

India Project

Information Packet

Location: Jowai, India

Project Dates: February 6-16, 2020

Optional Kaziranga Excursion Dates:

February 16-18

Optional Kaziranga and Taj Excursion Dates:

February 16-20

Project Participation Fee: \$1,400*

Children 12 and under: \$1,250

(Age determined on the start date of the project)

Optional Kaziranga Excursion: \$415

Optional Kaziranga and Taj Excursion: \$635

**All amounts listed in document are in U.S. dollars. International flights are 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. 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 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.

Project Overview

Volunteers on this project will be working at the Jingshai Mihngi Adventist School in the town of Jowai, Meghalaya in northeastern India. In 2005, Seventh-day Adventist parents in the region were worried about sending their children to public schools due to conflicts with the Sabbath. However, sending their children to the nearest Adventist boarding school was financially impossible. So at the request of the conference, they started the Jingshai Mihngi school. The program started in a rented building with 150 students and 13 teachers.

Today, they have rented a bigger building in town and have more than 430 students. But the new campus still doesn't



Project Schedule

Thursday, February 6
Arrival in Guwahati, India

Friday, February 7
Orientation and first work day

Saturday, February 8
Worship with the local congregation

Sunday, Feb. 9 - Friday, Feb. 14
Work days with mid-week excursion

Saturday, February 15
Worship with the local congregation

Sunday, February 16
Departure from Guwahati, India or continue on optional excursion

OPTIONAL EXCURSION

Sunday, February 16
Travel to Guwahati, visit a local temple, shopping opportunities, and continue to Kaziranga National Park

Monday, February 17
Early morning elephant ride; full day safari

Tuesday, February 18
Late afternoon or evening departures from Guwahati

Wednesday, February 19
Taj Mahal and Agra Fort

Thursday, February 20
Early morning departures from Delhi

accommodate the growing number of students hoping to enroll each year. The current campus also has other major issues, including roof leaks and an improper sewage drainage system which closes the school during heavy rains.

The local Adventist leadership has reached out to Maranatha for assistance in building twelve classrooms on a new property. Volunteers will help meet this need by constructing several brick classrooms. In addition, depending on the number of volunteers on the project, volunteers will organize outreach activities, such as children's ministry programs and health education.

Accommodations

During the project, the group will stay at Highwinds Lakeside Hotel in Jowai, about 6 miles from the school construction site. The hotel is basic, perhaps a 2-star hotel depending on how you rate hotels. But the rooms are spacious, safe, and clean, and the lower price helps keep the participation fee as low as possible. We mention this in advance so you can adjust your expectations as it will likely be a lower standard than where you currently reside.



Each room is comfortably furnished with two twin beds, which can be pushed together for couples. The rooms have private bathrooms with hot water and air conditioning. Linens are provided, but washcloths are not commonly included in India, so plan on bringing your own. WiFi is available in the hotel lobby, but it will be a slower connection. The group will meet together for meals and worship at the hotel.

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 before the final deadline for the project (January 6). There may be some single occupancy rooms available for an extra cost of \$550 per person. If you are interested in a single occupancy room, please email volunteer@maranatha.org or call (916) 774-7700.

Optional Excursion: Kaziranga National Park - \$415

Maranatha projects usually include a short excursion as part of the Maranatha experience or an extended excursion as an optional add-on. If you choose to add any trips in addition to those provided by Maranatha, please plan to do them either before or after the Maranatha project dates so you won't miss out on any of the Maranatha experience.

At the end of this project, volunteers can choose to extend their stay in India by joining an excursion to Kaziranga National Park. This optional excursion has an additional fee of \$415. The excursion fee will cover two nights at a luxury hotel, food, ground transportation, a one-day safari, insurance, and all entrance fees and tour guides during the excursion days. The excursion price is for double occupancy rooms. If you would like a single occupancy room, the fee is \$130.

On Sunday, volunteers will visit Guwahati, the capital of the Indian state of Assam. There, the group will visit the Kamakhya Temple, stop at the banks of the Brahmaputra river, and visit a market with shopping opportunities before continuing on to Kaziranga National Park.

Kaziranga National 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, Indian tigers, leopards, sloth bears, sambar deer, hoolock gibbons, Assam macaques, and the endangered Ganges river dolphin.

On Monday morning, the group will have an early start so they can do an elephant ride through a portion of the park. This is a fun experience and allows you to get much closer to the rhinos than you can in a car. After breakfast, the group will have a morning and afternoon safari in jeeps to the eastern and western regions of the park.

On Tuesday, the group will return to Guwahati for afternoon and evening departures home.

Optional Excursion: Kaziranga and Taj Mahal - \$635

If volunteers want to further extend their trip, they can add a Taj Mahal trip to their Kaziranga Excursion.

This excursion option includes everything listed above with the Kaziranga excursion, and also includes a visit to the world famous, Taj Mahal and Agra Fort. This portion of the excursion costs \$220, making the total price for the Kaziranga and Taj Excursion \$635 per person. This fee covers hotels, meals, ground transportation, entrance fees, tour guides, and insurance. The excursion price is for double occupancy rooms. If you would like a single occupancy room, the additional fee is \$75.

The excursion fee does not cover the domestic flight from Guwahati to Delhi on February 18. Volunteers will be responsible for booking their own airfare. Details on the specific flight to book are listed in the Travel Information section of this packet.

