

India Open Team

Information Packet

LOCATION: Basbari, India

DATES

Project: February 3-14, 2016

Optional Taj Mahal Excursion: Jan. 31 - Feb. 3, 2016

Optional Kaziranga Nat. Park Excursion: Feb. 14-17, 2016

COST

Project Participation: \$1,245

Taj Mahal Excursion Fee: \$360

Kaziranga Nat. Park Excursion Fee: \$695

Maranatha in India

Maranatha has been working in India to build churches and schools for the Seventh-day Adventist Church since 1998. So far, more than 1,600 projects have been completed in the country.

India has a desperate need for schools, as many children and young people have no access to education. Maranatha has been working steadily on constructing large campuses in rural parts of India. Volunteers have built both One-Day School campuses and Elementary Education Centers, which consist of six to ten classrooms and a large multi-purpose room. These structures provide Christian education to countless students each year. And through the children, many families come to know of Christ's love.

Yet even after years of Maranatha working in India, there continues to be an immense need for churches and schools.

Project Overview

Join volunteers in India as they construct new classrooms for the Irvine Adventist English School in Basbari, Northeastern India. Established in 1974 inside a tea plantation, this school immediately began to minister and spread the Gospel to several different ethnic groups in the region. Because of the school, there are more than 150 baptized members at the local church. Currently, the school has 120 students but cannot accept any more because of the lack of classrooms and infrastructure. Volunteers will help meet this immediate need by constructing One Day School classrooms with metal sheeting. They will also reach out into the local community and teach women the "Helping Babies Breathe" curriculum. More information on this outreach will be given in your final information packet. If you are interested in helping to lead outreach programs, please contact Maranatha.



Project Schedule

TAJ MAHAL EXCURSION- Sunday, January 31, 2016

Arrival in Delhi (DEL) for the Optional Taj Mahal Excursion

Monday, February 1, 2016

Sightseeing and shopping in Agra

Tuesday, Feb. 2

Taj Mahal and drive back to Delhi

PROJECT - Wednesday, Feb. 3

Arrival in Guwahati (GAU) for the mission project

Thursday, Feb. 4 -Friday, Feb. 5

Work days

Saturday, Feb. 6

Worship with the local congregation

Sunday, Feb. 7 – Friday, Feb. 12

Work days

Saturday, Feb. 13

Morning excursion and worship with the local congregation

Sunday, Feb. 14

Departure from Guwahati (GAU) unless joining optional excursion

KAZIRANGA EXCURSION-

Sunday, Feb. 14

Drive from project site to Kaziranga National Park

Monday, Feb. 15

Kaziranga National Park Excursion

Tuesday, Feb. 16

Kaziranga National Park and return to Guwahati

Wednesday, Feb. 17

Departure from Guwahati (GAU)

Accommodations

Volunteers will stay at the cottages at the Musa Jungle Retreat outside the Manas National Park. With mesmerizing views of the tea gardens on one side and views of the national park on the other, this hotel provides the perfect location to relax and enjoy nature after a hard day of work at the construction site. These beautiful cottages are fully furnished with air-conditioning and hot water. But don't expect fast WiFi (if any at all) as it is located on the edge of the jungle. There are only 19 rooms available, so space is limited. For more information and photos visit www.musa.in.



Excursions

MANAS NATIONAL PARK EXCURSION - INCLUDED

During the project, volunteers will have the opportunity to take a safari in Manas National Park.

OPTIONAL TAJ MAHAL EXCURSION - \$360

Volunteers will visit the Taj Mahal, a stunning marble mausoleum considered one of the world's architectural masterpieces. Mughal emperor Shah Jahan built the Taj Mahal as a memorial to his wife. An estimated three million people visit this beautiful building each year. Single occupancy is available at an additional \$110 total for the three nights.

OPTIONAL KAZIRANGA NATIONAL PARK EXCURSION - \$695

This park is located on the borders of the Brahmaputra River in northern India, and it is home to the world's largest population of great one-horned rhinoceroses. Other animals in the park include water buffalo, elephants, Bengal tigers, leopards, sloth bears, sambar deer, hoolock gibbons, Assam macaques, and the endangered Ganges river dolphin. Volunteers will have three jeep safaris to the various regions of the park to see the animals. They will also have an early morning elephant ride. This excursion includes two nights at a hotel in the national park and one night at the Radisson in Guwahati prior to departure on Wednesday, February 17. Single occupancy is available at an additional \$200 total for the three nights.



