



Get involved in education and childcare projects whilst exploring the vibrant culture of Kerala

Översikt

This volunteer program is based in the state of Kerala, known as 'Gods own Country'. On arrival volunteers will be given an orientation around the beautiful city of Kochi. Your living arrangements will be in a share-house in the heart of the local community of Fort Kochi, where you can experience the rich culture of India. This volunteer project will involve working and teaching at the Auxilium School, which is attended by children from underprivileged families, as well as from the adjoining orphanage for girls. Volunteers will assist local teachers in the classrooms, and also take small-group tuition and activity sessions before and after school. The focus will be on improving the conversational English of students from Lower Kindergarten, to Grade 6, as well as introducing arts and sport.

In your free time you can explore Kochi, and enjoy activities for which Kerala is famous; cruise along the tranquil backwaters, visit some of stunning beaches, lush villages and spice plantations, go kayaking or trekking on a nature trail, learn how to cook the exotic cuisine or watch a traditional Kathakali dance performance.

Projektet

This program involves volunteers working in a local school. This school also has children from the neighbourhood attending it. All the other children are from low socio economic backgrounds- i.e. children of tuk tuk drivers, fishermen, cleaners etc.

The school is an English Medium School so classes are in English, but because the children don't speak in English at home with parents (most of whom are not educated themselves) they are not fluent and are shy to talk in English. The orphanage that is part of the school is for girls, and as many of them are from rural areas or were found on the streets they are also unable to speak in English. The classes are also large as the school tries to accommodate for as many children as they can.

Our volunteers are involved in assisting teachers in the classrooms that are too big for one teacher to handle. They will also be working on one to one classes with the weaker students after school or at the orphanage on specific topics, and also giving them coaching on spoken English, computer lessons, getting involved in school activities, sports and so on. The long term aim is to make the children confident, start interacting in English and to make sure that they don't drop out of school by helping with any funding and increased supervision and assistance.

The state of Kerala has huge shortage of skilled teachers, schools and classrooms due to the lack of funding and low salaries of teachers. In addition there is a large drop-out rate from schools amongst those who are from low socio economic backgrounds as there is pressure on them from their families to earn money. Public or government education is also mostly taught in the local language Malayalam, however for most well paid jobs in India English is essential. Tuition in English language and familiarity with it at a young age allows greater access into well paid jobs such as in the tourism sector, call centres, offices etc.

Sportlektion tillsammans med några av barnen



Vilken skillnad gör detta projekt?

Volunteers will be providing invaluable help with hands on work at the school, and will help improve the future of underprivileged children. Your contribution will not only help fund the project but it will also assist with the supply of study materials to the children and the purchase of project equipment to the local partners. The hands on work and the funding provided by volunteers will greatly help improve our local partners ability to improve their facilities and services.

Höjdpunkter

Learning new skills in caring for and teaching underprivileged children, experiencing a new culture through its local people, local cooking lessons, and a traditional Kathakali dance performance, and exploring the amazing local environment. Nearby highlights that some volunteers choose to experience include staying overnight on a houseboat and cruising along the enchanting backwaters, kayaking along the river and cycling through villages, relaxing on the gorgeous beaches, language classes, or indulging in a traditional Ayurvedic massage.

Plats

This program takes place around the stunning city Kochi (Cochin), a port town since the early centuries. Cochin offers fascinating snippets of history and culture that include -the Jewish Synagogue, St Francis Church which is the oldest European Church in India, the Santa Cruz Basilica built by the Portuguese, the spice market and the famous 15th Century Chinese fishing nets. The surrounding areas of Kerala, which is known as the new Goa, is definitely one of the highlights of India and a "must see" destination, said to be what Goa was before it became destroyed by mass tourism.

Boende

The accommodation is in a basic but clean house, with dormitory style rooms (up to 4 people to a room). The accommodation is well located, it has electricity, running water, and flushing toilets. Internet and phones can be accessed at local internet cafes. Food is simple but nutritional and you will be expected to assist with cleaning up.

Förkunskaper

No formal previous experience is required as each volunteer will be supported by the GVI project manager or existing volunteers for the first few days. Daily meetings and weekly meetings are held in the community to discuss structure, swap ideas and to work on the following week's activities. You will be working alongside GVI staff to ensure high levels of safety, quality and



Livet på projektet

Regardless of the duration you choose to come for, life on this program will give you a good taste of the culture in India, combined with an opportunity to make a difference in the lives of the children you work with.

