



### Why India?

Boasting a population of over one billion people, India is as vast as it is fascinating. From the buzzing capital of Delhi, to the majestic beauty of the Himalayas, India is guaranteed to inspire, challenge, and cement itself a special place in the hearts of all travellers.

### Where are the placements?

Lattitude's challenging and exciting placements are located in the hill stations, where you will work within Tibetan communities, and in a number of towns in the north of India. These attractive and often remote locations offer the chance to live a simple existence and immerse within the ancient Tibetan culture.

### Is it for me?

English Teaching placements involve teaching Tibetan refugees in schools, monasteries and nunneries. While conversational English forms a major element of the work, volunteers will be expected to help out with a range of subjects. Volunteers will need to be motivated self-starters, as English classes often take second place to prayer and ritual. Kindness is the most important quality in Tibetan Buddhism and both adults and children are delightful to work with and teach.

Teaching placements involve being a teacher's assistant at primary and secondary schools. The schools range from English-style relatively



### Overview

MINIMUM AGE: 17

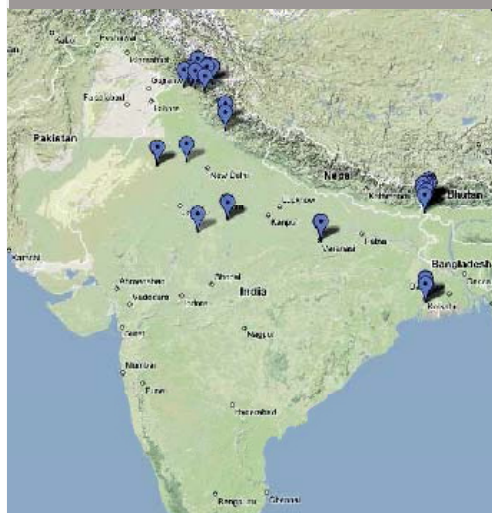
DEPARTS: Jan/Feb/Aug

LENGTH: 4 to 5 months

ROLES AVAILABLE:

- Community Worker
- English Teacher
- Teacher

### Placement Locations



wealthy schools to very poorly resourced community schools. Volunteers will teach English as well as other subjects. The ages of students vary.

Community placements also involve an element of teaching. There are placements at orphanages and day centres for children with mental and physical disabilities, as well as centres for adults with disabilities. Volunteers will help out with caring duties, as well as teaching subjects such as art, music, drama, sewing, cooking, and supervising sport.

Working hours vary between 10 and 20 per week. Friendliness, enthusiasm and resourcefulness are essential qualities. Because most placements in India have some religious connection, and because the Tibetan community is keen to preserve its distinctive culture and identity, decorous behaviour is expected. Smoking and drinking (at least in public) is discouraged, the use of drugs is not acceptable, and noisy parties in the vicinity of the schools or monasteries/nunneries would cause problems. Dress and appearance should be tidy, decent and conventional.

### Accommodation and Food

Most India placements are for solo volunteers; however you will be placed in close proximity to other volunteers. Accommodation is very basic, and can be cold in winter. Washing facilities are often shared, and electricity and water supplies can be erratic. Hot water may be a luxury!

No pocket money is offered in India, and while the cost of living is very low, an allowance should be made for spending small sums on food of one's preferred choice. The diet varies greatly depending on the placement and you may find the Tibetan diet is fairly bland and unexciting to the western palate!

### Travel

Puja (worship) takes priority over lessons at Tibetan institutions and there may be unexpected free days. In practice, volunteers will work for four to four and a half months and will get between a month and six weeks continuous holiday, usually taken at the end of their stay.

### Need to know

- Pre departure briefing: All volunteers will be invited to a group briefing prior to departure.
- Teaching skills course: Organised by Lattitude this course will be completed in Melbourne at volunteers own expense prior to departure.
- On arrival: Volunteers will attend a three day orientation session organised by Lattitude before commencing their placement.

### What's included

- Interview (face to face or by phone)
- Pre-departure briefing
- Teaching skills course if required
- Airport pickup (group flight only)
- Accommodation and food
- In-country orientation & support
- 24/7 emergency support

### Costs

The costs shown are for Lattitude projects departing in 2011. (Please note that these prices may change for projects departing in 2012.)

Lattitude fees (these are exact costs)

Lattitude application fee	\$125
Lattitude contribution fee	\$2900
Lattitude teaching skills course	\$370
Lattitude in-country orientation	\$242

You will also need to budget for the following (these are approx costs)

Travel insurance (6months)	\$475
Return Airfares (approx cost of group flight)	\$2575
VISA	\$101
Police check	\$43
<b>Total cost (approx)</b>	<b>\$6831</b>



"India isn't a country that is easy to describe, even though there are so many things that stand out; the disorganisation, the smells, the colours, the rubbish, the beggars, the heat, the dirt. In truth one can't gain a true picture of India without going. Would I advise people to go there? Yes, no question about it."

Sofka Morris, English Teacher