Leadership



Bruce Fjarli | Project Coordinator

Bruce and his wife Jacki reside in Oregon, where they work at the Fjarli family business. India is among their favorite places to visit, and ever since the Fjarli's first trip to India, they have helped and been involved with multiple projects and volunteered many times with Maranatha. Bruce will be overseeing the project as project coordinator.

Expenses

The participation fee covers local housing during the project, three vegetarian meals a day, ground transportation to and from the airport and project site, local excursions, secondary accident insurance, a Maranatha t-shirt, and luggage tags.

Optional excursions (before and after the project) are available at an additional cost (see page 2). There is single occupancy available for either excursion at an additional cost, as well.

Maranatha must receive all funds and forms by **January 3, 2016**. Please wait for confirmation of acceptance on the project before purchasing your airfare.

If you are fundraising or receiving donations, please have checks sent directly to you or work with your local church treasurer to collect funds and issue tax-deductible receipts, since it is difficult for Maranatha to track individual small checks. If your church will not work with you, please wait until you have collected the full amount of your participation fee before submitting it to Maranatha.

Estimate of Additional Costs

- Flight to Guwahati: \$800 – \$1,500
- Passport: \$130 new or \$110 for renewal
- Visa: \$60-\$180

About India

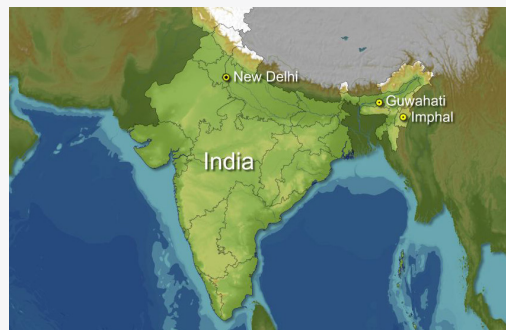
The diversity of India's culture and its rich history has made this country an intriguing place of contrasts. The beggar on the street wears a cheerfully vibrant sari. Hunger is widespread, but the air is thick with simmering spices. The country is crippled by illiteracy, but some of the world's brightest thinkers have emerged from India's cities and countryside. Blending modernity and antiquity, India is pushing forward to make social and economic progress while reconciling the future with its past. Yet these juxtaposed details are what make India a captivating country to visit and a fascinating place to work with Maranatha.

In its early history, India was the center of fiscal and cultural wealth as art and literature flourished and the trade of spices, ivory, and silk abounded. Hinduism became the dominant belief system, although Islam also wove its way into the region over the years. India's prosperity made it a desirable target, and the British began to colonize the region in the 1600s. Efforts to liberate India started 200 years later, but it wasn't until Mohandas Gandhi introduced a nonviolent approach did the Indians achieve independence from the British in 1947.

Today, India is the second most populous nation in the world with over 1.2 billion people. The impact of this huge population is rampant poverty, which has caused illiteracy, inadequate access to drinking water, and widespread illness. Potentially contributing to the overall poverty is a cultural remnant from India's past: the caste system.

Although discouraged by the government, this system of social stratification still dominates many rural communities. The caste system assigns class to individuals and offers no escape from this imposed category. For those subjugated to the lowest level of "untouchables," life is a constant flood of prejudice, discrimination, and abuse.

India remains a country of diversity and beauty. The architecture of the Taj Mahal, the dances and music of Bollywood, the colorful saris and festival of colors, and the spicy curries—India remains a country rich in culture and full of life.



Facts and Figures

Capital:
New Delhi

Population:
1.24 billion

Language:
Hindi 41%,
Bengali 8.1%, Telugu 7.2% and
various other languages and
dialects

Climate:
Humid and monsoon in southern
India. Temperate in the north.

Religion:
Hindu 80.5%, Muslim 13.4%,
Christian 2.3%, Sikh 1.9%

Currency:
Indian Rupee (approximately 63
Rupees to \$1 USD)

Taj Mahal Excursion Flight Info

Arrival:

Please plan to arrive in Delhi (airport code DEL) on Sunday, January 31, 2016. Note: please allow 2 travel days if you are flying from the West Coast of the United States, and 1 travel day if from the East Coast.

Departure:

Please plan to depart from Delhi (DEL) and arrive in Guwahati (GAU) on Wednesday, February 3, 2016, between 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. We recommend booking flight Air India 889, leaving at 10:50 a.m. and arriving at 1:10 p.m.

