

Luxury Volunteering in Rajasthan



Highlights

This volunteering project is just a little bit different. You will be exposed to the rich culture and heritage of Rajasthan in North West India, by staying in a former (and pretty luxurious) palace in the town of Deogarh. During the day you will be working in a local deprived primary school, teaching English, IT skills and lesson planning. Due to the generous support and commitment of our local partners and The Mahal the price for this placement has been lowered by £400 since last year.

Chitardai primary school is located in the town of Deogarh, in Rajasthan, North West India. Known to many travellers as a culturally rich and diverse region, with a plethora of forts and palaces to visit, there is also a lot of deprivation in the rural areas, with 20% of children receiving no formal education and just 60% literacy rates.

Supported by the owners of the hotel where you will be staying, the school provides for 160 children aged between 6 – 14. All of these students come from families who live below the poverty line. The school has basic facilities; there are 4 teachers, few books and not enough chairs to sit all of the children during lessons. However, the ethos and mentality of the school and its staff are visionary for this part of the world. Students are treated equally regardless of gender or social background and the teaching emphasis is on learning through play.

As a volunteer, you will be helping the school and teachers work on their teaching practices. The school only has one computer, so you may find yourself helping the staff getting used to working with a computer and giving the principal some basic IT training. You may well also find yourself teaching English and helping out with lesson planning. The main area you will be helping out with, however, will be with creative play. The emphasis is on allowing the children to learn through play and giving them plenty of encouragement to do so.

Is it for me?

Staying at the Deogarh Mahal, you will enjoy all of the creature comforts you could hope for, including en-suite rooms, a swimming pool, Jacuzzi and gym. There is even a cinema area where you can enjoy the latest Bollywood release. Meals and water will be provided throughout your stay, so there will be plenty of chances to sample the local Mewari cuisine, with local home-grown ingredients used as much as possible.

Work at the school will not be as luxurious. As mentioned previously, the classrooms are basic, with limited seating and teaching materials. Volunteers will need to be creative in their teaching methods, but will be inspired by the enthusiasm of the staff and children alike.

Accommodation

Volunteers will live in the stunning Deogarh Mahal.

The family who own and manage the mansion hotel are trustees of the charity through which volunteers will work on the programme. As part of their corporate social responsibility they provide significant support and subsidy for the programme, including volunteer accommodation in the palace.

Volunteers are provided with 3 meals a day and drinking water. The palace is situated in the centre of the town of

Prices from

2,375 GBP (4 weeks) per person
single full board. Twin share placements
at £1898pp. Bursaries available.

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Deograh enabling volunteers to enjoy the day to day life in a Rajasthani town.

This is an opportunity for volunteers to share their skills, whilst enjoying the comfort of a palace!

Volunteers will stay at the Colonels Retreat for those nights they are in transit in New Delhi and this will be on a bed and breakfast basis

Itinerary

You will be helping out in Chitardai primary school. The school provides education for 160 children from the age of 6 to 14 in communities identified as below the poverty line by the Indian government. The school offers equal education opportunities to girls and boys from all castes and socio-economic groups.

The principal, Mr Devinder Singh, and his team of 4 teachers want to increase their own knowledge of best practise teaching techniques in order to improve and enhance the children's learning experience. The school motto is "Learn by Play" - an inspired and visionary concept for a small rural school working within the local education system.

Resources are limited and unpredictable - there are simple desks and benches in 3 of the classrooms, but many children still have to sit on the floor. There are text books but very few teaching aids and craft materials. It is important that you go with an open mind and a desire to help where you can.

Details

Price includes

Price is based on 4 weeks based on single full board in the luxury Mahal hotel - Please note twin/double room placements are available at £1898. This is inclusive of all Indian Sales tax

4 weeks full board, private airport (in New Delhi) transfers, road and rail transfers in country, full local orientation, local SIM card, project & placement liaison.

Your project donation will be used for the purchase of essential equipment for the school.

How your money is spent based on 4 weeks

£1800 - direct costs in India (transfers, accommodation, orientation, information packs).

£240 - project management & supervision in India

£100 - project donation in India

£235 - recruitment, matching & project development in UK

Available

Jan—Dec

Typical Duration

4 weeks

Comfort level

Refined (boutique or luxury accommodation and food)

Experience required

A reasonable interest is all that is needed