KODAIKANAL INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
INDIA 1901

125 YEARS
A school the world needs



EXPERIENCE KIS 2027

Two weeks.
A Campus in the Mountains.
A World to Discover.

18 JULY – 1 AUGUST 2027

WELCOME

Step Into Life at KIS

Experience KIS is a two-week immersive residential summer programme for students from around the world. Set on the mountain campus of **Kodaikanal International School**, it brings together academic exploration, creativity, outdoor adventure and community living in one of India's most extraordinary learning environments.

Whether you are discovering new interests, finding your creative voice or taking a deeper dive into a field you love, Experience KIS is a chance to learn differently, live independently and make connections that last well beyond the summer.

MORE THAN A SUMMER PROGRAM.

A journey of discovery, belonging, and growth.

- 10–17 years
- 2 Weeks
- Fully Residential
- Students from schools anywhere in the world



FOUR EXPERIENCES

At the heart of KIS

01 **LEARN BEYOND THE CLASSROOM**

Think critically. Ask questions. Explore ideas through experience, discussion and reflection. Students experience the inquiry-driven approach of KIS and, where relevant, engage with the IB Middle Years Programme (MYP) curriculum.

02 **EXPLORE THE OUTDOORS**

Hike through the Palani Hills, discover the biodiversity of the region and learn through direct encounters with the natural world. Outdoor experiences build confidence, resilience and a deeper connection to place.

03 **CREATE & EXPRESS**

Find your voice through writing, music, art, movement and performance. Try something completely new or develop an existing passion in a supportive and inspiring environment.

04 **LIVE & GROW IN COMMUNITY**

Residential life is at the heart of the Experience KIS journey. Students live alongside peers from different backgrounds, building friendships, independence, responsibility and a sense of belonging.

AT THE HEART OF THE PROGRAM ARE FOUR KEY EXPRIENCES THAT SHAPE EVERY LEARNER'S EXPERIENCE.



CHOOSE YOUR EXPERIENCE

AGES 10-14 YEARS

Students will have opportunities to experiment, create, hike, camp, perform, and express themselves through a range of experiences alongside attending classes at KIS and experiencing the IB MYP Curriculum

AGE 15-17 YEARS

Designed like an internship, students are paired with an accomplished professional from specific streams like Design Thinking, Environmental Conservation, Culinary Arts or Music and attend masterclasses, engage in hands-on workshops while working on a tangible problem statement.



FOUNDATIONS
(10-14 YEARS)

Discover. Create. Explore.
Foundations is designed for younger learners who are ready to step beyond the familiar and discover what they can do.

Across two weeks, students will experiment, create, perform, hike, camp and explore, while experiencing the rhythms of life at KIS.

OUTDOOR EDUCATION
Explore the biodiversity and natural world of Kodaikanal through hands-on environmental learning, with a focus on sustainability and our relationship with place.

WRITER'S WORKSHOP
Tell stories, keep a journal, reflect and experiment with words. A space to develop imagination, observation and self-expression.

CREATIVE ARTS & SPORTS
Try drama, music, movement, visual arts, games and athletics in an environment where participation, curiosity and joy matter more than perfection.

HIKING & CAMPING
Head into the Palani Hills for guided hikes and camping experiences that encourage teamwork, confidence, outdoor skills and connection with nature.

CULTURAL DISCOVERY
Experience the sights, sounds, flavours and traditions of South India through local food, language, culture and place-based experiences.

RESIDENTIAL LIFE
Learn to navigate life away from home while living in a caring boarding environment. Build independence, responsibility and friendships that can last a lifetime.



MASTERY
(15-17 YEARS)

Choose your direction. Go deeper. Make something real. Mastery is designed for students who are ready to move from exploration to deeper engagement.

Participants select **two** focus areas and spend the programme learning alongside experienced practitioners through masterclasses, workshops and hands-on, project-based work.









VISUAL ARTS
Explore creative practice, develop ideas and experiment with materials, techniques and visual language.

CREATIVE WRITING
Develop your voice, sharpen your writing and explore storytelling across different forms and genres.

DESIGN THINKING
Learn to approach complex problems creatively, collaboratively and with people at the centre.

CULINARY ARTS
Explore food, technique, creativity and culture through hands-on culinary experiences.

