

India Project

Information Packet

Location: Thanjavur, India

Project Dates: February 14 – 25, 2018

Optional Excursion: February 25 – 28, 2018

Participation Fee: \$1,250

Children 12 and Under: \$1,100

(Age determined on start date of the project)

Optional Excursion Fee: \$585



*Flight to Tiruchirappalli, India is not included in the participation fee
(Flight city pronounced teeroo - cheer - RAHP -ahlee)*

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. Yet even after so many projects, the need for places of worship and education continues to grow—thanks to the spread of the Gospel message.

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.

Project Overview

Volunteers on this project will construct a large school facility for the E.D. Thomas Memorial Seventh-day Adventist School in southern India. The school is located on approximately 50 acres of a mango plantation, filled with beautiful trees, near the town of Thanjavur (pronounced tan-JAH-voor) in the state of Tamil Nadu. It was started in 1953 with just eight students and has since grown to a full elementary and secondary boarding school with up to 1,000 students attending.

Recently, enrollment has started to decline due to poor infrastructure. The dormitories and classrooms are leaking, and

Project Schedule

Wednesday, February 14

Arrival in Tiruchirappalli

Thursday – Friday, February 15-16

Work days

Saturday, February 17

Worship with the local congregation

Sunday - Friday, February 18-23

Work days

Saturday, February 24

Worship with the local congregation

Sunday, February 25

Departure from Tiruchirappalli or continue on optional excursion.

OPTIONAL EXCURSION

Sunday, February 25

Travel to Delhi and City Tour

Monday, February 26

Travel to Agra.

Tour Agra Fort and Taj Mahal

Tuesday, February 27

Travel to Jaipur. Tour City Palace

Wednesday, February 28

Tour Amer Fort and evening departures

there is no place on campus that can accommodate the entire school body for assemblies. The local Adventist conference has reached out to Maranatha to build an Education and Evangelism Center for the school. This large building includes a gymnasium that can be used for assemblies and community events. It will also include new classrooms for the elementary students. The structure is built with insulated panel sheeting walls. This type of construction needs volunteers to peel off protective sheeting on panels and prepare the panel edges, as well as a team to assemble the structure.

In addition, the group will conduct outreach, such as children's ministry programs and health education, in the local community.

Accommodations

Volunteers will stay at the Lakshmi Hotel in Thanjavur, approximately 25 minutes from the E.D. Thomas School. The rooms are very comfortable with a mix of twin and queen beds. You can expect double occupancy rooms with private bathrooms. All bedding and towels are provided; however, washcloths are not commonly provided in India, so you should plan to bring your own. The hotel has hot water and air conditioning. Wi-Fi is available but can be intermittent and slow. The groups will have meals at the hotel where skilled Maranatha cooks will oversee all the meals. Together, the group will travel to the school by private transportation.



Volunteers should plan on staying in double occupancy rooms with a roommate. If you would like to room with someone in particular, please let us know. During the project, there may be some single occupancy rooms available for an extra cost of \$250 per person. If you are interested in a single occupancy room, please email volunteer@maranatha.org or call (916) 774-7700.

For more information about the Lakshmi Hotel visit <http://www.lakshmihotel.in>

Optional Excursion: Golden Triangle (\$585)

After the project, volunteers can join the optional excursion (from February 25-28) to the cities of Delhi, Agra, and Jaipur, often referred to as India's Golden Triangle.

On Sunday, volunteers will travel from Tiruchirappali to Delhi (this ticket is not included in the excursion fee). Upon arrival in Delhi, the group will see some of the popular sites in the city before spending the night.

The following day, the group will travel south to the city of Agra, home to the Taj Mahal and Agra Fort. You can't leave India without seeing the Taj Mahal! This stunning marble mausoleum is considered one of the world's architectural masterpieces. Mughal emperor Shah Jahan built the Taj Mahal as a memorial to his wife, and the tour guide will share information about the life of the emperor and the construction of the beautiful building. In addition to the Taj Mahal, Agra is also home to Agra Fort, a large complex that housed and protected many generations of royalty and foreign leaders.



Agra Fort



Amer Fort Elephant Ride



Taj Mahal



City Palace

On Tuesday, the group will travel to Jaipur, where they will spend two days exploring several famous sights, including Amer Fort and the City Palace. Amer Fort is located on the edge of Maota Lake and is constructed

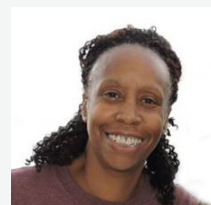
of red sandstone and marble. The group will take an elephant ride at the fort to get a unique view of the opulent construction and history of the building. Volunteers will depart from Jaipur in the evening of Wednesday, February 28 after a late lunch.

This excursion has an additional fee of \$585 per person, which includes housing, food, ground transportation, insurance, all tours and entrance fees, and an English-speaking guide. It does not include air transportation from Tiruchirappalli to Delhi; you will need to book a specific flight pattern that is listed below in the travel section. It will cost approximately \$200 depending on when you book. Volunteers should plan on staying in double occupancy rooms with a roommate; single occupancy rooms are available at an additional cost of \$170 per person.

Leadership

Loretta Spivey | Project Coordinator

Loretta has worked with Maranatha since 2003. Throughout the years she has served as an *Insight* magazine reporter, as well as an outreach coordinator, spiritual coordinator, and project coordinator on several Maranatha projects, including the Ultimate Workout, Multiple Group Project, and several Open Team projects. In each role, she has focused on connecting participants with Christ. Although the Pittsburgh Steelers still hold her allegiance, her family now calls Kernersville, North Carolina, home. She and her husband have five amazing children; most of them have participated in mission trips. She looks forward to seeing how the Holy Spirit will work on this project.



Lorin Rubbert | Construction Superintendent

Lorin is 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.



