



INDIA: TEACHING PROJECT

We have fantastic teaching projects in the South of India which are extremely rewarding and a great way to get to know the local children and community. It will be an experience of a lifetime and you will come away with strong friendships and outstanding memories. Our projects are totally flexible to suit your needs; teach English and combine this with Arts & Crafts, Science, Drama, Dance, French, German, Computer Science, Maths and Sports.

India is a captivating and mystical land buzzing with energy, a diverse array of cultures, languages, religions and breathtaking scenery. From the lush jungles, quaint waterways and sunny beaches in the South to the dusty red deserts of Rajasthan and the searing majestic Himalayas in the North, India really is a diverse land of contrasts and an inspirational travel experience which draws so many visitors back time and time again.

WHAT DO YOU GET?

- An exciting, never-to-be-forgotten adventure into Indian life and culture.
 - New skills, more confidence, a greater understanding of a different culture, invaluable personal and professional development.
 - An entry on your CV or résumé that will put you head and shoulders above most others in the job market.
 - Experienced local staff with 24/7 back-up and support who'll meet you at the airport on your arrival - helps you **feel safe and never alone!**
 - An in-depth Induction makes you **feel local straight away!**
 - A unique insight into another culture – **see it from the inside** in a way you could never do as a tourist.
 - An opportunity to **make lifelong friends from all over the world.**
- And best of all ... **an unforgettable experience!**



SUMMARY FACTFILE

Start Dates	All year round - You choose your start and finish dates (subject to school holidays, see chart below).
Duration	From 2 weeks up to 1 year, subject to visa restrictions.
Requirements	No qualifications required.
Price	From £795 /US\$1,195 for 2 weeks, ranging to £1,845 / US\$2,545 for 12 weeks. Full Price List
What's included	► Accommodation ► Food ► Meeting you at the Airport ► Transfer to your accommodation ► Transport to and from your project ► Full pre-departure support ► Local in-country team support and backup ► 24-hr emergency support ► 2 free t-shirts
What's not included	Flights, Insurance, Cost of Visas (a visa is required, but we'll provide necessary documents and assistance). Return trip to the airport.
Who can do this Project?	All projects are open to all nationalities. You need to be aged between 17 and 70+

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW:

All of our schools are set in and around the mesmerizing city of Madurai and are a mixture of primary and secondary schools and mainly private with a mixture of religions. Children in India are eager to learn and you will be greeted with big warm smiles. You are likely to be in great demand both in and out of the classroom. Practice your signature before your placement as you will be signing a lot of autographs!

Generally the standard of teaching in Southern India is quite high as the schools we work with are mostly Matriculation schools where English is taught as the first language. Emphasis will be on conversational English to improve their pronunciation and giving them the confidence to speak. Your lessons will be a combination of teaching from the standard text book and teaching lessons of your own design which can include anything from your hobbies and interests to world news and current affairs. The children also love language games and they're fascinated at hearing all about your life in England - make sure you bring lots of photos of your friends, family and where you live to show them!

You will be expected to prepare your lessons in advance because the principals and teachers are serious about their children's education and will want them to get the most out of having you help them. We will give you a comprehensive teacher training manual when you apply and the option of enrolling on a teacher training day or weekend TEFL course if you want. Staff at your placement school will also be happy to help if you have little/no experience. You will be able to incorporate your own interests and hobbies as subject matter in lessons.

The schools generally have basic facilities and these may include: football and cricket fields, and general teaching aids and equipment. However our primary schools are very cramped and do not have any outside play area and lack a lot of other facilities.

The main school holidays are during April and May at the peak of summer. Many of the schools offer "Summer Camps" to the students during this holiday period where the children can participate in sports, and have fun whilst still learning. These Summer Camps are usually held on the school premises for approximately 60 children and are an opportunity to give more informal lessons and combining them with playing a sport or putting together a music concert or play – much more relaxed and not quite so structured. You can choose to get involved with summer camps in addition to your placement, alternatively please see the website if you wish to just participate in the camp.