Main Project Flight Info

Arrival:

Please plan to arrive in Guwahati (airport code GAU) on Wednesday, February 3, 2016, between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Note: Please allow for 2 travel days if you are flying from the United States.

Departure:

Please plan to depart from Guwahati (GAU) on Sunday, February 14, 2016, between 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. If you are joining the optional Kaziranga excursion, you will be driving with the group to the National Park this da.

Kaziranga National Park Excursion Flight Info

Arrival:

The group will drive from the project location to the Kaziranga National Park (6+ hours) on Sunday, February 14, 2016.

Departure:

Please plan to depart from Guwahati (GAU) any time on Wednesday, February 17, 2016.

TRAVEL INFORMATION

Volunteers will purchase their own plane tickets to and from the city of Guwahati, India, unless they are joining the optional Taj Mahal excursion, in which case they will fly into Delhi (DEL) for the excursion and then fly to Guwahati, India, to meet up with the main project (see details below). Maranatha representatives will meet volunteers upon arrival in Guwahati. Most flights will require a connection in Delhi. If you plan to transfer to a domestic airline, we recommend trying to book all the way to Guwahati on one itinerary to take advantage of the international baggage allowances. The Delhi airport has a transit hotel where you can conveniently book a room if you have an overnight stay. Once you arrive, volunteers will travel together to the hotel. Please wait for confirmation from Maranatha before purchasing your airfare.

India has some beautiful travel destinations. Some of you may choose to arrive earlier than January 31 or stay beyond February 17 to explore the country on your own. Please make your own hotel and transportation plans for any days outside of the Maranatha project dates. If you have any questions, feel free to call Maranatha at (916) 774-7700.

Travel Resources

Azumano Travel: 800-454-4099 or by email with Erle at edpenha@ciazumano.com

Butler Travel: 503-879-5005 or by email with Nathanael at nathan@butlertravel.com

or with Ellen at ellen@butlertravel.com

Kayak: www.kayak.com

When contacting the Azumano or Butler travel agencies, make sure you mention Maranatha for the best fares.

Entry Requirements

All passports must be valid for at least six months from the dates of intended travel (August 14, 2016). If you do not have a passport, U.S. citizens can apply at any U.S. post office or online at travel.state.gov. Canadian citizens can apply online at www.passport.gc.ca. It can take up to two months to complete the entire process, so plan accordingly to give yourself enough time to receive your passport.

Staying Healthy

Maranatha requires that every volunteer have a current **tetanus** vaccine (within the last ten years). The Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) also recommend vaccines for hepatitis A and B, typhoid, and an anti-malarial medication other than chloroquine.

Some vaccines you may already have and some you may deem unnecessary for this trip. Because Maranatha is not a medical organization, we recommend that you schedule a consultation with a travel clinic doctor to talk about the medical risks in India and the ways to minimize them.

How to Register

To register, please complete the online registration and pay the full participation fee or an initial deposit of at least half the total participation fee. You can make this payment by credit card online, over the phone, or with a check made out to Maranatha Volunteers International and sent to the address below. If for any reason you need to cancel your participation, Maranatha will do their best to refund your deposit up until one month before travel. After that point, \$150 is non-refundable, and the remainder will depend on the reservations and project arrangements already made.

Register online at maranatha.org or over the phone.

Contact Information

Phone: (916) 774-7700

Fax: (916) 774-7701

Email: volunteer@maranatha.org

Website: www.maranatha.org

Mailing Address:

Maranatha Volunteers International

990 Reserve Drive

Suite 100

Roseville, CA 95678

Canadian Payments Only:

Maranatha Volunteers International
Association

c/o V06494C

PO Box 6494, Station Terminal
Vancouver, BC V6B 6R3

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NIKE CLASSIC POLO \$45



This classic golf polo has stitch-trimmed shoulder panels, flat knit collar, three-button placket and open hem sleeves—with Dri-FIT fabric technology to keep you dry on those hot days.

HARD HAT \$11



This MSA V-Gard hard hat, with Staz-On suspension, ensures excellent shock absorption on the job site.



TO ORDER, VISIT MARANATHA.ORG/STORE OR CALL (916) 774-7700

All prices are excluding sales tax and shipping.

CAP \$12



All cotton and easy to pack, this cap is sure to keep the sun off your face on a mission project and at home.

WATER BOTTLE \$15



The autosport water bottle by Contigo features a one-touch-button spout for convenient one-handed drinking. It also has a spout shield to protect the spout from debris and dirt when not in use—perfect for the project site.

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