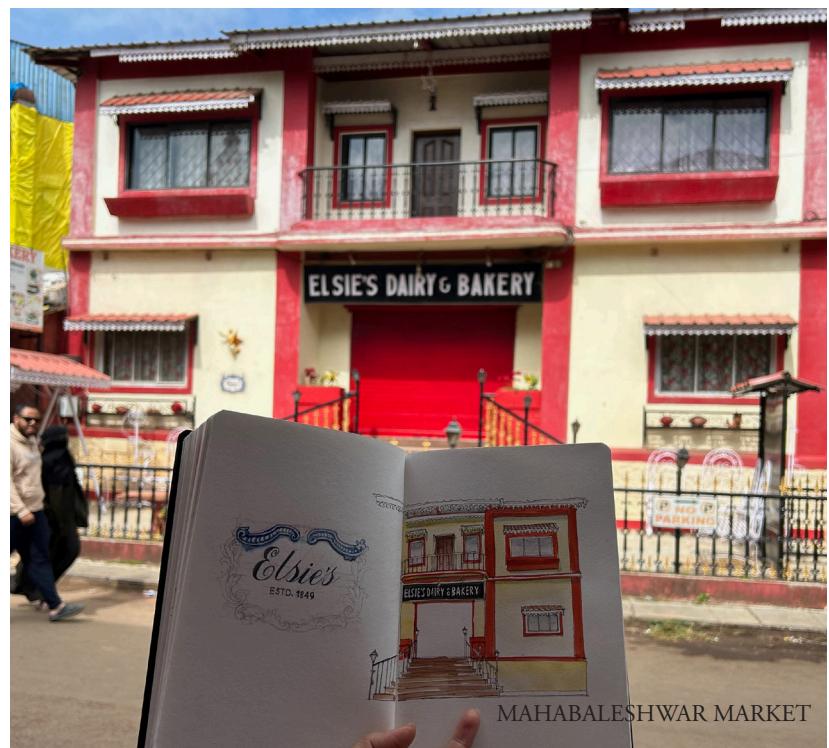
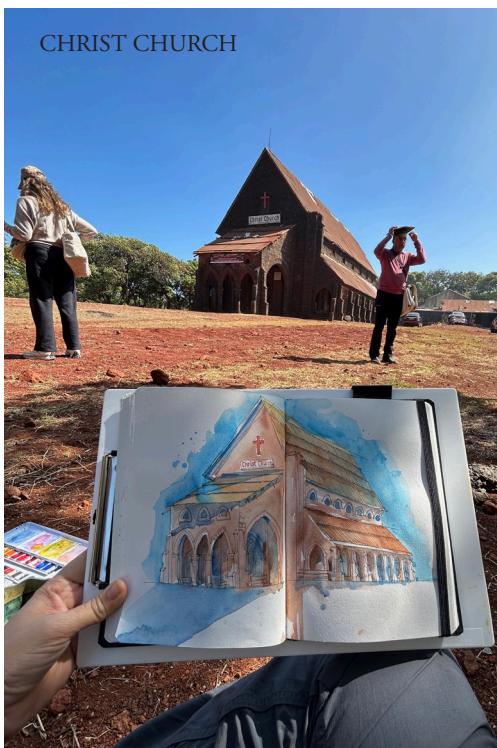
Even today, its members work hard to keep alive the old charm of a time gone by. This is where our participants will be staying during the art retreat. The club has many beautiful rooms in 5 different blocks. There is a common hall for people to relax in. All meals are served in the main dining hall at well appointed timings. There are separate daily menus for vegetarian and non-vegetarian preferences. The club maintains strict but endearing rules of conduct for dressing at the dining hall, which add to the charm of the stay.

