



Travellers Worldwide is a leading International Provider of
Volunteering Programmes, Work Experience Internships
and Cultural Courses Abroad

SRI LANKA



AN ELEPHANT EXPERIENCE AT PINNAWALA ELEPHANT ORPHANAGE

The Elephant Orphanage is a sanctuary for over 80 retired, abused or orphaned elephants. Visitors from all over the world come to see these magnificent animals. At times, there are also some small babies who have been born into the herd.

The daily highlight is the walk from the Orphanage to take the herd down to the river to bathe the elephants. It's amazing to watch an entire herd splashing around and rolling in the river, just a few feet in front of you!

Thank you for your interest in volunteering on 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 satisfaction of helping captive animals and knowing that your efforts 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 Asia and the fascinating culture of Sri Lanka! And best of all ... **an unforgettable experience.**

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Prices: From **£895** excluding flights.

Please see Full [Price List Online](#).

Duration: From 1 week to 12 weeks or longer, subject to visa requirements

Start Dates: All year round - you choose your start and finish dates.

Requirements: No qualifications needed, just lots of enthusiasm, initiative and ideas, and the ability to be very proactive. Minimum age 18.

What's Included:

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

What Not Included: Flights, Insurance, Cost of Visas (if a visa is required)

SUMMARY

PROJECT OVERVIEW

WORK CONTENT:

You'll have about 3 to 4 hours manual work each day at the Orphanage, which is hot and dirty work, mainly, mucking out huge Carport type sheds where Elephants stay at night. You'll also get to wash and hose down several Elephants. In the late morning or afternoon, you'll usually go down to the river and spend about 3 hours amongst the Elephants. You can watch them relaxing, play with them and sometimes help to bathe them.

This can be a life-changing experience, as the Elephants are very family orientated and the young ones love fun. If you love animals and don't mind some hard work for some wonderful memories, we highly recommend this project.

WORKING DUTIES:

Working hours are quite short and you certainly won't be overloaded with work, so you'll have plenty of time to sightsee and explore. Some elephants are overly large or have not been tamed or trained to a satisfactory level, whereby it is possible to safely have full hands-on contact.

The majority of volunteer work deals more with the day-to-day aspects of running the orphanage, rather than more specialised research or veterinary based work, although you will have the opportunity to do some hands-on work

Your main duties will be:

- Mucking out the elephant enclosures in the morning (this is hard, muddy work!)
- Participating in bathing some of the smaller elephants.
- While the mahouts are bathing the larger elephants, you will be able to relax by the river, chat to the mahouts and watch the elephants play and interact with humans and each other. This is an absolutely beautiful sight and being around these serene animals in such a beautiful setting can have a very calming effect!
- You'll also have up to two opportunities per week to feed the beautiful baby elephants

There may also be the opportunity to do other things around the orphanage, however this is subject the amount of work available at the orphanage at the time of your project.



ABOUT PINNAWALA ELEPHANT ORPHANAGE

The Elephant Orphanage is a sanctuary for rescued, injured or abused elephants and attracts visitors from all over the world to view these magnificent animals. Around 80 elephants have found homes at Pinnawala, including some small babies who have been born into the herd.

Elephants are orphaned for a number of reasons. Habitat destruction and fragmentation is one of the main causes resulting from irrigation projects, development of industries, agricultural projects and human encroachment. Elephants have lost over 30% of their natural wild habitat.

Other reasons for elephants becoming orphaned include hunting for tusks (although there is little of this in Sri Lanka compared to other countries around the globe), humans catching wild elephants for taming and domesticating and lastly due to the Human - Elephant conflict, which is rife in Sri Lanka. This occurs when elephants encroach on farm land to find food. The result is that 150-200 elephants are killed a year and around 60 people die.

The Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage helps this Human-Elephant conflict by giving the orphaned elephants a wonderfully happy and healthy life, including allowing for natural social behaviour, good medical treatment and food satisfaction.

The Orphanage is reputedly one of the largest centres of its kind in the world, with one of the most successful captive breeding programmes for Asian elephants.

ABOUT KEGALLE

During the day Kegalle bustles with people and street markets. The evenings are quiet with the Sri Lankan culture favouring early mornings and early nights. Do keep the quietness in mind and be prepared for slow-paced evenings.

Climate:

In the lowlands the climate is typically tropical with an average temperature of 27OC in Colombo. In the higher elevations it can be quite cool with temperatures going down to 16OC at an altitude of nearly 2,000 metres. Bright, sunny warm days are the rule and are common even during the height of the monsoon - climatically Sri Lanka has no off-season.

“I am the luckiest lady in the world to have been given the opportunity of living a life’s dream. It was more than I could have imagined and has changed my life completely. I will be going back to Sri Lanka next year, I have left my heart over there and need to go back to pick it up.”

Lesley Rogers



ACCOMMODATION

ACCOMMODATION:

You'll live in a quaint bungalow in a residential area surround by lush Sri Lankan landscape in the Gampaha region. The bungalow is airy and is typical of the modern styling of Sri Lankan houses. The bungalow can comfortably accommodate more than 6 volunteers, whilst still allowing you to keep a sense of having your own space.

The bungalow has living and dining area and plenty of outdoor areas, including a garden, making it the perfect setting for sociable evenings with the other volunteers or reading a book in peace in tropical surroundings.