Work Content

You will work Monday to Friday and usually between 9am – 3pm. Initially you'll observe the teachers and when you feel more confident you will be able to take lessons on your own.

Please bear in mind that the standard of the children's English in many of our schools is quite high. You are not expected to be an expert on grammar or literature; the important thing is to help the children gain confidence in speaking English and familiarising them with proper pronunciation and help increase their confidence.

TEACHING SPORTS

It is possible for volunteers to coach at various schools and the children are a real pleasure to teach. Although for the vast majority coaching won't have a direct impact on their lives; indirectly it has immeasurable effects. Personality changes, health awareness, increased confidence and social skills are all benefits from the coaching they might otherwise fail to receive. We have a structured Football Coaching Placement, however if you would like to help teach cricket, volleyball or tennis, we can arrange for you to do this for one hour per day. If you would prefer a different sport, please let us know and we will endeavour to arrange this for you.



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School holidays in Tamil Nadu 2011-2012 (approx dates only as they vary depending on the school)

- Summer Vacation: 14th April to 3rd June 2011
- First Term Vacation: 24th September to 3rd October 2011
- Pooja Holiday: 5th to 6th October 2011
- Diwali Holiday: 25th to 27th October 2011
- Second Term Vacation: 24th December 2011 to 2nd January 2012
- Pongal Holiday: 13th to 17th January 2011
- Summer Vacation: 31st March to 4th June 2012

Exam periods in Tamil Nadu 2011-2012 (approx dates only as they vary depending on the school):

- Annual Exams: 1st to 13th April 2011
- Quarterly Exams: 12th to 23rd September 2011
- Half Yearly Exams: 12th to 23rd December 2011

LOCATION:

This project is situated in the bustling historical city of Madurai in the southern state of Tamil Nadu. Madurai is known by many names; 'Jasmine city' for the famous jasmine flowers that are cultivated here, 'the city of Nectar', Legend tells of a river of nectar that flowed after blessing from Lord Shiva, and the 'Temple City', Madurai really does have a temple or shrine on practically every street but it is most famed for the Sri Meenakshi Sundeswarar Temple. Named after the goddess Meenakshi, it was built in the 17th century and is an enormous structure with 12 towers adorned with colourful images of gods and goddesses, imaginative creatures and animals. This magnificent temple is the religious centre of attraction and a hive of activity which you won't want to miss. This area is awash with pilgrims market stalls and impressive souvenir shops. Madurai is also famous for its rich textiles and fabrics and superb quality gold and silver.



Madurai oozes true Indian culture and if you want to immerse yourself completely in the Indian way of life; Madurai is definitely the place to be! Children will stop you on the streets to chat to you and shake your hand and even ask for your autograph! You will be in demand everywhere you go and you'll feel like a celebrity, such is the warmth of the Indian people. Madurai is also the gateway to many tourist attractions and close to the neighbouring state of Kerala.

ACCOMMODATION & FOOD:

Your accommodation could comprise of either staying with a host family or living in a Travellers flat. In either accommodation you may share a room with another Travellers volunteer. The accommodation you'll be allocated to will depend on which project you're doing and the number of volunteers there at the same time as you. However, if you have a preference for either a host family or staying in a flat, we will do our best to accommodate you.

Host Family

For a complete Indian experience we can arrange for you to stay with one of wonderful host families. All of our hosts are very welcoming and not only will be made to feel part of the family you'll also gain a great insight into Indian culture and customs. Many of our volunteers remain friends with their host families long after they leave India and in some cases they return to the country later especially to visit their family.

You may share a room with one other volunteer; and you will have an en-suite western style bathroom. Most of the showers in our host accommodation are cold water; however your hosts will boil water for you on request.

All of our host family houses are close together and just a few minutes' walk away from internet cafes, banks and snack shops and just a short auto ride into the centre of town. Our staff in Madurai also lives close-by.

All your meals will be provided and prepared for you by the family and it is mainly local fare allowing you to taste a varied selection of delicious south Indian dishes and exotic fruits. You'll also have access to the kitchen if you want to make snacks or drinks.