THE CLUB *Mahabaleshwar*

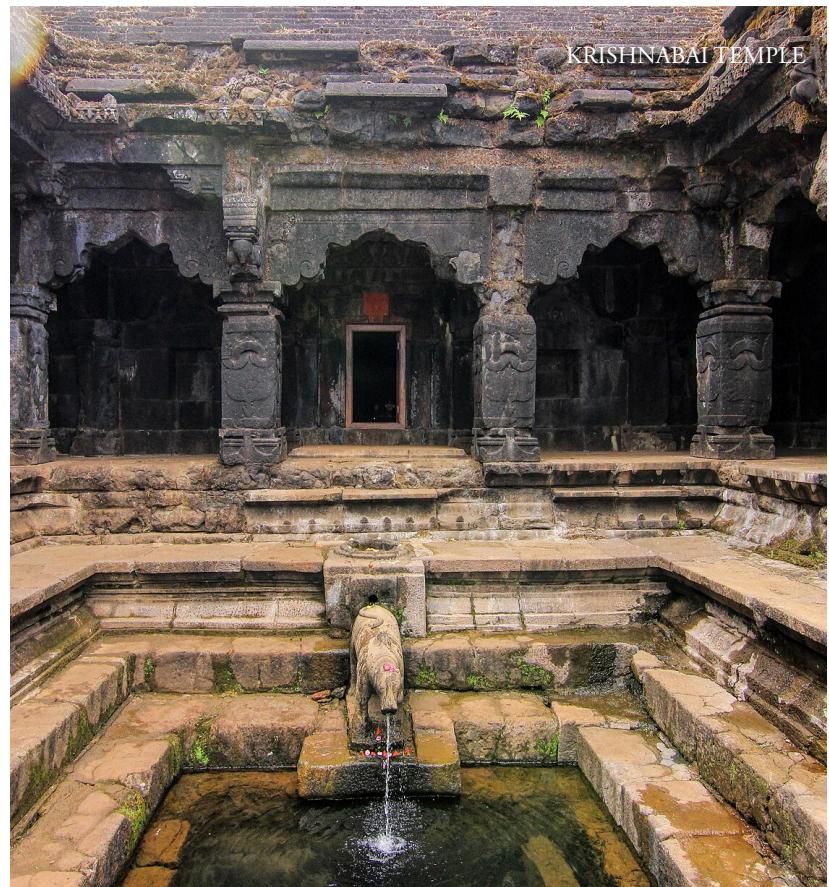


All the locations that we will visit to make our journal are within walking distance of the club, which makes this art retreat uniquely intimate.

ACTIVITIES IN MAHABALESHWAR



TRAVEL ART JOURNALING
IS MORE THAN JUST
MAKING PICTURES. IT IS
ABOUT ILLUSTRATING YOUR
MEMORIES





WELCOME TO Mahabaleshwar

RETREAT DATES:

23rd to 27th Feb. 2026

Check-in: Monday 12:00 noon, 23rd Feb.
Check-out by: Friday 10:00 AM, 27th Feb.

TRIP DETAILS *:

DAY 1 - MONDAY 23rd Feb

Check-in. We will start making our illustrations at
MAHABALESHWAR CLUB

DAY 2 - TUESDAY 24th Feb

KSHETRA MAHABALESHWAR - KRISHNABAI TEMPLE & PANCHANGANGA TEMPLE - Kshetra Mahabaleshwar is the old Mahabaleshwar from where the towns get their names. It is home to 2 important temples - the Krishnabai temple, built in 1888, at what is believed to be, the source of the river Krishna; and the Panchaganga temple nearby, built in the 13th century and believed to be about 4,500 years old, at the confluence of 5 rivers.

DAY 3 - WEDNESDAY 25th Feb

CHRIST CHURCH - Located just a walk away from the Club is the old Christ church, built in 1842. Though it looks dilapidated and abandoned, the church has been brought back for mass on Sundays and special occasions.

DAY 4 - THURSDAY 26th Feb

MAHABALESHWAR MARKET - The one street market in Mahabaleshwar still has a few old, quaint buildings that can be a delight to illustrate. You can also use this opportunity to buy your goodies & souvenirs.

DAY 5 - FRIDAY 27th Feb

Check out & departure.