IMPACT FILMMAKING
Use film as a tool for storytelling, communication and social impact, from idea to finished work.

LEARN FROM PEOPLE WHO DO IT
Mastery programmes are often led by KIS alumni who have gone on to become accomplished professionals and industry experts.

Through masterclasses, workshops and collaborative projects, students get to ask questions, test ideas, solve problems and create something tangible.

This is learning with a purpose, and an opportunity to see where your interests could take you.

WHY KIS

Located at 7,000 feet in the Palani Hills of South India where AQI is less than 15, KIS offers a learning environment unlike any other.

For many students, Kodaikanal will feel like a world away from the pace of everyday life and that is part of its magic.

Kodaikanal International School is India's first IB school, with a 125-year legacy of innovative education.

The School firmly believes that education should prepare young people not simply to know more, but to think deeply, engage meaningfully and make a difference in the world around them.

The school offers the IB Diploma Programme, the IB Career-related Programme, and an American High School Diploma.

Experience KIS offers a glimpse into that way of learning, and an invitation to make it your own.



THE PEOPLE BEHIND THE EXPERIENCE

At *Experience KIS,* students are guided by a team of caring, experienced facilitators who make each day engaging, supportive, and memorable. From academic workshops and creative sessions to outdoor adventures and residential life, our facilitatorsknow how to challenge students thoughtfully while also helping them feel safe, seen, and included.

OUR FACILITATORS INCLUDES MEMBERS OF THE WIDER KIS COMMUNITY SUCH AS:

- Teachers & learning specialists
- Artists & creative practitioners
- Outdoor & experiential educators
- Residential life staff
- Student wellbeing and support professionals

Together, they create a programme environment that is dynamic, student-centred, and deeply supportive.



THE PEOPLE BEHIND THE EXPERIENCE

THROUGHOUT THE PROGRAMME, FACILITATORS HELP STUDENTS:

- Settle in and feel at home
- Build confidence in new environments
- Explore ideas and experiences with curiosity
- Work collaboratively with others
- Reflect on their learning and personal growth

Whether in a classroom, on a forest trail, in a studio, or during an evening community activity, facilitators are there to guide, encourage, and support.

A COMMUNITY OF GUIDANCE & CARE

At KIS, we believe that some of the most meaningful learning happens through relationships. The adults who shape *Experience KIS* are here not only to teach, but to listen, encourage, and help students grow academically, socially, and personally.



WEEKLY STRUCTURE AT EXPERIENCE KIS

Every week at Experience KIS is designed to offer a healthy balance of structure, energy, creativity, and downtime. While each week has its own highlights, students can expect a rhythm that includes:

MORNINGS

- Learning in an IB classroom
- Group learning experiences
- Creative or inquiry-based activities

AFTERNOONS

- Outdoor learning and adventure
- Arts, sports, or collaborative projects
- Exploration and experiential activities

EVENINGS

- Community gatherings
- Residential activities
- Reflection, games, or social time

