



**VOLUNTEER PROGRAM IN INDIA**  
**STARTING ONLY \$249**



## VOLUNTEERING INDIA - VOLUNTEER IN INDIA

### PRE APPLICATION BROCHURE

Namaste! This booklet provides some more information to help you decide and make an informed decision to volunteer with VI in India. India has a lot to offer and it is hard to describe without experiencing it yourself – the beautiful friendly people, working with other likeminded volunteers from all over the world and the amazing landscapes, rich culture, history and cuisine. However, this booklet provides you with some general information on what to expect while volunteering in India. With this booklet we try and provide you with all information you need before you decide to apply for an exciting volunteering program with Volunteering India in India. When you apply to volunteer with VI, we will send you a Pre Departure booklet to help you prepare. Just remember if there is anything you want to know that is not answered in this booklet or on our website, feel free to contact us at anytime.

Get ready for one of the most amazing, life changing experiences of your life.

VOLUNTEERING INDIA TEAM



## WHY CHOOSE VOLUNTEERING INDIA?

There are many companies providing the same services as we are, but our aim is to provide the most affordable programs. We work with NGO's and local organizations directly and by doing so we can keep our costs low. This is a benefit to the volunteers as they can get world-class service at nearly 50% - 80% of the cost what others charge. As some companies who provide exactly the same services charge somewhere between \$1000- \$2000 for just 2 weeks program, our programs start at only \$249. It is a wise decision to save money, which can be spent for the needy society. We believe that the money you save by joining us can be donated directly by you to the NGO you volunteer for or can be utilised to pay for your airfare. We work with most experienced staff, who have vast experience in working with foreign volunteers in all countries.

Unlike many other companies we have programs running throughout the year. Volunteers can choose when to start and when to finish. This gives you greater flexibility in joining our program when you are comfortable.

### ✓ **Affordability**

Our volunteer abroad programs start at \$249. You save a lot of money which you can use directly to support communities where you would volunteer. Having low cost doesn't mean we cut on quality, we cut on middlemen and save costs to transfer to you. Our programs are enjoyed by many, read our [testimonies](#) for yourself.

### ✓ **Experience**

Our staff travels the world to find and partner with local and experienced NGO's and social workers to help volunteers have a great experience and a worthwhile volunteer project.

### ✓ **Flexibility**

Unlike most of the volunteer abroad organizations, we allow our volunteers to start on any date (unless joining a specific program) in most of the countries we operate in.

### ✓ **Safety**

We take safety of our volunteers seriously and thoroughly research on projects and partners before sending volunteers to the projects. If we feel certain area or project is not safe we don't mind cancelling it, to keep everyone safe. We offer full comprehensive medical Insurance to all our participants, so that they can travel with peace of mind.

### ✓ **Benefit to Communities**

Volunteering India works directly with local communities around the world to ensure they get support both from volunteers and also financially. Major part of your program fee would go directly to the family, workers and coordinators to help them financially. A constant flow of volunteers means that these people and parts of communities are getting constant support both financially and personally by volunteers.

### ✓ **Quick & Personal**

We work as a team and are always there to help you and answer your questions. We aim to reply to our e-mails within 4-6 hours or maximum within 24hrs. You can also reach us by phone or leave a message to have a quick reply back to your queries. We know our volunteers before they leave and take care of their little requests, which makes their experience even more worthwhile.

## PROGRAM DETAILS

The VI India program places volunteers in a variety of projects including teaching, orphanage work, HIV/AIDS work and medical placements, women empowerment, special summer programs, volunteer & travel options in urban and rural India. Before arriving in India volunteers should understand that resources are extremely limited in the institutions they will be working. Therefore, any supplies volunteers can bring, appropriate to their particular program are always very appreciated by the local people and staff. We provide some ideas of good supplies to bring relevant to your particular program in the Pre Departure booklet which you receive when you sign up.

### Language, Culture & Orientation week

Volunteering India gives its volunteers a great opportunity to learn the culture, history and language of this diverse country called India. Orientation week is aimed to teach the volunteers about all issues about culture, basic language and history about India before they start their program in the field. You can also choose to take part in this Orientation week or go directly into the volunteer program. This program starts on every Monday of the month and is for 6 days. The program aims to give you true insight about India, its culture, basic language, food, places to visit and things to do while you would spend your time in India. The program is held in Delhi the capital of India and volunteers also have a chance to visit Taj Mahal (at an extra cost) on the 7th day of the program. While on this program the volunteers would stay at the hostel or host family arranged by Volunteering India.

### Placement Descriptions

#### Teaching

Volunteers are placed in community schools, public schools or orphanage schools. Many of the schools we work with are constantly understaffed and are always in need of new volunteers. In this program, volunteers can work by themselves or alongside other teachers and volunteers. Typical subjects taught include – English, Math, Science, Social Studies, Art and Physical Education. School in India runs all year round but are closed during (May-June and 10 days in October). Volunteers can teach all year round on our programs as during school holidays volunteers can teach in orphanages, shelter homes or take tutorials at local schools which our program staff will arrange. Volunteers **DO NOT** need to be a qualified or experienced teacher.