** PLEASE NOTE: The above itinerary is subject to change closer to the date. We might change the dates or certain specific visits/locations according to booking availability.*



Included in the price:

Workshop Fees

Single or Double Occupancy accommodation (as specified in the program) at Mahabaleshwar Club.

All meals are included - Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner.

Local travel cost included.

Excluded from the price:

Travel to & from Mahabaleshwar.

Travel to the club from airport/ train station/ bus station.

Meals and all other services which are not mentioned in the aforementioned itinerary.

Entrance fees as per itinerary, if applicable.

Any kind of personal expenses or optional tours, extra meals and beverages ordered, laundry, phone calls and medical expenses.

Any expenses caused by reasons beyond our control such as road blocks, accidents & any medical evacuations. Any train delays, or re-scheduling etc.

We have the following options available to choose from:

1. Room option A: **Single Occupancy***
in Double Room
Rs. 76,750

2. Room Option B: **Double Occupancy**
Rs. 57,000

3. Room Option C: **Single Occupancy***
in Single Room
Rs. 62,000

** Single Occupancy rooms are subject to availability.*

1. Bookings at the Club are non transferable. In case of cancellations, refunds on accommodation are available as per the policy of the Club.

2. The fees for the workshop will be refundable till 1 month prior to the retreat. For cancellations less than a month before the retreat, 50% of the workshop amount will be refunded & for the balance, it can be adjusted against class fees.



THE DOODLE FACTORY ART CLASSES & ART RETREATS

Our online and in-person art classes are designed to bring art to people of all ages and levels of proficiency. It is a commonly held belief that Art is an in-born talent. But we believe that art can be learned by anyone, at any age and for many purposes. Making art brings you joy, reduces stress and increases your feeling of well being in life.

In our classes we help you learn all aspects of art - basic skills in painting and drawing, urban sketching, still life, design, composition and much more, making you a versatile & confident artist. We choose a variety of themes to keep you interested in the classes while continuously honing your skills.

The art classes are well suited for beginners as well as advanced students, aged 15 and up. The weekly 90-minute class helps you to practice your art daily with consistency. We have a very flexible time table, with classes available at all times through the week. This system is most well suited for the busy schedules of most adults helping them stay consistent. Our student profile has always been delightfully varied - doctors, engineers, chartered accountants, home-makers, teachers, professors - all with one common factor among them - the love of Art!

**A TRAVEL ART JOURNAL
IS A CHRONICLE OF YOUR LIFE
THROUGH YOUR VOYAGES.**



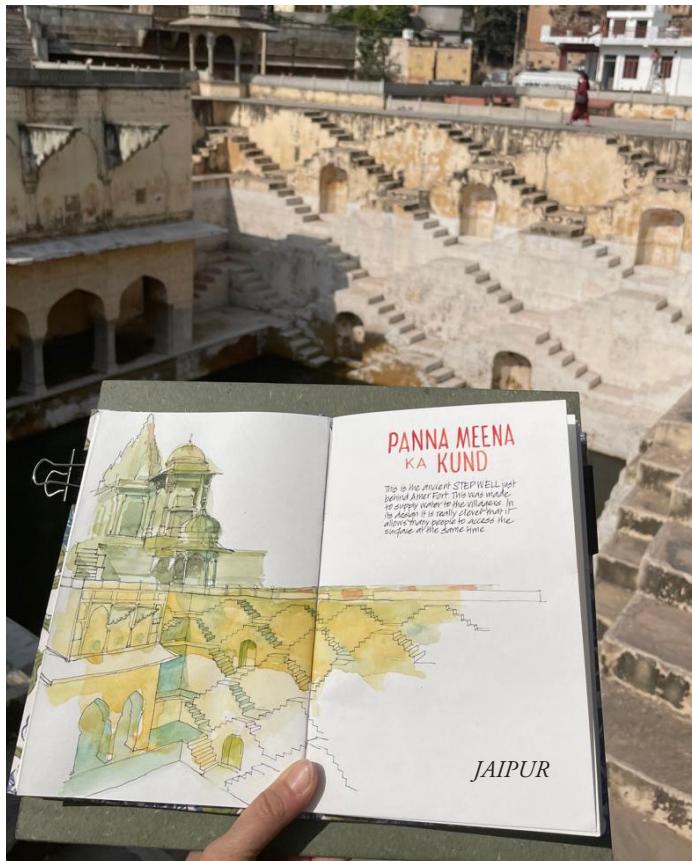
A few times a year we bring our students and teacher together to meet in person to help the students learn art in an intimate setting. These are the **Doodle Factory Art Retreats**. These have been a regular feature for members of our Art for Adults classes since 2018, and a unique offering from The Doodle Factory, unlike regular art classes. During the retreat we choose the theme of **Travel Art Journaling**, which is an excellent topic to test out your skills in everything you will have learned during class. But this time, since the teacher travels with you, you will have the opportunity to interact closely to help boost your practice by leaps and bounds within a week.