Travellers' Volunteer Coordinator, Niranjala, lives in a separate close by, with her family. Many of our past volunteers who have stayed there have commented that the place offer the opportunity to get fully immersed in the wonders of Sri Lankan culture. Niranjala is a very chatty and extremely friendly and always gets the volunteers involved in her lively community activities. You will have all necessary facilities such a comfortably furnished living area with TV and DVD player in the lounge area. Sri Lanka is a great place to buy DVD's.

You will likely share your room with one or more other volunteers. The bedrooms are basic but comfortable. Bedrooms normally have single beds, mosquito nets, a clothes rack, and a ceiling fan (some rooms have standing 'pedestal' fans only). Bedding in Sri Lanka is very basic and for some reason sheets never seem to be large enough to tuck in, so you may want to consider bringing your own bed linen with you (sheet/pillowcase).

Although we supply bed linen, towels aren't provided! You can either bring your own with you or buy one from a local shop. A tip about washing your clothes – Sri Lanka has a red dust which gets into everything – with your white washing being most at risk – you have been warned! Facilities include shower, sink and western toilet. The showers are cold water showers here I'm afraid – it can be quite refreshing first thing in the morning before the water tank has been warmed by the sun - although with the climate being predominantly hot and humid for most of the year, taking a shower can be great way to cool off after a day spent in the Sri Lankan sun.



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! And 24/7 emergency helpline for you and your family
- 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.
- Free pick up from the nearest airport.

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:

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

"I just wanted to let you know, that I had the time of my life in Sri Lanka. It was FANTASTIC, I wish the entire experience had never had to end. I would just like to say thank you to your team of organisers for organising the spectacular trip."

Rajni Kanda

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Got any questions? Please email us: 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.



On Arrival, your Introduction to the Country:

When you arrive you will be welcomed by a member of our Sri Lankan staff who will take you to your accommodation and introduce you to everyone. During your first few days you'll be given an induction so that you can learn about the country and its culture, as well as other useful information, like how to use the transport system, banks, safety issues, tipping, and lots more.

You will have weekends free and this will also allow some time for travelling and sightseeing.

THINGS TO DO IN SRI LANKA

LOCATION, EXPLORING AND SIGHTSEEING:

We cannot BEGIN to tell you how beautiful this paradise island is! Nor how cheap to live and get around. It is almost too good to be true! But it is true.

Towering Pagodas, Hindu temples and ancient fortresses to holy rivers and sacred mountains. The local people are very welcoming and friendly, especially in the rural areas. The tea plantations are a must, the lace making, monuments and architectural splendours, etc., but the most appealing is the Elephant Orphanage at Pinnawala. Not to be missed! It's an emotive sight that you'll never forget!

SRI LANKA'S FANTASTIC BEACHES!

Sri Lanka has miles and miles of amazing beaches. Some of our favourites are:

MIRISSA: Perhaps a contender for the most beautiful beach in the world. Long, deserted and hot. You know you have got away from it all as you sit and watch the sunset over this horizon...The snorkelling is also incredible here.

NEGOMBO: To the north of Colombo lies Negombo, a bustling fishing town with golden beaches and a pallet of colour provided by sails and boats against the deep blue of the ocean.

UNAWATUNA: A sleepy peaceful cove with deep still water and a temple overlooking the bay from the protecting cliffs.

HIKKADUWA: A long stretch of beach with plenty of hostels, restaurants and some nice bars, not forgetting the impromptu beach parties held on the beach front bars blaring Bob Marley, Eric Clapton, Led Zeplin and many other classics! Sri Lanka is a conservative island brimming with culture and Hikkaduwa offers an exciting opportunity to



holiday for the odd celebratory weekend! Many a volunteer birthday has been seen in over Hikkaduwa cocktails. You can also body board and even surf on this beach.

ARUGAM BAY: This tiny fishing village is Sri Lanka's newest hot spot and hosts the best surfing and an easy going happy party atmosphere. With its wide sweeping beach in front of the village and year round gorgeous swimming it is no surprise that this bay has developed into a low budget travellers haunt.

ADRENALIN JAUNTS:

White Water Rafting: Sri Lanka's boulder stream rivers are the ideal setting for white water rafting. This is the best way to see the stunning environment what this region has to offer. Many tours are available and many begin with days of action, rafting the white waters. This high adventure is suitable for fish time 'go for it' rafters and experts alike. Rafting has become a very popular exciting yet safe adventure sport option.

Rock Climbing and Mountaineering: Mountaineering is an adventure sport that requires skills and levels of fitness that few other adventure sports can match. The mountain ranges in Sri Lanka offer breath taking, enthralling, climbing routes. Climbing is all about discovering the natural world around and with you.

Hiking and Trekking: There's no better way to explore the natural scenic beauty of this island with diverse climatic zones. Trekking is an excellent way to explore a country, people, their traditions and beliefs. Paths and campsites have been set up to give nature lovers the experience of a lifetime. All possible steps are taken to ensure local community benefit and nature conservation in keeping with all international camping guidelines.

Canoeing & Kayaking: This relatively new sport is rated as the most adventurous of all adventure sports. It involves descending a stream as it drops over waterfalls and boulders



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!

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