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## Auroville: A Spiritual Retreat in South India

By Kathleen Broadhurst

With its serene atmosphere, Auroville in South India is must see place for travelers who are interested in spirituality or sustainability. Situated almost on the tip of India in the state of Tamil Nadu about a 30-minute rickshaw ride from Puducherry, Auroville offers a one of a kind experience in alternative living for those who are interested in staying for a while.

A truly international city, Auroville boasts residents from 140 countries and all the states of India creating a culture that is full of possibility, experimenting with creating a new society and finding ecologically friendly ways of living.

### A Universal City

Some 40 years ago Sri Aurobindo's companion, a woman known simply as "the Mother", founded Auroville around an enormous banyan tree. Since that founding Auroville has grown into a township of at time nearly 50,000 people.

To outsiders Aurovillian's devotion to the Mother can seem a bit cult-like, but know that you do not



Take a slow ride at sunset down Auroville's dusty roads. Photos by Kathleen Broadhurst. [click on photo to enlarge it.](#)



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