In the past 7 years we have had Travel Art Retreats in Goa (2018, 2019 & 2022), Mahabaleshwar and Jaipur (2024) in India, and also an international art retreat on the French Riviera (2025).





TDF Art Retreat 2025 - Cote d'Azur:
Nice, Cannes, Grasse, Gourdon, Antibes,
St. Paul de Vence.



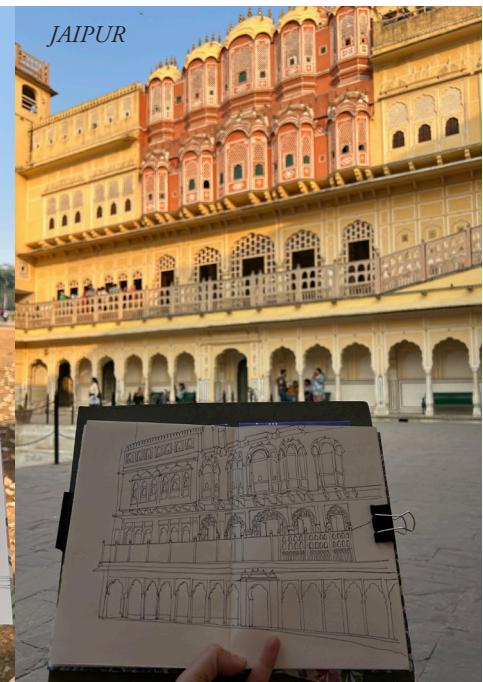
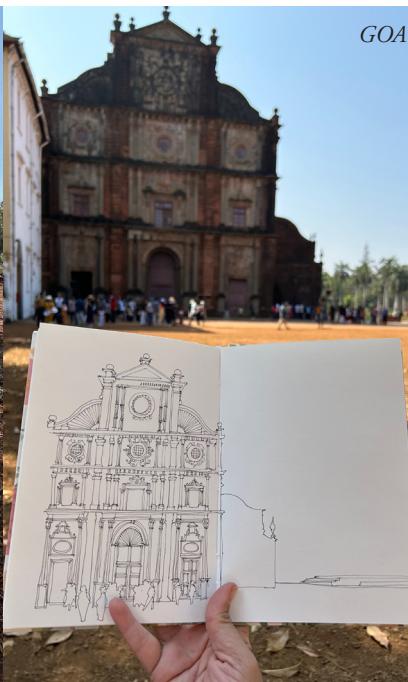
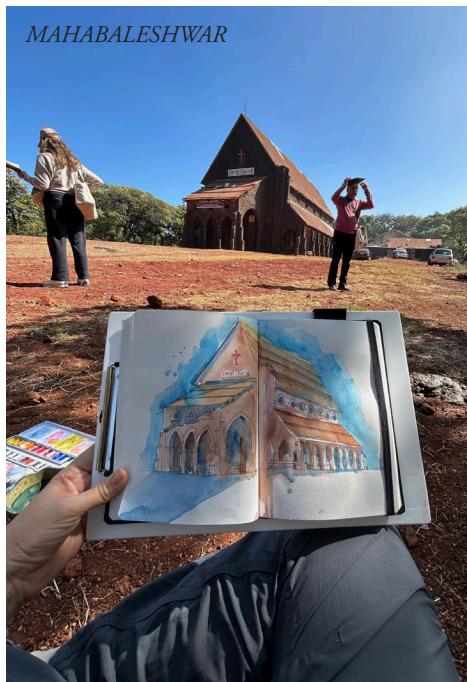
Travel art journaling is a less-known practice in India and indeed across the world as well. Simply put a travel art journal documents your travels through pictures, collages, ephemera as well as words.