On arrival in Kerala you will be taken to your accommodation. You will be given a brief tour of the necessary amenities around such as banks, internet cafes, etc. The next day you will meet with all the other volunteers in the morning for a welcome presentation and learn about the different customs and cultures in India, with particular reference to Kerala. You will also be given the curriculum, ideas on lesson planning and some introductory information on child development and skills on how to handle young children. You do not need any particular training or prior experience as this will be provided for you once you arrive in country. We will always be around to assist you or give you ideas. In the evening a group dinner will be organised.

En typisk dag:

Throughout the day you will be taking care of children or be involved in teaching, storytelling, singing, playing games, art work and so on. Lunch time is usually from 12pm-1pm. All materials and resources will be provided for you and you will work with GVI Staff and other volunteers until you feel comfortable. Every day you will need to plan the next day's activities or lessons.

En typisk vecka:

Volunteers will work Monday through to Friday generally between 9am to 4pm. Transport will be provided for you to reach the school and to go back home. You will have weekly sessions with the project manager to discuss any ideas or questions you may have and to plan for the following week. Weekends are free for your leisure. For more information on what you can do in your weekends please see the free time section.

De yngre barnen tycker om att kopiera sina lärare genom att skriva på tavlan



Fritid

Included side trips: Volunteers will enjoy an orientation of Kochi City and a cultural day. During the cultural day volunteers will spend an afternoon learning how to prepare some of Kerala's famous dishes. Later you will enjoy a mesmerizing evening performance of Kathakali - which is a combination of dance, drama, music, visual images and ritual. You will even get a chance to go behind the scenes and see the characters apply their make-up.

*Se en Kathikali-skådespelare
lägga sin make-up innan showen*



Kathikali - en sydindisk tradition

Optional side trips: If you are interested in enjoying these trips we can help you arrange it once you are in India.

- Cruising the backwaters and staying overnight on a traditional houseboat. There is no better way to experience Kerala than on a unique Kettuvallom (Houseboat) making its leisurely way across the vast green expanse of the backwaters. The houseboats have bath attached bedrooms, an open lounge, deck, a kitchenette and a crew comprising of one oarsman, a cook and a guide. You will pass through local villages and get a chance to walk or go canoeing, or even get a massage. All meals are included in the package. (Prices vary depending on the time of year but start at 4000 Indian rupees).
- Munnar Trekking- This trek is on the second highest mountain in South India- called Messhapulima. It will start with an early morning pick up from Kochi. After a scenic 4 hour drive through spice plantations and tea gardens you will reach the base point near Munnar. Your trek will begin from an altitude of 4500 gradually going over 8000 ft. Guides and Porters will be with you so you don't need any experience in trekking. The area also has wildlife – notably elephants, sambar, tiger, sloth bear and Nilgiri tahr. The camp is setup at an altitude of approximately 7000 feet. Stay will be in comfortable Alpine tents. Good quality sleeping bags and sheets are also provided. On the second day you will start early, trek to the abandoned hut on Selva Malai for breakfast. After this you will proceed to Meesapulimala at over 8600 feet. Start descent and proceed to Silent Valley. Reach for late lunch. Depart. All meals are included in this trip (approx costs 4000 Indian Rupees).
- Hike, Bike and Kayak at Thattekkad - This fun adventure trip will begin early morning and you will drive upto Thattekkad. After breakfast you will start paddling through the river with guide for a memorable trip alongside the thick lowland forests of Thattekkad bird sanctuary. After lunch, Nature Trail walk/cycling through the forests near the Bhoothathankettu barrage. You will return in the evening. All meals included in this trip (approx costs 2500 Indian Rupees).

Further travel: In addition you may consider visiting some of the following places in India- the beautiful Taj Mahal in Agra, the quaint hill stations in Darjeeling, the Ganges at Varanasi, the desert and fort palaces of Jaisalmer and Udaipur, safari at Kanha National Park (home of Kipling's 'Jungle Book'), enjoy the nightlife in Mumbai, or chill out at the beach in Goa.



Blueberry Volontär

www.blueberry.nu 08-442 67 60 info@blueberry.nu

Foton från projektet



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