On Tuesday, February 18, volunteers will fly to Delhi where they'll spend the night at a hotel near the airport. Early the following morning the group will travel south to Agra, home of the Taj Mahal, a stunning marble mausoleum considered one of the world's architectural masterpieces. The tour guide will share information about the life of emperor Shah Jahan and the construction of the beautiful building. That afternoon, the group will also visit Agra Fort, a large complex that housed and protected many generations of royalty and foreign leaders.

That night, the group will drive back to Delhi to catch evening departures home. Flight guidelines are listed in the Travel Information section of this packet.

Leadership

Vickie and Bernie Wiedmann | Project Coordinator and Construction Superintendent

Vickie and Bernie have enjoyed volunteering with Maranatha projects since the early 1990s. When not on a mission trip, they own and run a small electrical business in Washington. Through the years, Vickie has led Maranatha's Ultimate Workout, open team volunteer groups, and the Christmas Family Project. When Bernie can join her, he leads in construction with the building, painting, and electrical work. Vickie will be leading the group as the overall project coordinator, and Bernie will lead the masonry construction at the school. Vickie also serves as one of Maranatha's board members.



Expenses

All amounts listed are in U.S. dollars.

The project participation fee of \$1,400 covers housing, three vegetarian meals a day, ground transportation to and from the airport and project site, short-term travel insurance, a Maranatha t-shirt, and luggage tags. The project participation fee is tax-deductible. The optional excursion fees are not tax-deductible.

Maranatha must receive all funds and forms by January 6, 2020, due to application processing time. Wait for confirmation of acceptance on the project before purchasing your airfare.

Payments can be made by cash or check sent to the Maranatha office in California (please include your name and "India Project – Feb 2020") 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 donations 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 for your participation fee before submitting it to Maranatha.

Estimate of Additional Costs

- **Flight to Guwahati:** \$1,000-1,900
- **Passport:** \$130 or \$110 for renewal
- **Visa:** \$100

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. 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. With the architecture of the Taj Mahal, the dances and music of Bollywood, the colorful saris and festival of colors, and the spicy curries, India is rich in culture and full of life.



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

Travel Information

Volunteers will purchase their own plane tickets to the city of Guwahati, India. If you arrive or depart outside the posted time frames, you may have long wait times at the airport or be responsible for paying the additional transportation costs for your individual airport transfer.

Please complete the online registration and wait for confirmation from Maranatha before purchasing your airfare to ensure there is still space on the project. Volunteers will travel together, by bus, to the project location.

Flights

Arrival | Please arrive in Guwahati (airport code GAU) in the morning or early afternoon (before 2:00 PM) on Thursday, February 6.

Departure (Project Only) | Please depart from Guwahati, India (GAU) in the morning or early afternoon of Sunday, February 16.

Departure (Optional Excursion - Kaziranga Only) | Please depart from Guwahati, India (GAU) in the afternoon or evening (after 3:30 PM) on Tuesday, February 18.

Departure (Optional Excursion - Kaziranga and Taj) | Please book the following flights:

1. Book Spice Jet Flight #169 from Guwahati (GAU) to Delhi (DEL), departing at 3:50 PM and arriving at 6:45 PM on Tuesday, February 18.
2. Book your departure home from Delhi (airport code DEL) in the early morning of Thursday, February 20, between midnight and 5am. There is no hotel planned for the night of the 19th.

Arriving Early or Staying Late?

India has some beautiful travel destinations. Some of you may choose to arrive earlier than February 6 or stay beyond February 18 to explore the country on your own. Since our volunteers bring so much to the shared experience of the project, we ask that volunteers be a part of the entire Maranatha project during the advertised dates. They should plan any additional travel before or after the Maranatha project dates to avoid any mid-project interruptions. Those choosing to add additional travel are responsible for making their own hotel and transportation arrangements for the time outside of the arrival and departure windows listed above. If you have any questions, feel free to call Maranatha at (916) 774-7700.

Travel Resources

CI Azumano Travel: 800-454-4099 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 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 United States (U.S.) and Canadian citizens. If you hold a passport from another country, please 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 18, 2020). 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 120 days of your arrival in India. It is only good for 120 days from the date of issue, so Maranatha recommends that you wait to process this paperwork until at least three and a half months before your scheduled departure (November 2019). 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.

Please do not state in any of the paperwork (or upon arrival in India) that you are coming to "work" or "volunteer." Remember you are not being paid, and you are on vacation from your normal job. For the purpose of this trip you are just a tourist.

Staying Healthy

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

You may already have some of these vaccinations, and they may still be good for this trip. Others you may deem unnecessary for this trip. Maranatha recommends that you schedule a consultation with your physician or a travel clinic to discuss 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 for 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 mailed 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
Association
c/o V06494C
PO Box 6494, Station Terminal
Vancouver, BC V6B 6R3

Social Media

Share your mission trip with family and friends! And be sure to tag us on social media!



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@gomaranatha



@maranatha

Use our hashtag,
#maranathavolunteersinternational
when posting, so we can feature
your trip!

THE MARANATHA STORE

BUY MARANATHA MERCHANDISE!

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

2019 MARANATHA T-SHIRT \$10



The 2019 Maranatha shirt features a 50th anniversary logo on the sleeve, made with a poly/cotton heather blend by Bella + Canvas. Mens cut only; color is "heather deep teal."

HARD HAT \$13



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](https://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. Available in Khaki and Navy.

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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