OPTIONAL DAILY SCHEDULE

7:30 AM
Breakfast

9:00 AM
Morning Session

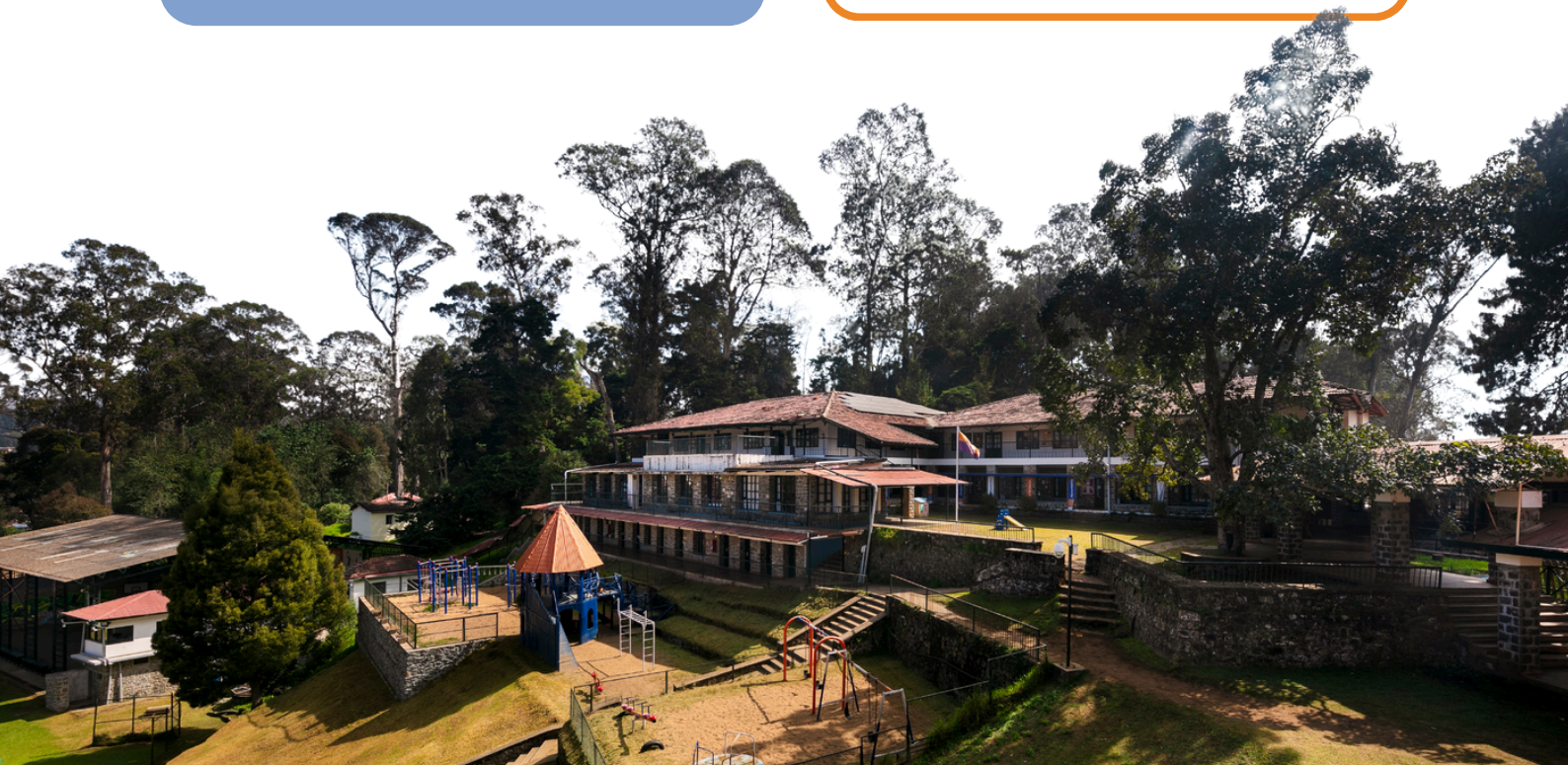
11:00 AM
Workshop / Project Time

1:00 PM Lunch

3:00 PM
Workshop / Project Time/Outdoor activities

6:00 PM
Dinner

7:30 PM
Evening Community Programme



LIVING AT EXPERIENCE KIS

WHERE WILL STUDENTS STAY?

Participants will stay in supervised residential accommodation on the KIS campus designed to help students feel safe, comfortable, and connected to community life.

WHAT ABOUT MEALS?

Nutritious daily meals and snacks will be provided throughout the programme.Where possible, dietary requirements can be accommodated if shared in advance.

HEALTH, SAFETY & WELLBEING

Student wellbeing is central to the Experience KIS programme. Families will receive additional information before arrival regarding:

- Health forms, emergency contacts, student wellbeing support, permissions and practical requirements.
- Students will be supported by staff throughout the programme to ensure a safe, welcoming, and positive residential experience.



STUDENT TESTIMONIALS



Tsugumi Nasu, 10 years
Japan

"The Experience KIS program showed me that the best lessons happen outside the classroom. From camping and hiking through Kodaikanal's green hills to playing football with KIS teachers, every day was a new adventure. Working on a local farm in Poondi taught me about real sustainable living, while living and laughing together with my friends from so many different parts of the world, helped me make deep, lasting friendships. I will miss my time in India and I am grateful for this opportunity to learn more about the world!"

