



Bhalki India Open Team Information Packet

LOCATION: Bhalki, India

Project Dates: November 2 - 13, 2016

Optional Excursion: November 13-17, 2016

Participation Fee: \$995

Excursion Fee: \$500

Flight to Hyderabad is not included in the participation fee



Maranatha in India

Maranatha has been working in India since 1998. So far, more than 1,600 projects, which include churches and schools, have been completed.

India has a desperate need for schools, as many children and young people have no access to education. Through the support of generous donors, Maranatha has been constructing large campuses in rural parts of India. Volunteers have built both One-Day School campuses and Education and Evangelism 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 and as the Gospel continues to spread, there continues to be an immense need for places of worship and education.

Project Overview

Volunteers on this project will construct new classrooms for the Bhalki Seventh-day Adventist Higher Secondary School in the state of Karnataka in southwestern India. Established in 1983 with just 20 students in kindergarten, this school immediately began to minister and spread the Gospel. Today, the school has 820 students, and the campus is bursting at the seams. Each classroom has more than 60 students meeting in it, and many of the classrooms are starting to crumble. Due to the deteriorating infrastructure in the last few years, the school has not been able to accept many new students. Volunteers will help meet this immediate need by constructing several One-Day School classrooms with panel sheeting walls.

The children at the Bhalki School are very happy and loving. In addition to construction, we hope to hold children's ministry programs and health education programs. If you are interested in helping to lead outreach programs for this team, please contact Maranatha.

Project Schedule

Wednesday, November 2, 2016
Arrival in Hyderabad

Thursday, November 3
Travel to project location and orientation

Friday, November 4
Work day

Saturday, November 5
Worship with local congregation

Sunday, November 6 - Friday, November 11
Work days

Saturday, November 12
Worship with the local congregation

Sunday, November 13
Departure from Hyderabad

OPTIONAL EXCURSION
Sunday, November 13
Fly to Jaipur

Monday, November 14
Jaipur city tour and elephant ride

Tuesday, November 15
Sightseeing and travel to Agra

Wednesday, November 16
Taj Mahal and Red Fort

Thursday, November 17
Delhi city tour and evening departure from Delhi



Accommodations

Volunteers will stay at the Shiva International Bidar Hotel in the city of Bidar.

The hotel is approximately 45 minutes to an hour from the construction site. The hotel is approximately a two to three-star facility. The rooms are clean and simple. The rooms have air-conditioning, hot water, and Wi-Fi. All linens are provided, but most hotels in India do not provide washcloths.

For more information about the hotel visit www.theshivainternational.com.

Optional Excursion - The Golden Triangle - \$500

After the project, November 13-17, volunteers can join the optional excursion to the cities of Jaipur, Agra, and Delhi. Volunteers will be responsible for booking their own flight from Hyderabad to Jaipur on the 13th. This flight is not included in the excursion fee. Details on the specific flight to book are listed below.

The following day, the group will take a tour of the city of Jaipur, including a visit to Amber Fort and the City Palace, as well as an elephant ride. You will spend another night in Jaipur, and on the 15th, the group will do a little more sight-seeing in the city before heading to Agra after lunch. You will spend the night in Agra and wake up to a full day visiting the Taj Mahal and the Red Fort, also known as Agra Fort. On Thursday, November 17, the group will depart after breakfast and head to the bustling capital city of Delhi. You will have a half-day city tour of Delhi, have dinner at 7pm, and head to the airport for evening departures from Delhi.

The excursion fee will cover all hotels, food, and excursions during the excursion day. The in-country flight is not included.

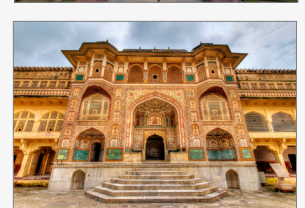
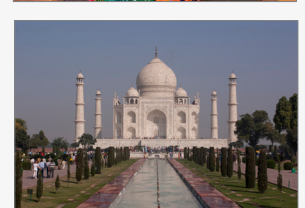
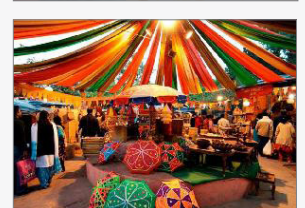
Leadership

George Carpenter | Project Coordinator

George and his wife Debbie reside in Madison, Tennessee, where George works at Madison Academy. He has worked in school administration for more than two decades, and throughout the years, he has led several international and domestic short-term mission trips for youth and young adults. George has always loved traveling and enjoys it even more when he can combine traveling with service. He will be joining the team as the overall project coordinator.