In some of our host accommodation you will take your meals with the family, however in others you may eat alone or with other volunteers if there are in the same accommodation at the same time as you.

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Volunteer Flat

Our volunteer flat is situated close to all our host families. This option gives you the chance to live within the local community whilst at the same time retaining your independence. This newly built flat is very modern, spacious, light and airy. It has a well kitted out kitchen and large lounge area with satellite TV, DVD and a good selection of DVDs for your entertainment.

You may share a room with one other volunteer; there is an en-suite bathroom with hot water and you also have your own private balcony!

You will be provided with a food budget giving you the option to either cook for yourself or sample the local restaurants. Eating out is extremely cheap in Madurai. Close-by is a Chinese restaurant and two hotels serving good value Indian meals and a few western dishes. There is a tasty vegetarian restaurant with excellent south Indian Thali's and Dosa's just a 10 minute walk away and opposite this restaurant is a great supermarket selling everything from groceries to clothes. Many of the hotels in town have roof top restaurants offering incredible views across the town with the dramatic Sri Meenakshi Temple silhouetted on the skyline. Most restaurants are good quality and you can sample north as well as south Indian dishes along with a small selection of western food. Vegetarian food is in abundance! Bakeries and snack shops are on every street and you must try the delicious fruit; there is so much choice; mango, pineapple, water melon, custard apples and jack fruit are so sweet and coconut water is also very refreshing.

Please let us know on booking which accommodation option you would prefer.

VISAS:

For most nationalities visas are required, but don't worry we will liaise with you about your visa requirements, and make the visa process very easy.

FLIGHTS:

You have the option to arrange your own flights or we can assist you with your flight arrangements. If you would like us to do this for you, we will liaise with you regarding available flights and dates to suit you. All arrangements for your flight bookings/payments will be fulfilled by [Murray Rogers Travel Limited](#), ATOL No. 6856.

COSTS:

Please see the prices pages of our website [Full Price List](#). The price of this project is a reflection of the following costs:

- ✓ Accommodation
- ✓ Food
- ✓ Meeting you at the airport
- ✓ Pick up from Madurai airport
- ✓ Transport to and from your placement, Monday to Friday only
- ✓ Local in-country team support and backup
- ✓ 24hr emergency helpline
- ✓ Full pre-departure support
- ✓ UK administration
- ✓ Marketing (brochures, website design and maintenance, attending careers fairs, advertising, website listings and presentations)
- ✓ Project Research/Site Inspection
- ✓ Staff Training/Equipment
- ✓ Donations to worthwhile projects

HOW YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE:

By joining a Travellers Programme you enable us to keep donating money to worthwhile projects around the world; from clothing and feeding school children, building playgrounds or funding vital conservation research - your participation makes these donations possible.

For every volunteer, a donation is made by Travellers on your behalf into the [Bridge the Gap Foundation](#). This Foundation was set up by us to donate directly to particularly worthwhile and necessary projects for children and animals around the world, and partners with other NGO's to raise match-funding for worthy projects.

COUNTRY PROFILE:

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India, officially Known as 'Republic of India' (in Hindi known as Bharat or Hindustan), is the seventh largest and second most populous country in the world with a staggering population of over **1 billion**!! At times it can feel as if the whole population is in the same place at the same time as you! You will become fascinated with India, its cultures, its people, and the continuous stream of activity.

India is bordered on the north by Pakistan, China, Nepal, and Bhutan; on the east by Bangladesh, Myanmar, and the Bay of Bengal; on the south by the Palk Strait, the Gulf of Mannar and the Indian Ocean; and on the west by the Arabian Sea and Pakistan. At the bottom tip of the country at Kanyakumari, three seas meet – the Indian Ocean, the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal. Hoards of people converge to dip their toes in the 3 oceans!