We were all born into an age of photography and today we all carry our photo documentation equipments virtually attached to our hands.



The true value of travel, however, is to embed your experiences into core memories. And this is possible when you take the time & make the effort to truly engage with all you see, feel, hear & touch.

Our Travel Art Retreats are meant for exactly this - making illustrations of our whole trip to bring back our memories in the form of pictures made ourselves.





On our art retreats we use every opportunity to make Art - be it restaurants, clubs, beaches or poolside. If we can find it, we also try our hand at local crafts - like our visit to Khanoom for a workshop in ceramic painting in Jaipur, or our visit to R's paper factory in Goa, to make our own hand

made paper. Added to this we visit local art museums and galleries to learn more about local artists & art styles. The idea is to pack the itinerary with many sessions of intense art to make sure that your time is truly fulfilling.





*Everywhere you go...
always take the journal with you!*



*Airport to Airport, make Art! That's our motto.
We start filling our travel journals as soon as we
check in our luggage and continue to sketch on
the retreat till we arrive at our home cities.*





Every place you travel to has something to offer, and no travel is complete without savouring the food, participating in local activities, events and witnessing unique customs of your destination. And on our retreats we document these experiences through illustrations in our travel journals. Travel journals are more than sketchbooks. They are sensory chronicles of your cherished memories. The travelogues of ancient travel writers even today serve as a fascinating account of life seen by them on their voyages; giving us insightful perspective of the places & people they visit from their point of view.



HERE IS WHAT PREVIOUS PARTICIPANTS HAVE TO SAY ABOUT OUR RETREAT...



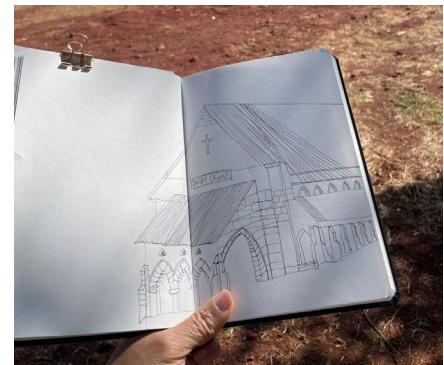
Jai Sonwalkar (THANE) has a masters in Biodiversity. This was her first retreat. Jai is an avid traveler and so she found Travel Art Journaling a wonderful tool to make her trips memorable.

"The Mahabaleshwar Art Retreat with Aditi was such a delightful experience. We stayed in the exclusive and gorgeous Mahabaleshwar Club and for 4 days were treated like royalty. In those lovely surroundings, Aditi guided and gently nudged us to create sketches and paintings in our sketchbooks. From flowers to food sketches to churches - we covered a lot of topics. Aditi shared so many tips and ideas with us from her rich and varied art repertoire. Above all, it was a rich, fun filled, artsy experience- the lessons and learnings will always stay with me."

- Sharda Bhatia, MUMBAI



Participants of the 1st Mahabaleshwar Art Retreat in 2024 - L to R - Mruga, Jai, Ritika & Chris (Sharda, not in picture)



"The art retreat at Mahabaleshwar was a first for me—and what an experience!"

Being with like-minded art lovers in the gorgeous Mahabaleshwar Club setting, with perfect weather and flowers all around, felt magical. And with Aditi guiding us to see beauty in our surroundings and translate it into art... just priceless! The artist in you will enjoy this experience a lot.