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 of \$1,250 covers housing for 11 nights at the Lakshmi Hotel, three vegetarian meals a day, ground transportation to and from the airport and project site, translators, secondary accident insurance, a Maranatha t-shirt, and luggage tags. Maranatha participation fees are tax-deductible; the excursion fees are not.

Maranatha must receive all funds and forms by January 15, 2018, due to application processing time. Wait for confirmation of acceptance on the project before purchasing your airfare.

All prices are listed in U.S. dollars. Payments can be made by cash or check sent to the Maranatha office in California (please include your name and "India Project – February") or by credit or debit card online or over the phone.

For Canadian tax-deductible receipts, payments must be made by check to the Maranatha Volunteers International (Canada) Association (address located at the end of this information packet). At this time Maranatha cannot issue tax-deductible receipts for credit card payments.

If you are fundraising or receiving donations, please either 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 it to Maranatha.

Estimate of Additional Costs

- **Flight to Tiruchirappalli, India: \$950-1,300**
- **Passport: \$130 or \$110 for renewal**
- **Visa: \$75**
- **Optional Excursion Flight: \$200**

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.

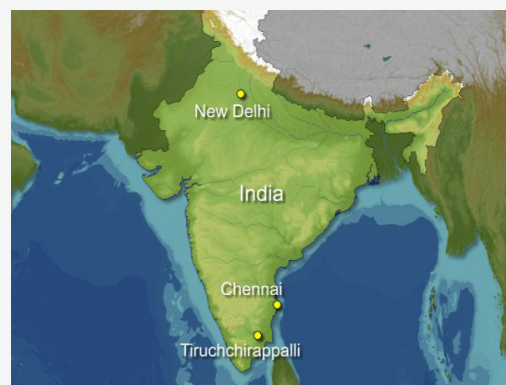
Today, India is the second most populous nation in the world with more than 1.2 billion people. The impact of this huge population is rampant poverty, which has caused illiteracy, inadequate access to drinking water, and widespread illness. Potentially contributing to the overall poverty is a cultural 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 Tiruchirappalli (see below). Please wait for confirmation from Maranatha before purchasing your airfare to ensure there is still space on the project. Maranatha representatives will meet you at the airport, and volunteers will travel by bus to the hotel, located approximately one hour from the airport.



Facts and Figures

Capital: New Delhi

Population: 1.2 billion

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

Climate: Humid and monsoon in southern India, temperate in the north.

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

Currency: Indian Rupee

Flights

Arrival

Please plan to arrive in Tiruchirappalli, India (airport code TRZ) in the morning or early afternoon of Wednesday, February 14. Depending on flight schedules, volunteers who arrive earlier may need to wait at the airport until the rest of the volunteers have arrived. The group will travel together to Thanjavur.

Departure (Project Only)

Please plan to depart from Tiruchirappalli, India (TRZ), in the afternoon of Sunday, February 25.

Departure (Optional Excursion)

If you are planning on joining the optional excursion, please book the following flights:

1. Book the following Jet Airways itinerary from Tiruchirappalli (TRZ) to Delhi (DEL) on Sunday, February 25
 - a. Jet Airways #2751 from Tiruchirappalli (TRZ) to Chennai (MAA) departing at 11:50am
 - b. Jet Airways #740 from Chennai (MAA) to Delhi (DEL) departing at 1:40pm (*This results in a 35-minute connection, a closer connection than many people are comfortable with. Please book the flight anyway. If the group is delayed, the airline will book on the next flight which is only 5 hours later.*)
2. Then book your departure home from Jaipur (JAI) in the evening of Wednesday, February 28. Please book tickets that depart after 5 p.m. Volunteers will be dropped off at the airport Wednesday evening after a late lunch. Booking before 5pm will result in missed parts of the excursion and possibly additional fees for the additional transportation to the airport.

Arriving Early or Staying Late?

India has some beautiful travel destinations. Some of you may choose to arrive earlier than February 14 or stay beyond February 25 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: 800-777-5149 or by email with Erle Dpenha or Azumano Team at

corporatetravel@ciazumano.com

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

ellen@butlertravel.com.

Kayak: www.kayak.com

When contacting the Azumano or Butler travel agencies, mention Maranatha to receive a discounted service charge.

Entry Requirements

Below are the requirements for U.S. and Canadian travelers. Citizens of other countries should consult the Indian embassy or consulate in your home country for entrance requirements.

Passport | All passports must be valid for at least six months from the dates of intended travel (August 28, 2018).

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.

Tourist Visa | In addition to a passport, you must have a valid tourist visa for the country of India before traveling.

A document with complete visa requirements and tips for filling everything out will be sent with your confirmation.

There is an online E-Tourist Visa for India, and for volunteers on their first trip to India, we recommend using that option since it is cheaper and faster than applying for a multiple entry or five to ten-year visa.

You must apply for the E-Tourist Visa online at least four days before your trip and within 30 days of your arrival in India. It is only good for 30 days from date of issue, so Maranatha recommends that you wait to process this paperwork until three weeks before your scheduled departure (January 24). If you are delayed in your travel, you don't want your visa to expire before you arrive in India. In order to enter India, you must present the printed confirmation page at customs when you arrive in India. If you go to the airport without this paperwork, you will not be permitted to board your flight to India.

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 recommends vaccines for hepatitis A, typhoid, Japanese encephalitis, and an anti-malarial medication other than chloroquine.

Some of these you may already have and some 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 form 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 our 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
(Canada) Association
c/o V06494C
PO Box 6494, Station Terminal
Vancouver, BC V6B 6R3

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HARD HAT \$11



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

MARANATHA.ORG

*All confirmed volunteers on an International Maranatha Open Team receive a Maranatha t-shirt as part of their participation fee.



**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 autospout 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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