



SRI LANKA: TEACHING ENGLISH IN JA-ELA

Our largest teaching programme runs in Ja-Ela, on the western side of Sri Lanka, midway between Colombo and the popular Indian Ocean resort of Negombo. You'll work with disadvantaged children and adults who benefit enormously from your help! Our volunteers have helped to improve significant sections of the local community schools, enabling more children to have access to education. You can teach a range of subjects - anything that you have a reasonable knowledge in.



WHAT DO YOU GET?

- An exciting, never-to-be-forgotten adventure into South East Asia and the Sri Lankan culture!
- The enormous satisfaction of helping disadvantaged children and seeing how your efforts are making a difference to them.
- 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 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.
Duration	Minimum stay 2 weeks and up to 6 months, subject to visa requirements
Requirements	No qualifications needed - just a big heart and a desire to provide care and support
Price	From £895 / US\$1,435 for 2 weeks, ranging to £1,845 / US\$2,950 for 12 weeks. Full Price List and other Currencies
What's included	► Accommodation ► Food ► Meeting you at the Airport ► Transfer to your accommodation ► Transport to and from your project Monday to Friday (one trip per day) ► Full pre-departure support ► Local in-country team support and backup ► 24-hr emergency support. ► Two free T-shirts
What's not included	Flights, Insurance, Costs of Visas (if a visa is required, but we'll provide necessary documents and assistance), Return transfer to airport.
Who can do this Project?	All projects are open to all nationalities. Unless otherwise stated, you need to be aged between 17 and 70+

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

We have two teaching placements currently running in Sri Lanka, and each one is very unique! For further details on the rural teaching placement, please click here: [Teaching in Wasgamuwa](#). Remember that you are able to combine teaching in different places even doing 1 month at each placement if you wish. The programs are quite flexible so we will try and accommodate your timetable and your preferences. Each teaching project that we run offers a true flavour of the diverse island of Sri Lanka!

WORK CONTENT

Volunteers currently teach English at four of the poorest schools in the area. Volunteers can also teach at a charity centre that was set-up to provide computer training for school leavers/adults. As such, the teaching is very varied and volunteers usually teach a wide range of pupils and ages. Some volunteers develop a particular liking for one of the teaching environments and wherever possible we try to enable volunteers to concentrate on their favourite school.

Ages at the four schools range from between 5 to 18 years and you will teach spoken English for about two hours each morning from Monday to Friday. The schools aren't the most organised which means that you will need to have a very flexible approach to lesson planning. Generally, you will rotate around the different schools on a rota basis and teach the class given to you each morning by the school's principle. Because of this it's best to plan your lessons on a one-off basis, much as a supply teacher would do, as it's unlikely you will get the continuation of teaching a particular class time and time again. There is also great variation in the abilities of the students within any given class so you will need to aim your lessons mid range with perhaps additional learning for the faster kids.

The children range from shy and polite to energetic bordering on boisterous, depending on which school and which age group they are from – however all of the pupils are keen to learn English as it is essential if they are to be able to secure good jobs later in their lives. Good spoken English is a prerequisite of many careers in Sri Lanka.

You will also have the opportunity to teach English to school leavers at CECO. CECO is the 'Children's Education and Charity Organisation' and aims to educate school leavers in Computer Skills in order to improve their job prospects. Travellers' volunteers are invaluable in providing the basic English skills needed for this purpose.

REMEMBER...

Each school and its students will be different from the next. You will find a great mix of students within your placement but you will need to adjust your preparation and teaching accordingly. What the students all seem to have in common however is an intrigue and fascination with the western volunteers. They are very keen to impress you and to interact with you and the service that this volunteering program continues to bring to these schools is literally immeasurable.

Travellers and YOU provide extra classrooms, school uniforms, text books, computers, playgrounds and more for these schools and your dedication to teaching enables many students the opportunity to get decent jobs and escape a life of struggle and poverty. Although these children have not had a fortunate start in life in terms of riches, these children are brimming with joy, enthusiasm and a cheekiness that you will become very fond of!



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[Booking Form](#)

WHAT KIND OF PERSON WOULD THIS PROJECT SUIT?