"My semester at KIS was a truly amazing experience.
I had so many unique opportunities that were all so different from my life in the UK. I loved the independence of boarding for the first time and making friends from such diverse backgrounds. Another highlight was the work I did with the Center for Environment & Humanity (CEH) - it taught me a lot about the biodiversity and unusual ecosystem of Kodai as well as research and video editing skills, and a few life lessons along the way... I loved my time in Kodai and these memories and experiences will stay with me forever!"



Anika Datta, 14 yrs
UK

PROGRAM DETAILS

A fully residential experience with boarding, meals, transfers, and program essentials included.

Program Dates 18 July - 1 August 2027

ARRIVAL 18 JULY 2027 **| DEPARTURE** 1 AUGUST 2027
***Note*:** *Students must arrive and depart within the official program window.*

WHO CAN APPLY?
Students aged 10-17 years from schools anywhere in the world are welcome to apply.
No prior boarding experience is required.

PROGRAM FEE - INR 2,00,000



WHAT THE FEE INCLUDES

- Full residential boarding accommodation
- All meals and snacks
- On-campus supervision and care
- Academic, creative & outdoor programming
- Excursions & local transportation
- Program materials

WHAT THE FEE DOES NOT INCLUDE

- International or domestic airfare
- Airport transfers to Kodaikanal
- Travel and medical insurance
- Passport and visa costs
- Personal spending money
- Optional shopping or incidental expenses
- Medical costs not covered by insurance

INSURANCE
All students must have Travel & Medical insurance or Emergency coverage for illness, injury, or evacuation if required

TRAVEL, VISA & ARRIVAL

Travel support will be provided step by step, ensuring families are guided throughout the process.

PLANNING YOUR JOURNEY
We aim to make arrival and departure as smooth as possible for all students.

RECOMMENDED AIRPORTS
For the best travel experience, we recommend flying into: Madurai Airport or Coimbatore Airport

AIRPORT TRANSFERS
KIS travel Departmnet will be able to organize airport transfers. The cost of the travel will be borne by the participant.

IF PARENTS ARE TRAVELLING
If a parent or guardian plans to accompany the student, KIS will provide guidance on:

- Recommended hotels
- Arrival timing
- Nearby travel planning
- Local logistics

VISA INFORMATION
Students travelling from outside India may require a visa.
Families are responsible for:

- Checking visa requirements based on citizenship
- Applying for the appropriate visa in advance
- Ensuring passports are valid for travel

KIS will provide supporting documentation for confirmed participants if required.

IMPORTANT
We strongly recommend beginning the visa process as soon as participation is confirmed.



WHAT TO EXPECT

For many students, Experience KIS may be their first time visiting India or living away from home for an extended period. We aim to make the experience exciting, enriching, and reassuring for both students and families.

WEATHER

July & August in Kodaikanal are generally cool, fresh, and often rainy due to the monsoon season. Layers and waterproof clothing are essential. Students should expect:

- Cool mornings and evenings
- Mist and cloud cover at times
- Light to moderate rain
- Comfortable daytime temperatures

LIFE IN TAMIL NADU & KODAIKANAL

Kodaikanal is a hill town in the state of Tamil Nadu in South India. Students will experience:

- A culturally rich and welcoming environment
- A strong connection to nature
- Daily life in a mountain town with a close-knit community

This combination offers both global exposure and a strong sense of place.

LANGUAGE

The primary local language is Tamil, though English is widely used at KIS and throughout the program. Students do not need to know Tamil to participate.



WHAT TO EXPECT

For many students, Experience KIS may be their first time visiting India or living away from home for an extended period. We aim to make the experience exciting, enriching, and reassuring for both students and families.

MEDICAL SUPPORT

Student wellbeing is a priority within the Experience KIS program.
Families will be required to provide:

- Medical history
- Allergy information
- Dietary requirements
- Medication details
- Emergency contact information

KIS will provide routine care, first response support, and access to local medical services if required.

COMMUNICATION WITH FAMILIES

Students will have opportunities to stay in touch with home during designated communication times.
At the same time, students are encouraged to be fully engaged in the program, supporting independence and personal growth. Detailed communication guidelines will be shared prior to arrival.



APPLICATION PROCESS & DEADLINES

Applying to **Experience KIS** is designed to be clear, personal, and supportive.

STEP 1

Complete the online application form and pay the registration fee.

STEP 2

Applicants are invited for a 1 :1 conversation with the KIS Experience Team to assess fit for the program

STEP 3

Shortlisted applicants receive a formal confirmation of participation.