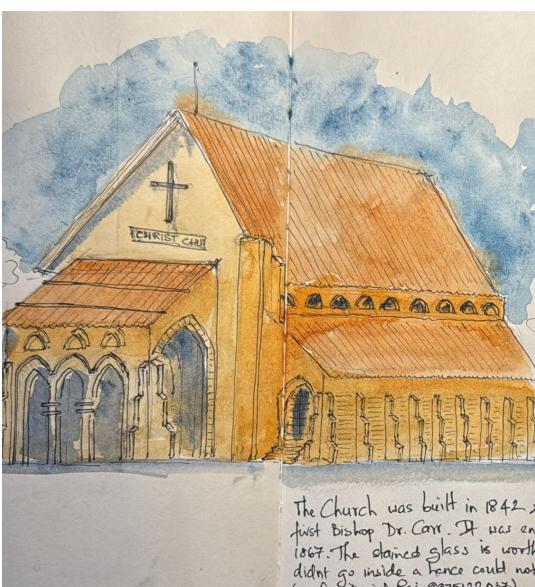
I highly recommend!"

- Mruga Kirloskar, PUNE

MAHABALESHWAR February 2024

"Aditi's Retreat to Mahabaleshwar was a great self-confidence building exercise and a lot of fun too. Taught Patience & Endurance too!"

- Chris Dias, PUNE



The Church was built in 1842 & first Bishop Dr. Corr. It was only 1867. The stained glass is worth didn't go inside a fence could not be. End. T. Rai 9975122057)



These are Ritika Bhateja's (DELHI) illustrations from the Mahabaleshwar Art Retreat in 2024.

Since 2019, this is Ritika's 2nd retreat with us, and she will go on to attend 2 more retreats consecutively after this - Jaipur in 2024 & South of France in 2025. You can read her testimonials in the next pages.

TESTIMONIALS



"A rare immersive opportunity to be with people who share similar yet very unique interests. Every retreat touches you in different ways.

An opportunity to connect with my deeper self & feed my SOUL. To learn how to capture memories on paper as you see and experience them, an exhilarating outlet for my creative instincts. So much to learn..."

- Ritu Menon, JAIPUR



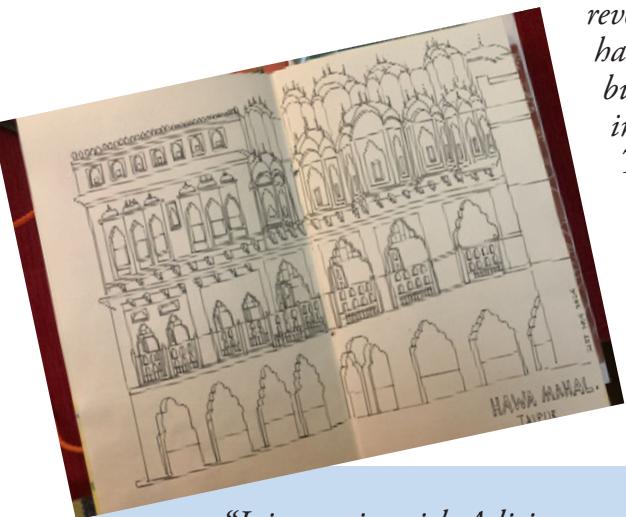
Participants of the 1st Jaipur Art Retreat by The Doodle Factory in 2024 - L to R - Ritika, Ritu, Aditi, Aashika, Varsha (FRONT), Mallika (BACK).

JAIPUR November 2024

An "Art retreat with Aditi ma'am is a zen experience where for 5 days everything is revolving around art and creativity. Jaipur had very detailed and complex architecture but she made it so simple to capture them into our journals as memories.

The whole art retreat is very well organised with amazing art demos, visiting museums & palaces, experiencing local food and culture, in a perfect way through illustrations in our journals".

- Ritika Bhatia, DELHI



"Jaipur trip with Aditi and the art group was full of creativity, laughter, and soulful conversations—leaving me inspired, refreshed, and eager to create more art. I returned home with illustrated memories to treasure."

