

# INDIA



## CARE FOR CHILDREN WITH LEARNING AND PHYSICAL DISABILITIES IN MADURAI

Work with a large institution based in Madurai that cares and schools approximately 160 children ranging from babies to the age of 45. About 130 of these students are provided with residential care; the others are brought to the school each day by their parents. The children mainly suffer from Downs Syndrome, Cerebral Palsy, Microcephaly, Autism, Epilepsy, Deafness and some of the children are slow learners and dyslexic.

***Thank you for your interest on volunteering this Project. Below is a description of what you can do and expect. You can volunteer whether you're taking a gap year, on a career break, retired, or on a holiday with a purpose. No matter what your age or experience, we look forward to welcoming you to the team!***

## WHAT DO YOU GET?

### SELF-DEVELOPMENT:

- New skills, more confidence, a greater understanding of a different culture, invaluable personal and professional development.
- The enormous satisfaction of helping disadvantaged children and knowing that you made a difference to them.
- An entry on your CV or résumé that will put you head and shoulders above most others in the job market.

### SAFETY AND SECURITY

- Your safety is our top priority. We risk-assess all destination countries, projects, accommodation and more to ensure that they are stable and safe.
- We have experienced local staff with 24/7 back-up and support who are there to assist you and look after you, starting with an in-depth induction on your arrival.

### AN ADVENTURE!

- An exciting, never-to-be-forgotten adventure into the Indian culture, and best of all ... **an unforgettable experience!**

**Prices:** From £995 excluding flights. See our [Full Price List Online](#)

**Duration:** From 2 weeks up to 12 weeks or longer, subject to visa requirements.

**Start Dates:** All year round - you choose your start and finish dates! (Subject to school holidays – see dates below).

**Requirements** No qualifications required, just a love of children and a desire to help.

**What's Included:**

- |                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| ▶ Arranging your Programme,      | ▶ Full pre-departure support and assistance, |
| ▶ Payment Protection insurance   | ▶ Accommodation and Food                     |
| ▶ 24-hr emergency support.       | ▶ Transfer to your accommodation             |
| ▶ Meeting you at Madurai airport | ▶ Local in-country team support and backup   |
| ▶ Certificate of Completion      | ▶ Transport to and from your project         |

**What Not Included:** Flights, Insurance, Cost of Visas, Return transfer to airport.

## SUMMARY

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

### WORK CONTENT

The children you'll work with mainly suffer from Downs Syndrome, Cerebral Palsy, Microcephaly, Autism, Epilepsy, Deafness and some of the children are slow learners and dyslexic. The aim of the school is to help the children to study, build confidence and develop essential life skills.

The children at the school speak very little English so at times you may find communication hard. However, they will be delighted to have you there and you'll certainly be popular throughout the whole school. You can also book onto one of our Tamil courses to give you some knowledge of phrases that you can use with the children - it'll also help you make the most of your time in India.

At the Centre you will probably be working in many different areas, so you should be flexible and adaptable. Some of the areas where you'll be able to assist include:

- Helping with arts and crafts
- Helping with their hand-eye co-ordination skills
- Taking part (or watching!) the daily yoga sessions which help the children with their flexibility
- Helping the children to sew and embroider
- Getting involved with music and dance classes
- Helping the children eat or go to the toilet
- Helping the older children in the garden
- Assisting in the physiotherapy department
- Playing with the children; every day at 3pm is playtime and the children all bundle outside for half an hour of fun! Be prepared to be in great demand at this time!!



### SCHOOL HOLIDAYS IN THE SOUTH OF INDIA (APPROX):

Please keep in mind that school holidays can change unexpectedly with very little notice given. Although at times this can be quite inconvenient, most of our volunteers use the opportunity to travel around and explore the country.

- Second Term Vacation: 21 December 2014 to 1 January 2015
- Pongal Holiday: 13 to 17 January 2015
- Summer Vacation: 11 April to 4 June 2015

**Exam Periods: (approx):**

- Quarterly Exams: 15 to 22 September
- Half Yearly Exams: 10 to 20 December
- Annual Exams: 2 to 11 April

*“The best things about my placement by far are the smiles, handshakes and hugs I am met with every day. The staff and parents have all been so welcoming and made me feel at ease in a strange country and different environment.”*

Patricia Gleeson

## ACCOMMODATION

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#### 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 up to 2 other volunteers and in most of the houses you'll have an en-suite, Western-style bathroom. Most of the showers in our host accommodation are cold water only – however your hosts will boil water for you on request.

All of our host family houses are close together and just a few minutes' walk away from internet cafes, banks and snack shops and just a short auto ride into the centre of town.