The sights, sounds, and scenery of India are unique and amazing with grandiose temples, abundant wildlife, lush paddy fields, and stunning beaches. In the north, shrub-land, desert and the searing majestic Himalayas create a sublime backdrop and a visit to the 'Golden Triangle' to take in the magnificent Taj Mahal, the palaces, forts and deserts of Rajasthan is a must. In the south, magnificent temples and gorgeous beaches abound; India really is a diverse land of contrasts.



Religion plays an important role in the life of the country, and is one of the few countries in the world which have such an ancient and diverse culture. Their arts and crafts are world renowned with sport being one of their favourite past times, and cricket still acting as one of the most popular activities.

In the South of India winter starts around November and lasts until February. Temperatures rarely drop below 25C during the day but the evenings can be a little cooler. Summer, the hot dry season starts around April and continues till July. The latter half of May in Madurai is the peak of summer with temperatures soaring to 40C and above. There are two monsoons in the south; the first is the Southwest monsoon that occurs 1 June–30 September, however Madurai doesn't see too much rain at this time. The Northeast monsoon occurs between October and December; the rains can be abundant although rarely does it rain all day or indeed every day but it cause disruptions to the traffic and on occasions schools can be closed.

THINGS TO DO IN: SOUTH INDIA

- **Ride an elephant at Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary;** this is one of the top wildlife parks in the country and within easy reach of Madurai. You can go trekking through the jungle, take a relaxing boat ride to enjoy the stunning scenery and keep an eye out for wildlife; visit spice plantations, watch the local kathakali dance and top off your weekend with an elephant ride!
- **Visit the beautiful beaches of Kerala;** for a relaxing weekend on the beach, Kovalam and Varkala are a must. Kerala is the home of Ayurveda so get pampered by booking a massage, facial or a yoga course. Stay in a bamboo hut and spend the afternoon reading in your hammock and in the evenings tempt your tastebuds by the multitude of seafood on offer.
- **Explore the palaces and gardens of Mysore and Bangalore;** An overnight trip from Madurai is the stunning Maharaja's Palace of Mysore, on Sunday evenings it is lit with over 5,000 bulbs and is a stunning site. Bangalore is just 3 hours away and here you can shop until you drop; it has western shops, wonderful restaurants and nightlife galore.

Relax in the cool temperatures of Kodaikanal; this hill station is just a few hours away from Madurai and is a cool relief from the heat of the city. Take a stroll through the beautiful shola forests, visit waterfalls, go horse riding, cycling or take out a pedalo on the lake. Don't forget to pick up some hand made chocolates and honey; they're absolutely delicious!

WHY GO WITH TRAVELLERS WORLDWIDE?

- Professional work experience placements
- 15 years' experience sending thousands of participants overseas, plus the largest variety of **flexible projects** that are **value for money!**
- Excellent support - second to none in the industry
- Accredited projects helps **appeal to future employers**

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- Your own dedicated Project Co-ordinator to answer all questions prior to, during and after your **trip of a lifetime!**
- Detailed information on your project and country and suggestions, safety guide, tips and checklists, via our **EXTRANET, available from anywhere, 24/7.**
- 24/7 emergency helpline for you and your family
- Free pick up from the nearest airport .

VOLUNTEER FEEDBACK:

“With Travellers, I really lived in India. With the lifestyle and routine, I never felt like a tourist trying to scratch under the surface, because I was already there. I lived and taught in Madurai for a month. I did it because I wanted to really get to know India through the eyes of an Indian, and because I wanted to help the children speak the best English possible. What I got out of it was so much more than that, because the Indian people and the children gave so much back. I can’t recommend it enough”

Kirsty McIver

HOW TO BOOK:

Please complete a [booking form](#) online or you can send a postal booking from our free brochure. When we receive this, we’ll telephone you to discuss the details and then start the exciting process of planning your trip!

We do hope you’ll join us and are confident that you’ll find this an incredible experience. Don’t hesitate to contact us with any questions - we’ll be happy to help you plan your exciting adventure!

You may also be interested in other courses with Travellers, or do other projects in India – please visit our [website](#) for details of all our projects. In fact you can choose from over 300 projects in 19 countries!

Make a Difference – Get Involved!



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