

One more weekend, one more city

After two weeks of vacation, I came back to school. And two weeks later, I left again.

Now, don't think that is mere laziness or a need to get out of Hyderabad. Far from that, Hyderabad has become a place I like to call "home" and when I returned today from the weekend, it felt good to be back home.

And where did I go?

With new traveling partners (a Canadian, a Japanese, and an Italian) we packed our bags and left on Thursday to the most French city in India: Pondicherry or Puducherry, whichever you prefer. I like the first one better.



This small town seems to be divided in two: the typical chaotic India on the west side, and the small portion of French colony on the East, where the sea is. So, you can find from ashrams for yoga, to streets with French names, European bakeries and even BEEF!



It was a nice escape from the city and something new and different for my eyes ... but the truth is, it was nothing out of this world. We arrived on Thursday night at Chennai airport and then hired a taxi to Pondicherry. Three hours later we were entering the hotel.

We spent Friday morning and afternoon wondering around the streets on the French side, the sun was unbearable and the temperature of 38 degrees did not help much. The colonial atmosphere reminded me a little bit of Granada:



... although having the town next to the beach, the cars, and the people's spirits also made me think of Cuba:



8km from Pondicherry is Auroville, a small town of nearly 2,000 people from 40 countries (two thirds are foreigners) who live together in one of those communities you see in the movies, like Wanderlust, where everyone works for everyone, everything belongs to everyone, or perhaps nothing belongs to anyone? And they seek unity with the universe regardless of skin color and religion. Yes, that sounds great, but to be honest, it gave me (and my friends) the impression of some kind of weird cult ... but I can be wrong.

It was a good weekend down south. It made me realize how the temperature is changing in this side of the world, and what I still need to go through.