- Varsha, HYDERABAD



"Jaipur and its vibrancy is the perfect canvas to learn how to see as an illustrator. The trip for me, as someone new to illustration, was just that. A place comes alive in a different way. To observe your teacher translate complex step well architecture, a chaotic flower market or glorious palace doorways into art is an experience!"

- Mallika Hiremath, PUNE



"This retreat helped me tackle complex architecture and designs with ease. I ended up gaining a lot of confidence to sketch on the go!"

- Aashika, PUNE



SOME MORE FEEDBACK ON THE RETREAT

"The art retreat in France was an incredibly rewarding experience. Apart from the external experiences of places visited, where we stayed etc, which were great, it helped me connect with art and start drawing after almost a year again."

- Irika Bhisey, PUNE

"I took a creative break at an art retreat on the French Riviera, and it turned out to be both therapeutic and inspiring.

Guided by Aditi, who made art feel fun and approachable, I rediscovered the joy of slowing down, seeing differently, and creating freely. The friendships, laughter, and stunning surroundings made it an unforgettable, soulful experience I'll always treasure."

- Rena Agrawal, CHICAGO

"The art retreat in France was truly a fantastic experience for me. An oxymoronic trip in the sense that it was stimulating and calming at the same time. Everything around you is so beautiful and picture perfect that it sends your senses on an over drive but when you sit down to journal those scenes in your sketchbook, it is therapeutic.

I would never miss another such opportunity to explore a different culture and place as vibrant as France."

- Amulya Adusumilli,
HYDERABAD



"Origins of Art in Europe! History and Art teachings from Aditi!"

Amazing location, food, wine and people! The South of France Art retreat WAS the perfect trip and I am glad I made this journey.

My life has been enriched in so many ways and I can't wait to do it again with Aditi and my art friends!"

- Shivani Desai, MALAYSIA

SOUTH of FRANCE June 2025

"The international art retreat to France was an experience of a lifetime for me, giving me exposure to the amazing French culture which we all got to live in those 5 days staying in a small French town.

France really pampered us with amazing food - especially the cheeses, the architecture and sunsets.

I got great insights in art journaling yet again; and a application, in real life, of all the subjects that we have practiced in our online classes - the illustration of food, people, stone buildings and more, was very rewarding.

Returning home after every art retreat boosts my confidence each time. I am delighted to discover, yet again, how easy it can be to document your life's memories through these art journals."

- Ritika Bhatija, DELHI

"It is so great to travel with a like-minded art focused group! Fabulously arranged Art Retreat by Aditi - The Doodle Factory!"

I had my best learning in the week spent together. Got some great insights and confidence into creating an Art Journal and I was so happy with how lovely my entire Travel Journal turned out!"

- Tarini Shirgaokar,
KOLHAPUR





Can't draw? No worries!
Never painted? No problem!



Do you *want* to make Art?
That's all you need!

Let art become an integral part of your life. Contrary to popular belief, making Art does not really require talent, or fancy equipment, or years and years of formal education. Take it from me! I am a self-taught artist and I have been a professional artist for 30 years! All you need to learn Art is Patience, Perseverance and the ability to laugh at your efforts.

In the Doodle Factory's Art-for-Adults program we teach our students a variety of subjects, many styles in art and design & a good variety of mediums to become comfortable & confident to make original art. Other than this we always have lively discussions on the History and Philosophy of Art, the lives and inspirations of renowned artists from earlier years and many practical projects like envelope and postcard exchanges to give you an opportunity to practice all that you learn.

We have a special batch once a week for ***Travel Art Journaling***. That way when you choose to join our Travel Art Retreats you feel well enough equipped in drawing and painting skills to take on the challenge of making art while on the move.

Join the hundreds of students of the Doodle Factory who have found tremendous enrichment in their lives with our lively, weekly sessions.

To learn more about our weekly classes, you can connect with ADITI directly on 9823266511 through Whatsapp.

Follow us in Instagram: @the_doodle_factory

