



# India

VOLUNTEER



## World Endeavors in India

India is a land of contrasts. The vast snow clad Himalayas rise up behind the rich fertile Gangetic plains. There are the arid deserts of Koteswar on the western edge of the subcontinent, and the virgin, verdant rainforests of the Kivithoo on the eastern tip of India. There is the spectacular sunrise in the Kashmir Valley in the north and the mesmerizing sunset at Land's End in Kanyakimari. Add to the abundant geographical diversity, the rich diversity of the people and the culture, with six major religions, 18 major languages, and numerous racial and ethnic groups, and it would seem that India is more like a dozen distinct countries instead of the second most populous nation in the world.

World Endeavors offers several enriching volunteer programs across India in both urban and rural areas. These projects provide a culturally-immersive experience while allowing volunteers to make a meaningful contribution to the Indian people. Volunteers can choose from the following projects:

- Teaching Children
- Orphanage Assistance
- Street Children Assistance
- Social Welfare and Community Outreach
- Environmental Conservation
- Wildlife Conservation

# VOLUNTEER **in India**



India is famous for its exotic architecture and has a huge variety of monuments, forts, palaces and temples. The most traveled circuit is from Delhi-Agra (Taj Mahal) to Jaipur (The Pink City) in Rajasthan. Travel advice and assistance is provided to volunteers who wish to travel after their placement is complete.

## Overview

Volunteer with World Endeavors in India, a country alive with a myriad of colors, sights, sounds, and tastes. World Endeavors offers urban and rural volunteer projects in many locations throughout India. From turtle conservation on the southern coast to street children and social welfare projects in urban Delhi, each project provides a culturally-immersive experience in one of the most fascinating countries in the world.

## Program Snapshot

- **Location:** Projects throughout India, including Delhi and southern India
- **Volunteer Opportunities:** Teaching children, orphanage assistance, street children assistance, social welfare/community outreach, environmental conservation, and wildlife conservation projects
- **Duration:** 2 weeks to 3 months
- **Orientation:** Included
- **Housing:** Home stay or volunteer accommodations provided
- **Food:** Traditional Indian food served two meals per day
- **Extras:** Hindi language guide, map of India, and Indian fact file
- **Key Features:** Fascinating location, great volunteer projects

## Cost and Dates

Please refer to the table at the back of this catalog. As this information is subject to change, visit [www.worldendeavors.com](http://www.worldendeavors.com) for the most current program costs and dates.

## What's Included

- Pre-departure packet to prepare you for your placement
- World Endeavors support for any of your pre-trip questions
- Airport pick-up and drop-off
- Half-day cultural orientation
- Map of India and India fact file
- Hindi-English language conversation dictionary and a basic phrase book
- Transportation to your placement
- Travel and tourist guidance for trips all over India including train and air schedules
- Indian food and accommodations
- Support from local World Endeavors representatives including biweekly check-ins
- 24 hour emergency support hotline
- Participant certificate upon successful completion of the volunteer placement

## What's Not Included

- Round-Trip airfare to India
- Visa expenses and airport taxes
- Personal expenses

## Volunteer Programs

### Teaching Children

Volunteers help shape young lives in India by sharing their English skills and teaching talents. They teach English and many other subjects to elementary school children from 5-12 years of age. Native or fluent English speakers with or without formal teaching experience can contribute greatly to a child's educational development. Volunteers assist local teachers in the instruction of classes, which typically range in size from 20 to 30 pupils. Volunteers are encouraged to use tools such as music, sports, dancing, or drama to teach the children in a fun and dynamic way.

### Orphanage Assistance

Orphans are deprived of many opportunities necessary for their development. Through education and compassion, children are empowered to challenge a life of further poverty and exploitation. Volunteers provide basic daily care for the orphans and are also encouraged to actively participate in programs such as health education, games, drawing, and painting. With such a variety of ways to participate, the orphanage experience provides volunteers many meaningful ways to approach service.

### Street Children Assistance

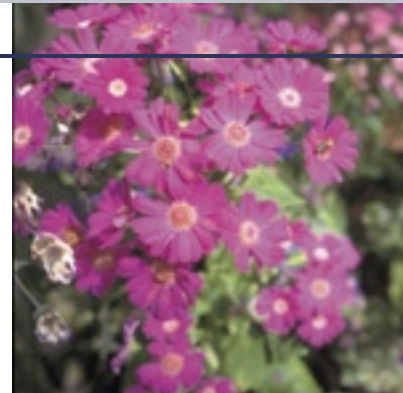
Neglected, abandoned, or run-away children on the streets in the cities of India live a life that is often void of love and warmth, safety, protection, and parental care. Volunteers help to change this reality through their involvement in after-school programs that focus on providing the children basic daily care. Volunteers work directly with social workers and may help to administer programs such as English language training, computer training, and medical care.

### Social Welfare and Community Outreach

There are a number of community outreach initiatives designed to help underprivileged children, families, the elderly, and the disabled in Indian cities and villages. Volunteers can make a difference in the lives of these families through help with after school programs, adult education, computer training for teenagers and street children, and other valuable programs.

## Environmental Conservation

India is known for its amazing environmental diversity. Yet, throughout the country growing populations are overstraining natural resources. Problems such as loss of bio-diversity, deforestation, desertification, over-grazing, and air and water pollution are significant. Environmental conservation projects address these issues directly through community education and collaboration as well as hands-on conservation work such as planting and research.



## Wildlife Projects

Volunteers with an interest in wildlife can participate in one of several incredible wildlife projects including an elephant camp, turtle conservation, and a reptile camp.

**The Elephant Camp** provides volunteers a once in a lifetime opportunity to care for elephants in an intimate and interactive way. The purpose of the elephant camp is to create awareness about the plight of elephants in the wild by converting its visitors into ambassadors of conservation. Volunteers often leave the camp feeling enriched and enlightened about elephants and hopefully become champions in the lobby to save them from extinction.

**The Sea Turtle Conservation Project** allows volunteers the opportunity to assist the Oliver Ridley sea turtles on the highly populated southern coast of India. Human-related factors such as fishing, poaching and contact with dogs and feral animals continue to threaten the habitat of the turtles. Volunteers assist conservationist in a variety of activities including monitoring of nesting sites.

**The Reptile Camp** allows volunteers to work with crocodiles, snakes and other reptiles in a variety of projects located in a coastal region.

## **Program Highlights**

### **Language and Culture Orientation**

After being received at the airport, an orientation is provided that familiarizes participants with the basics of the culture, etiquette and ethics of India. The course includes an overview of the history, arts, food and culture of India, and a musical performance by local artists. Traditions and social behavior of Indian families are also discussed.

Participants visit a local bazaar and an ethnic Indian restaurant for a traditional meal. After orientation, participants are taken to their accommodations and projects where they will begin their volunteer placement. Traditional Indian food is served twice a day, in the morning and the evening.

## **Volunteer Life**

Volunteering in India is both challenging and rewarding. Initial culture shock is a common phenomenon, yet most participants find that making friends in India is quite easy. And often participants are placed in close proximity to other volunteers. There is free time on the weekends for traveling and exploring the area. Organized optional excursions are also available if enough volunteers have an interest.

Volunteers are not required to be fluent in any of the Indian languages as English is the Lingua Franca of India. It is widely spoken and understood by most Indians. As part of the program, volunteers receive a basic phrase book. This will be useful to volunteers when interacting with people in the local community.

Approximately 80% of Indians are Hindu and 11% are Muslim. The rest of the country is made up of Christians, Sikhs, Jains, Parsis, Buddhists, and Jews.