#### Orphanage Work

A large number of poor and disadvantaged orphan children without homes are given refuge in orphanages and shelter homes being run by various non government organizations throughout India. These are distressed children who come from difficult circumstances that detach them from the joys of childhood. These orphans require love, care, affection warmth and education. Volunteers working in our 'Help The Orphans' program in India will provide support to the underprivileged and uncared for children to alleviate their suffering by helping them live a dignified life . We do this by supporting the work of local community organizations in India through the placement of international volunteers to work and help in an Orphanage. A typical volunteer helping in an orphanage would help the children with their day to day activities such as: doing homework, making notes, playing with children, helping staff organize the orphanage, providing mental and physiological support, exchanging cultural views, teach them about health and hygiene.

#### Street Children Program

India has more than 100 million street children! This program allows volunteers to work with local NGO's working towards this cause. Volunteers can bring smile on the faces of these disadvantaged street children by helping to create an environment conducive for their holistic development in order to enable them become a part of mainstream society. Volunteers can work at the contact points, being run by various organizations, which serve as day care centres for these

street children. They can assist in providing love, care, basic literacy, recreation and most importantly spend time and shower affection on them. It can make a world of difference to their lives.

## Medical - HIV/AIDS Work

Healthcare is neither easily accessible nor affordable for many Indians living in the rural villages, semi rural areas with metropolitan cities and slums around urban areas. Volunteers are required and placed in a local small hospitals or dispensary based on previous medical training and experience. NB For the MEDICAL PLACEMENT, volunteers need to be training or qualified in a relevant medical field. Therefore, volunteers are required to present a copy of their qualifications or certificates to us on after application. We also work with several organizations who run Outreach programs for HIV/Aids and are generally done through schools and community groups while work consists of; visiting patients in their homes, helping with medical care and food, conducting lessons to educate people on the dangers of HIV and how to prevent themselves from getting infected.



## Women Empowerment

There are many women who at some time in their life have experienced physical, sexual or emotional abuse. A large number of non-government organizations, besides the efforts put in by the government have come forward to help the battered and disadvantaged women. A number of women homes have been set up to shield women from the wrong doings of the society and to restore their last sense of pride and self respect. These resource strapped women homes badly need the services of volunteers to run their program. Volunteers provide counselling and monitoring and help women by teaching English, beautician work, yoga, stitching, sanitation and health education. They educate women about HIV/AIDS and other related issued. They make a big difference in their lives by sharing their love and warmth with the stressed inmates of the women homes.

Volunteers can provide guidance for nutritional and wholesome diet; assist the local staff in organizing adult literacy classes for women. They can also help in setting up an informal judicial system for the redressal of cases of domestic violence, marital discord, dowry demands etc. Volunteers interested in the cause of upliftment of the disadvantaged women and willing to give them love, care and warmth, would find our women support project very fulfilling and rewarding.

## Summer Volunteer Program

Although all our volunteer placements are available throughout the year, the Summer Program runs from 29<sup>th</sup> June & 3rd August (4 weeks Duration). This program is designed to give volunteers the maximum experience of travelling and volunteering in India. Summer India program will provide you with a great cultural and volunteering experience of a lifetime. After learning language, culture for 1<sup>st</sup> week and then volunteering in Delhi with street children for 2 weeks you would head out for a 1 week tour around the Golden Triangle, exploring Taj Mahal, the Agra Fort in Agra and seeing the local cultures and forts of Rajasthan in Jaipur.

## Volunteer Travel Program

This program offer a combination of Volunteering with some exciting travel options to choose from in India. Volunteers can volunteer for 2 or more weeks and then continue to travel on a pre-booked travel package with us. We offer 5 pre – determined packages, but we can also arrange for any customized travel requirement that a volunteer has. For details of the volunteer and travel packages please visit [http://www.volunteeringindia.com/volunteer\\_travel.htm](http://www.volunteeringindia.com/volunteer_travel.htm)



## Location of Volunteer Placements

We offer more location options in India than anyone else. Volunteers can choose their preference of location from these options:

- New Delhi
- Bangalore
- Kolkata
- Dharamshala/Palampur (North India – Himalayas)

You can choose your city of preference in your application form and we would try our best to accommodate you in your 1<sup>st</sup> choice.

## Start and Duration of Programs

We give you complete flexibility to join our programs on any day of the year. Programs are available for 1 -2 weeks to 6 months in duration.

## Requirements

Volunteers must be over 17 years of age at the beginning of the program and have at least a high school education. Volunteers participating in the MEDICAL PLACEMENT must have appropriate training and certification.

## Accommodation

We provide accommodations with local host families or in volunteer homes. Accommodations are also provided sometimes within the orphanage or NGO complex in a separate room for volunteers. It is exciting to stay with a family; that way you will learn the local way of life, meet local people, eat local food and engage in local customs and traditions. Living is basic but the all home stays have electricity, proper beds, bedding, running filtered water and sometimes even internet access. Volunteers can expect to share a room with one or two other volunteers. While bedding is provided it is recommended that volunteers bring their own sleeping bag and mosquito nets for any trips away during weekends or holidays.

