



## INDIA: CARE FOR ORPHANS

A fantastic opportunity to not only live in an Indian community, but also make a difference and really help children in difficult circumstances. This is an extremely hands on placement and anyone with a lot of patience, a willingness to get grubby and an understanding and love for young children will be perfect.

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?

- 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

<b>Start Dates</b>	All year round - you choose your start and finish dates!
<b>Duration</b>	Minimum stay 2 weeks and up to 1 year, subject to visa requirements
<b>Requirements</b>	You don't need any qualifications to do this project, just lots of enthusiasm and ability to give disadvantaged children love, care and attention.
<b>Price</b>	For up-to-date prices, please check our website <a href="http://www.travellersworldwide.com">www.travellersworldwide.com</a>
<b>What's included</b>	► Accommodation ► Food (except lunch) ► 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 ► Free t-shirt
<b>What's not included</b>	Flights, Insurance, Cost of Visas (if a visa is required we'll provide necessary documents and assistance), Return transfer to airport.
<b>Who can do this Project?</b>	All our projects are open to all nationalities. Unless otherwise stated, you need to be aged between 17 and 70+

## PROGRAMME OVERVIEW:

If you love small babies and young children this project is perfect for you! Your work at the orphanage in the temple town of Madurai is very hands on and rewarding and you will fall in love instantly with the children with smiles that will melt your heart. You really will make a difference to their lives.

### The Care Programme

The care centre where we volunteer caters for approximately 20 children; mainly girls, from little new born babies up to the age of 9. All the children's backgrounds are extremely sad and disheartening so the children are in desperate need of love, care and attention.



There are trained carers at the orphanage, so you are there to help them and give general support where needed. Your support is excellent for the carers as well as the children because it frees their time to concentrate on other areas such as gaining financial support and working on administration and legalities of running an orphanage.

Your help also affects the orphans immeasurably (which may not always be obvious) because it gives them confidence with interacting with people from a different country which is normally very rare for the children concerned.

By interacting and playing games with the children you will also encourage character building and confidence. It also encourages children to use English in an informal way, and even with the younger children it gives them exposure to the language at an early age.

### Work Content.

Your role at the Orphanage will be to provide much needed help to the nurses to help the everyday running of the centre as well as give lots of love care and attention to the children. Most of your work will be to help and assist the nurses with washing, feeding, changing and cleaning the children and babies and although the work is exhausting, it is an incredible experience and will be extremely rewarding! You will also have plenty of time to interact and play with the children, cuddle the toddlers and monitor the adorable babies.

You'll get a good general feel of the orphanage by working and/or observing. The type of work you will be allocated will depend to an extent on your own abilities and capabilities, which is understandable given that you will be dealing with children's health and safety.

You will be supervised at all times while you are at the Orphanage, and you will work closely with the staff who will give you help and direction. Your work load and responsibilities will depend on your attitude and commitment and the longer you are interacting with the children, the more confident you will grow. Above all, the orphans need as much time, energy and affection as possible and are crying out to be loved.

You can expect to leave the placement with a greater understanding of Indian culture and lifestyle and to have gained a high level of skill working with needy children in difficult circumstances.

You'll be given help and direction from the staff, but your workload will depend on you and what you put into it. Your work as a volunteer may include:

- Assisting the staff with washing and dressing the children
- Working with the younger children/babies – helping to change their nappies and feeding them
- Helping the children eat
- Helping the permanent staff care for the children.
- Organizing and facilitating games for the children.
- Playing with the children - here you can use your imagination and involve them in lots of different activities
- Getting involved in drawing and painting or even music if you have skills in that area.



The local community will gain the following from your help as a volunteer:

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- As a result of your volunteer work, the orphanage, the workers and the society at large will benefit directly or indirectly by having the opportunity to interact with you and all our volunteers, thus learning about foreign cultures and the wider world.
- They will have access to a free workforce and invaluable service which you provide them as a volunteer.
- Their traditional knowledge and skills in care work are supplemented with initiatives, skills and ideas which they will get from you and all our volunteers. Fresh eyes and a different way of doing things can be of tremendous benefit to them.
- Lots of love and care which is fundamental for the growth and development of the children.

Volunteers normally work at the orphanage in the mornings when it is at its busiest and the additional help that you provide is really appreciated. You can choose to finish at lunchtime or you can take your lunch with you and eat with the staff and finish after the babies are fed at 2pm. This is very exhausting and challenging work and you may appreciate the afternoon off to relax and unwind. However you can choose to work a full day but this depends on the number of volunteers booked on the programme at the same time.

### LOCATION:

This project is situated in the southern state of Tamil Nadu in the bustling city of Madurai, also known as the city of nectar". This historical town is famous for the awe-inspiring Sri Meenakshi temple; its 4 outer pillars creating dramatic silhouettes on the skyline at sunset. 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. Madurai is also famous for its rich textiles and fabrics, impressive emporiums and superb quality gold and silver.

Madurai is located on the Vaigai River with three small but prominent hills marking its boundary. They are named after an elephant, cow and snake due to their supposed uncanny resemblance to these animals. The town 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! It 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.

**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 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.

The family will provide you with breakfast and dinner and it will be mainly local fare allowing you to taste a varied selection of delicious south Indian dishes and exotic fruits. You will need to make provision for your own lunch however as this is not included.

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.

### 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

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and airy. It has a well kitted out kitchen and large lounge area with satellite TV, DVD and a 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 in the local restaurants is cheap in Madurai with Thali's (a traditional south Indian meal served on a banana leaf) costing around Rs 60! 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, jack fruit, coconut water and fresh fruit juices are simply delicious!

### **VISAS:**

For most nationalities visas are required to enter India, 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.

### **INDUCTION ON ARRIVAL:**

When you arrive, you will be welcomed at the airport by one of our local Organiser's, who will take you to your accommodation. During your first few days you will be given an induction so that you can learn about Madurai and its culture, as well as useful information like how to use the transport system etc.

### **COSTS:**

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

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

### **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.

### **COUNTRY PROFILE:**

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

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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?

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- 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**
- 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.

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## VOLUNTEER FEEDBACK:

“Mazhalai Illam (‘home of orphans’ in Tamil) is the place where I discovered how it feels to be completely satisfied and how to deal with absolute happiness. Although it may sound as if I exaggerate, I assure you this is the way I felt while working as a volunteer in beautiful, hectic, dusty, ancient and very special Madurai. Despite the fact I had been in India many times before, it was an eye-opening three-months-stay.”

Jasne Krooneman

“I have had the most amazing experience in India that has been filled with laughter, tears, illness, frustration and magic! My time at the orphanage was fab and the kids are all one of a kind (they’re happiest when there being the naughtiest they can be!). Weekend trips away have been brilliant, and if I were to recommend one it would be Mahabillapuram. Don’t worry if you get down, take a walk and in no time the locals will have cheered you up and have you laughing at yourself. Karen, Pradeep and Robin are always about and can answer ANY question, get you pretty much ANYTHING. Nothing is too much, they have really made my stay special. My stay has been amazing and although it can be hard at times, I have had some of the best moments ever here, especially meeting so many different people. A massive thank you to all the volunteers who have made me laugh so much coke has nearly come out my nose, and made the whole experience even better! Relax, soak up the culture & ENJOY!”

Laura Marsh

## 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 our other destinations – 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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