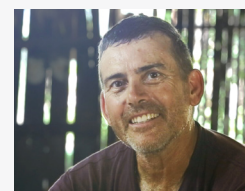
Lorin Rubbert | Construction Superintendent

Lorin will be joining the group from North Dakota where he resides with his wife Luanne and works as a construction superintendent in the oil industry. He has also worked as a farmer and pilot for more than 40 years and owns a farm in Saskatchewan. He likes spending time in his remote wilderness cabin in northern Saskatchewan where he enjoys photography, flying, and hanging out with family and friends. Lorin became involved with Maranatha after reading a copy of Maranatha's magazine, The Volunteer. After his first trip, he fell in love with India and the people he met there. Lorin will be leading the construction aspect of the project as the construction superintendent.



Jon Harvey | Construction Assistant

Jon first joined Maranatha in 1993 with a group from Indiana Academy. He has served in the U.S. Navy as a SeeBee construction team member, and now he applies this knowledge on Maranatha projects as a construction leader. Each year he goes on mission trips to meet new people, experience the joy of fellowship, and spread the Gospel through construction.



Vinish Wilson | Maranatha Country Director

Vinish has been working with Maranatha in India since 2001. His sunny personality, organization skills, and commitment to the mission of Maranatha has endeared him to many volunteers who have worked in India. Vinish will assist with in-country details and make sure everything flows smoothly behind-the-scenes. Vinish and his wife Rachel have two young children.



Expenses

The participation fee covers 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.

An optional excursion, after the project, is available at an additional cost of \$500.

Maranatha must receive all funds and forms by October 3, 2016, due to application processing time. Wait for confirmation of acceptance on the project before purchasing your airfare.

If you are fundraising or receiving donations please have them 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 your participation fee to Maranatha.

Estimate of Additional Costs

- **Flight to Hyderabad** \$ 900-1200
- **Passport** \$130 or \$110 for renewal
- **Visa** \$60 - \$180

About India

The diversity of India's culture and 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 more than 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.

TRAVEL INFORMATION

Volunteers will purchase their own plane tickets to the city of Hyderabad, India (see below). Maranatha representatives will meet volunteers upon arrival in Hyderabad. Once you arrive in Hyderabad, the group will spend the night and then travel the following day to the project location by chartered bus. Bidar is approximately three hours from Hyderabad.

Some flights will require a connection in Delhi. If you plan to transfer to a domestic airline, we recommend booking all the way to Hyderabad on one itinerary to take advantage of the international baggage allowances. The Delhi airport has a transit hotel where you can book a room if you have an overnight stay.

Please wait for confirmation from Maranatha before purchasing your airfare to ensure there is still space on the project.

Arrival | Please plan to arrive in Hyderabad, India (airport code HYD) after 7pm on Wednesday, November 2. Please try to have your flight arrive before midnight so the leadership team can get some rest before the next day.

Departure (Project Only) | Please plan to depart from Hyderabad, India (HYD) in the afternoon or evening of Sunday, November 13.

Departure (Optional Excursion) | If you will be joining the optional excursion, please book the following flights:
1. Indigo Airline flight number 6E 152 from Hyderabad (HYD) to Jaipur (JAI) at 7 p.m. on Sunday, November 13. Please be sure to book the correct flight.
2. Then, book your departure home from Delhi (DEL) in the evening (after 7 p.m.) on Thursday, November 17.

Arriving Early or Staying Late

India has some beautiful travel destinations. Some of you may choose to arrive early or stay beyond the project to explore the country on your own. Please make your own hotel and transportation plans for any days outside the Maranatha project and excursion dates.

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 to receive a discounted service charge.

Facts and Figures

Capital:
New Delhi

Population:
1.24 billion

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

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

Religion:
Hindi 81%, Muslim 13%, Christian 2%, Sikh 2%

Currency:
India Rupee

Entry Requirements

All passports must be valid for at least six months from the dates of intended travel (May 18, 2017). If you do not have a passport, U.S. citizens can apply at any U.S. post office or online at <http://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.

In addition to a passport, travelers must also have a valid visa for the country of India before traveling. A document with complete visa requirements, a copy of the visa application, and tips for filling everything out will be sent to you with your confirmation.

Citizens of other countries, please consult the Indian embassy or consulate in your home country for entrance requirements.

Staying Healthy

Maranatha requires that every volunteer have a current tetanus vaccine (within the last 10 years). The Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) also recommend vaccines for hepatitis A, typhoid, Japanese encephalitis, and an anti-malarial medication other than chloroquine.

Some of these you may already have and some of them you may deem unnecessary for this trip. You should 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 or 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 the 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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STORE

BUY MARANATHA MERCHANDISE!

Share the spirit of service with Maranatha-themed apparel and accessories.

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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