#### Food:

Breakfast and dinner will be provided and prepared for you by the family and is 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.



## WHY TRAVELLERS WORLDWIDE?

- Over 20 years' experience of sending thousands of participants overseas, plus the largest variety of flexible projects that are value for money!
- Accredited projects helps appeal to future employers
- Excellent support!
- Your own dedicated Project Co-ordinator to answer all questions before, 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.

*“It was a wonderful experience on the whole to be fully immersed in such a different culture and very rewarding to feel involved with the foundation which is a great organisation with the children's best needs at interest and incredibly hard working and dedicated staff.”*

Tara Folkard

## 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. Donations to **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.

The price of this project is a reflection of the following costs:

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

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Got any questions? Please email us: [info@travellersworldwide.com](mailto:info@travellersworldwide.com)

Once you have applied for a placement, we'll contact you and send you our Welcome Pack. You'll also receive Log-on details and password for our Volunteer Extranet where you'll have access to all the documentation and information which we've put together to facilitate preparations for your adventure!

Your Project Co-ordinator for your country will liaise with you throughout the arrangements process, as well as while you're on your placement and on your return home. The documents you'll have access to also include a Country Fact file, Safety Guide and any manuals that may assist you on your particular programme (for example, Teaching Guide, Sports Manuals, Enrichment Suggestions for Animal Care, etc.). We do all we can to make your stay one that you'll never forget. As with all our destinations, the culture and heritage is different to what you're used to ... which, although one of the most exciting aspects of travelling, should be borne in mind. Self-reliance and independence are highly appreciated in all our destinations and will help you to make the most of this wonderful opportunity! This is a truly awesome, elegant and beautiful country.



## THINGS TO DO IN INDIA

### LOCATION, EXPLORING AND SIGHTSEEING:

**INDIA REALLY HAS IT ALL**, from the hot sultry deserts of **Rajasthan**, the **Taj Mahal** and the majestic **Himalayas** in the north, to the idyllic palm fringed **beaches** and ancient **temples** of the south, plus a multitude of **wildlife parks!** The way to best enjoy India is to absorb it - the warmth of the people, the beauty, the smells, the food, and the wonderful hospitality!

#### MADURAI

Many of our projects are based in the bustling city of Madurai in the southern state of **Tamil Nadu**. Madurai is known by many names; 'Jasmine city' for the famous jasmine flowers that are cultivated here, 'the city of Nectar', Legend tells of a river of nectar that flowed after blessing from Lord Shiva, and the 'Temple City',



Madurai really does have a temple or shrine on practically every street but it is most famed for the **Sri Meenakshi Sundeswarar Temple**. Pilgrims and tourists alike flock to visit the temple and approximately 10,000 visit every day! The temple is named after goddess Meenakshi. It was built in the 17th century and is an enormous structure with 5 outer towers crammed full of idols and animals. The inner courtyard contains another 7 towers, again all highly adorned. It will take your breath away.

Madurai is located on Vaigai River and was the capital of Pandyan rulers till the 14th century. It is full of cultural diversity and life revolves around the awe inspiring Sri Meenakshi Sundareswarar temple, awash with pilgrims, market stalls and tourist shops.

Children will stop you on the streets to chat to you and shake your hand and even ask for your autograph! You will be in demand everywhere you go and you'll feel like a celebrity, such is the warmth of the Indian people.

If you're after an overwhelming experience, then Madurai is a certainty for this!

**KERALA** has been named "'Gods own Country" by the locals for its stunning scenery, wildlife, beautiful beaches, picture postcard towns and the breathtaking backwaters. It is also the home of Ayurveda medicine, an ancient system using essential oils and vigorous massage to aid medical complaints or just for pampering - a one hour massage is an unforgettably relaxing experience.

Kerala also has one of the best wildlife parks in the country; Periyar. A huge array of activities are on offer, jungle trekking and jeep safari's which take you off the beaten track in the hope of spotting an elusive tiger although you are more likely to see elephants, boar, monkeys and many species of birds. You can also take an elephant ride, boat ride, visit spice and tea plantations, watch martial arts – it's an action packed weekend and only 4 hours from Madurai!

## HOW TO BOOK

### TWO EASY WAYS ...

Complete a [booking form](#) online.

Telephone  
01903 502595 (UK)  
or  
1-603-574-4935 (USA)



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST IN OUR PROGRAMME!**

**We hope you'll join us!**

**Don't hesitate to contact us with any questions.**

**We're happy to help you plan your exciting adventure!**

[www.travellersworldwide.com](http://www.travellersworldwide.com)

[www.travelersworldwide.org](http://www.travelersworldwide.org)