STEP 4

Families must review and consent to Campus Code of Conduct and a submit a full declaration of medical and psychological history.

STEP 5

Families secure the student's place by paying the full fee within the stated deadline.

STEP 6

Confirmed families will receive a detailed onboarding pack including:

- Travel guidance
- Required forms
- Packing details
- Arrival instructions
- Final next steps

IMPORTANT DATES

31 October 2026 Applications Open

Note: We encourage families to apply early as spaces may be limited.

PREPARING TO ARRIVE

Once accepted, families will receive a detailed arrival guide.
Below is an overview of what to expect and prepare for.

FLIGHT BOOKING GUIDANCE

KIS will provide support with:

- Preferred arrival and departure airports
- Recommended flight timings
- Airport pickup coordination
- Unaccompanied minor travel support, if required

SUGGESTED ESSENTIALS

- Comfortable daily clothing
- Warm layers: hoodies or sweaters
- Rain jacket or waterproof outerwear
- Sturdy walking shoes
- Sportswear
- Sleepwear
- Toiletries
- Reusable water bottle
- Personal medications
- A day backpack
- A notebook or journal

PACKING FOR KODAIKANAL

Students should be prepared for:

- Residential boarding life
- Mountain weather conditions
- Outdoor learning and activities
- Everyday campus routines

HELPFUL EXTRAS

- Flashlight or torch
- Sunscreen
- Insect repellent
- Hat or cap
- A few personal comfort items from home

Note: *A detailed packing checklist will be shared after enrollment.*

GADGET POLICY

Students may bring personal devices; however smartphones are not permitted on campus. Device usage will be guided by age-appropriate expectations and the structure of the program.

Note: *Detailed guidelines regarding screen time and device use will be shared prior to arrival.*

HIGHLIGHT

Come prepared for cool weather, outdoor activity, and life in a close-knit residential community.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q. Is *Experience KIS* only for the KIS community?
A. No. The programme is open to students beyond the current KIS community.

Q. Do students need prior boarding experience?
A. Not at all. Many students may be joining a residential programme for the first time.

Q. How structured is the programme?
A. The programme is intentionally balanced to provide support and routine, while still allowing space for fun, spontaneity, and discovery.

Q. Will students have free time?
A. Yes. Supervised downtime is built into the programme.

Q. What if my child is nervous?
A. This is completely natural. The Experience KIS team is committed to helping students feel welcomed, supported, and included in the community.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING YOU

Experience KIS is an invitation to learn, create, explore, and grow in a community shaped by curiosity, friendship, and shared experiences.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q. How do students get to KIS?
A. Students should plan to arrive via the nearest major airport and continue onward to Kodaikanal by road. Detailed arrival instructions, reporting times, and transfer information will be shared with families in advance.

Q. Will airport transfers be arranged?
A. Families will receive guidance regarding designated arrival points and transport coordination, where applicable. It is recommended to wait for official instructions before finalising travel plans.

Q. What time should students arrive?
A. Students should arrive within the designated time window shared by the school to ensure a smooth check-in process.

Q. What happens on arrival day?
A. Arrival day is designed to help students settle in comfortably. Students can expect:

- Check-in and registration
- Boarding room allocation
- Welcome activities
- Campus and programme orientation
- Opportunities to meet staff and fellow students

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CANCELLATIONS & REFUNDS

A full cancellation and refund policy will be shared as part of the formal registration and payment process. Refunds, where applicable, may depend on:

- Date of withdrawal
- Administrative processing
- Non-recoverable costs already incurred by the school

Families are encouraged to review all payment and refund terms carefully before confirming participation.

DISCLAIMER

KIS reserves the right to make reasonable adjustments to the programme, schedule, staffing, activities, or travel logistics if required due to weather, safety considerations, operational needs, or unforeseen circumstances. All decisions will be made with student wellbeing, safety, and educational value as the priority.

READY FOR A SUMMER THAT STAYS WITH YOU?

18 JULY – 1 AUGUST 2027

Ages 10–17 years
Two-week residential summer programme
₹2,00,000 inclusive of GST

ONLINE APPLICATIONS OPEN: 31 OCTOBER 2027



Kodaikanal International School
India's first IB school | 125 years of learning

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