## Food

India boasts of having on the best cuisines in the world today. Indian food today is popular around the world and is much appreciated. While in India you would experience local cuisine, depending on your choice of city. Basic Indian food includes –

- Dal (Lentil curry) or Some Curried Beans
- Vegetables
- Roti (home made bread)
- Rice
- Yogurt
- Salad
- Pickles etc.

Volunteers can enjoy eating out as well and taste a huge variety of dishes India has to offer.



## India Volunteer Program Fees

We are proud to offer best value and services to our volunteers. Our Fee is more than 50% lower to many other companies.

### Program Fee – Delhi, Bangalore & Kolkata programs - (Prices in USD)

1 Week	US \$249
2 Weeks	US \$349
3 Weeks	US \$449
4 Weeks	US \$549
5 Weeks	US \$649
6 Weeks	US \$749
7 Weeks	US \$849
8 Weeks	US \$949
9 Weeks	US \$1049
10 Weeks	US \$1149
11 Weeks	US \$1249
12 Weeks	US \$1349



--Every Extra week is charged at \$100 extra. An Application Fee of only \$150 is required at the time of application. This would confirm your spot and would be refunded if we are not able to provide placement in India.

### Program Fee – Dharamshala/Palampur programs - (Prices in USD)

2 Weeks	US \$495
3 Weeks	US \$625
4 Weeks	US \$775
5 Weeks	US \$925
6 Weeks	US \$1050
7 Weeks	US \$1175
8 Weeks	US \$1300
9 Weeks	US \$1425
10 Weeks	US \$1550
11 Weeks	US \$1675
12 Weeks	US \$1800



An Application Fee of only \$150 is required at the time of application. This would confirm your spot and would be refunded if we are not able to provide placement in India.

## What does your fee cover?

Your Fee covers the following:

- 24/7 support from our staff
- Airport pick up
- Orientation
- Accommodation
- Food (2 or 3 times a day, depending on project)
- In-country 24/7 support
- In-country administration costs.

- Program supervision

## What additional costs will I have?

Visa, flights, vaccinations, trips or tours you do while in the country, transfer back to the airport from program, spending money \$50 per week approximately.

## Do I need a visa to go to India?

You would need a valid passport and Indian Tourist visa to Travel to India. Tourist visa to India is easily obtainable from your local Indian Embassy. To know your nearest Indian embassy ask us or simply visit <http://www.embassyworld.com/embassy/India/India1.html> Visas are valid for up to 6 months and are extendable if required.

## Tips for Cheap Flights!

We recommend the following steps to find cheap flights to accompany your affordable volunteer trip:-

- It is a good idea to plan your trip in advance, as most airlines and travel agents offer good deals if flights are booked well in advance with them.
- Use airlines that are based in the country that you are going to. Quite often (but not always) the national carrier of the country you are flying to will provide the most affordable flights. We recommend you to look at [www.airindia.com](http://www.airindia.com) / [www.jetairways.com](http://www.jetairways.com) which are the leading flight companies in India.
- To see a list of low cost airlines visit [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_low-cost\\_airlines](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_low-cost_airlines)
- Try the following Travel agents:
  - STA Travel
  - Student Flights (Australia and NZ)
  - Thomas Cook
  - Flight Center
  - Kuoni
- If you are travelling to a number of countries, look into getting an “Around the World” ticket. Visit the websites below for more information or enquire at a local travel agent such as STA travel.  
<http://www.aroundtheworldtickets.com>  
<http://www.roundtheworldflights.com>
- Do a thorough search online, as these days you won't be surprised to find an extremely Low fare online. While online travel agents offer good prices, it is also a good idea to look at airline websites directly. We recommend the following flight booking websites:  
[www.kayak.com](http://www.kayak.com)  
[www.bargainbox.com](http://www.bargainbox.com)  
[www.cheapflights.com](http://www.cheapflights.com)  
[www.expedia.com](http://www.expedia.com)  
[www.makemytrip.com](http://www.makemytrip.com) (For US – India Flights)  
[www.travelzoo.com](http://www.travelzoo.com) (For US residents)  
[www.travelzoo.com/international](http://www.travelzoo.com/international) (For non US travellers)
- We recommend the following websites / airlines to fly to India:  
[www.airindia.com](http://www.airindia.com)      [www.jetairways.com](http://www.jetairways.com) (from US & UK)      Continental Airlines from US  
Virgin Airlines From US/UK      Malaysian Airways/Thai Airways from Australia

## WHAT NEXT?

### APPLY ONLINE TO START YOUR EXPERIENCE OF A LIFETIME!

We recommend you to apply as far in advance as possible once you have decided to come:

1. Choose your placement at [www.volunteeringindia.com](http://www.volunteeringindia.com)
2. Once decided go ahead and apply online at [www.volunteeringindia.com/apply.htm](http://www.volunteeringindia.com/apply.htm)

**facebook**

We have recently started a new [Volunteering India Facebook Group](#) to enable new and previous volunteers to meet and know more about programs and share their experience or simply make friends before you travel. We encourage you to join us for Free on Facebook!

To Join click here <http://www.new.facebook.com/group.php?gid=88715760383>