Someone who would like to help the people of Sri Lanka whilst having lots of free time to explore this beautiful island and socialise with the other volunteers! You must be good at going with the flow, expecting the unexpected (such as a cow strolling into your classroom!), love being around children and be able to get on with all different kinds of people!

YOUR QUALIFICATIONS

Don't worry about not having special qualifications. The whole idea of Travellers is to provide any help possible, whether it is merely enabling children to hear English pronunciation by native English speakers, or any additional help with academic subjects or how to use a computer - anything you can offer is very much appreciated and everyone knows you are not a qualified teacher. The emphasis is on much-needed language development, additional learning and cultural contact. Everybody involved knows that Travellers teachers do not have to have TEFL or teaching qualifications. However, if you have a TEFL qualification or any other degree or diploma, then please take your certificate or a good photocopy thereof with you, or a statement from your university saying that you are a graduate.

LOCATION

Our longest running teaching project in Sri Lanka is situated just north of Colombo, Sri Lanka's bustling and chaotic Capital city. Ja-Ela (shown right) is 1 hour from Colombo and equal distance from Negombo, the popular tourist beach resort. Teaching, Work Experience and the Colombo Zoo placements are all based in Ja-Ela and so the house is often full and offers a lively, sociable atmosphere – there will be no shortage of friends to spend weekends at the beach with! Ja-Ela volunteers also have the advantage of easy access to Colombo's facilities, major bus stations and also The Airport Gardens Hotel - a luxury hotel which offers facilities including a fantastic pool. The hotel is only a short trip away from the volunteer house: perfect for those lazy afternoons!

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

We are unfortunately not able to offer teaching programmes during the school holidays. Holidays in Sri Lanka are usually as follows:

- The month of April
- The month of August
- 15th December – 5th January

However, you are more than welcome to spend a holiday period travelling independently, or taking part in one of our Conservation Projects and then return to teaching at the beginning of the new term! Please speak to your Project Co-ordinator about how we can tailor your placement to suit you!

ACCOMMODATION & FOOD

Travellers' has a traditional Sri Lankan house in Ja-Ela. It is spacious and comfortable, with a garden, several balconies, two lounge rooms and many bedrooms. You will most likely share a room with other Travellers volunteers. There is a TV and DVD player for evening entertainment, in the upstairs lounge area and with the latest DVD copies just a pound to buy locally, there is usually something to watch!

There is a local live-in chef at the Travellers house who will prepare your breakfast, lunch and dinner each day, throughout the week. We also have other staff at the house 24 hours a day for cleaning, assistance, security and comfort!



The food is usually local cuisine which means lots of curry, rice and salads. Whether a curry fan or not, you will be by the time you return as Sri Lankan food is delicious! You can buy snacks and treats, including a growing variety of Western tastes (chocolate!) from the local store. There is also a KFC in Ja-Ela for those who need a fix of home!

The area of Ja-Ela is an industrialised town and although it is not one of the paradise beauty spots, it's a good point at which to start your exploration of the island's many beaches and beautiful inland resorts.

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Most schools are between two and five kilometres from the house and you will be taken to and from the schools every day. We hope that you will relax and feel comfortable in your accommodation but we do ask you to respect the property as you would your own home.

INDUCTION ON ARRIVAL

When you arrive in Sri Lanka, you'll be met from the airport by our delightful Managers, Roshan or Nirangela and their big welcoming smiles. They will take you to Ja-Ela (just down the road from the airport) where you will be introduced to the other volunteers on the placement and to our lovely staff at your new home.

Everyone is always extremely friendly and very excited to see a new face. You will be looked after immediately and taken under the collective wing soon to be absorbed in stories of wonderful weekend trips and the all important Sinhalese vocabulary such as hari hundi (very good!). You will be made to feel very welcome and at home and then you will most likely need a little sleep before a hearty meal and exploring your new surroundings or starting on your tan!

There is plenty of support at the house - 24 hours a day with live in staff that will happily help you to understand and get around this new and exotic culture. Plus, you have the support and friendship of the other volunteers which makes adjusting very easy and fast – a little homesickness is normal for a few days however, trust us, it won't last longer than your first day in the school!

VISA

Visa requirements may differ between different nationalities, 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
- ✓ Meeting you at the airport
- ✓ Transport to and from you project each day
- ✓ 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 project

HOW YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE

By joining a Travellers Program 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.

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COUNTRY PROFILE

Sri Lanka is famous for its 1,600 km of unspoilt, golden beaches. It's a paradise Island shaped like a tear drop in the Indian Ocean. Formerly known as Ceylon and famous for its wonderful Tea, Sri Lanka is a vibrant country with an incredible history. It's a country of 18 million people; rich in its diversity of culture, race, language and religion.

The island has an abundance of natural resources, fauna and flora, mountains, rivers and beautiful beaches. It is located at the crossroads where East meets West and is regarded as the gateway to South Asia. The hill country has gorgeous rolling hills and tea plantations. The entire island is teeming with bird life and exotics like elephants and leopards.

The people are friendly, food delicious and costs low! A stunning island filled with beaches and wild life sanctuaries like the Elephant Orphanage, ancient cities, hills, beaches - and most of all, it's incredible beauty.

THINGS TO DO IN SRI LANKA:

You will never be short of something to do in Sri Lanka - wherever you are based on your project you will be able to reach some of the most incredible beaches, cultural sites including ancient temples and cities, aromatic tea plantations and exhilarating waterfalls in the rolling hill country. The famous Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage is also a "must-see" on this paradise island.

In Sri Lanka, every sight, sound and smell will engulf you with new experiences. Take an early morning train ride from Colombo to Hikkaduwa and watch in awe as you travel past some of the most incredible scenery. Smiling children will wave at you from shanty towns lining the outskirts of Colombo, but these soon give way to views across paddy fields where buffalo and cows can be seen grazing. As your journey continues the train tracks begin to run parallel to the beach and you will be left mesmerised by the incredible sights in this friendly country.

WHY GO WITH TRAVELLERS?

- Professional & structured programmes!
- Over 15 years' experience sending thousands of participants overseas!
- 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**
- 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

“Just thought I would e-mail to say that I had a fantastic time in Sri Lanka. I have been able to learn so much from the experience. Am enjoying having my class back here in England but really do miss teaching in St. Joseph's school and everyone out in Sri Lanka.

Since having such a fab time in Sri Lanka I am thinking of doing some more projects.

Thank you once again for enabling me to have a great time.”

Anne Coulthard

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“Teaching opened my eyes to discipline, teacher-student respect and the general differences in education between countries. I really began to feel part of the Ja-Ela community, which I wasn't expecting to experience that because of continually moving schools. The weekend trips were fantastic, the help the house boys and van drivers give is amazing, they really look after us. The placement would suit open minded, fun, out going people who are good organisers and motivators. All the locals Sri Lankans were wonderful. Roshan and Nirangela were fantastic, Herani and the house boys all made our time in Sri Lanka. They taught us lots about the places and country and looked after us. It was clear they had our best interests at heart. Sri Lanka is an amazing country and it was an excellent placement.”

Alice Ross

“Having a great time so far in Sri Lanka - it's the most beautiful place I've ever seen. The people are all so friendly, and I love their laid back attitude to life. Love the tuk-tuks too!! travelling into Colombo in a tuk-tuk on a busy day is not an experience you can easily forget!

Really enjoying the teaching so far too. It was difficult at first while we all got used to planning lessons and motivating the kids, but my last couple of lessons have gone really well and my confidence is growing already. Most of the kids are really sweet and some will send presents and letters and want to talk to you at every opportunity.

The weather here is amazing too! The first thing that hit me when I walked out of the airport (in a bit of a daze, I have to admit!) was that it feels like walking into a greenhouse! Tropical plants and trees all over the place and the heat is a little overwhelming at first. You soon get used to it though and now we all enjoy lying around the pool at the Airport Garden Hotel in the afternoons in the glorious sunshine!

Anyway gotta go- I'm teaching at CECO this afternoon. Hope you're all enjoying the English weather (ha ha ha!) :)

Jennifer Elliot

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 – 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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