



**Please contact us for specific start dates. Programs begin once per month at varying dates throughout the year

2009 Discover India: **Volunteer, Immerse & Explore in India**

Location	Lower Himalayan region, Rajasthan state, Goa state	
Start Dates	Vary throughout the year. Minimum 2 weeks to 1 year commitment**	
Program Fees	Starting from \$1500 for 2 weeks, \$1855 for 4 weeks (see below for prices)	
What's Included	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Volunteer placement, orientation, & training -All meals while on volunteer project -Basic accommodations -International medical traveler's insurance -Airport pickup/assistance depending on location of project -Excursions to local famous sites & cultural activities 	
What's not Included	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International and local transportation Visa fees Personal expenses 	
Projects Available	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Orphanage Assistance Social Welfare Education Rural Community work Senior Homes Sport Volunteering Sea Turtle Preservation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working with the mentally disabled Health education Social Services for Women & Girls Facility Renovation work Animal Rescue Teach English & other subjects

Projects & Activities Description

Teaching

Assist in government run primary and secondary schools for underprivileged local children. Teaching and related activities can include:

- Teaching English at various levels
- Organizing creative exercises with children like drawing, painting, music and dance.
- Working with local teachers in creating low cost teaching material from locally available resources
- Ensuring regular attendance of children by motivating their families with regular visits etc.
- Promoting basic hygiene awareness to children and their families
- Creating a more "child-friendly" environment in the schools with decorating/painting projects throughout their schools.

◆ **Cultural Embrace** ◆ 7201 Bill Hughes Road ◆ Austin, Texas 78745 USA ◆

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Child-care

Work with local government run day care centers for children that monitor the health and growth of children. These centers, called Aanganwaris, are intended to act as source of holistic child-care. The volunteer activities in the day care centers include:

- Personal attention and care to children coming to the center everyday
- Developing motor skills through playing games and using body parts
- Ensuring maximum attendance of children and pregnant women to the day-care center through community awareness
- Creating a more attractive environment for the children through renovation of the center and adding facilities.

Special needs/Disabilities

An increasing variety of work is required and being setup for volunteers at institutions for people with special needs, which includes:

- Schools for mentally challenged children
- Orphanages
- Senior homes

The activities in such institutions include everyday care, maintenance of facilities, teaching, awareness building, and creative activities.

Social services for women & girls

Work with adolescent girls and women for education and empowerment. Some of the activities include, but not limited to:

- Teaching conversational English to working women for improved employability
- Conveying sex education to adolescent girls
- Training sports and physical fitness activities
- Imparting knowledge of operating simple mechanical machinery like bicycles, etc for confidence and knowledge (these activities are typically accepted only by males)

Working with Animals

Work in a state park in Goa to help rescue animals and assist the rangers in the park. You can also choose to work in Goa preserving sea turtles.

- Assist veterinarians with care and treatment for sick and rescued animals.
- In the turtle program you will help protect areas where turtles are laying eggs.
- Develop community awareness projects to teach locals how to protect and preserve animals.
- Learn about the natural habitats in India and the best methods for helping the animals

Program Details & Highlights

Volunteering in India Offers:

- An unforgettable experience helping and improving at-need communities
- An opportunity to broaden your perspective and worldview
- An opportunity to participate in and learn Indian cultural activities (e.g.: language, cooking, crafts, music, dancing)
- Memorable travel experiences with the chance to see exotic sites you have always dreamed about
- The ability to make lifelong friends from around the globe

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- A valuable work experience that strengthens your resume, exhibiting your diligence, independence, and intercultural experiences
- A great way to develop and support your self-confidence and interpersonal skills

Cultural Embrace Offers:

- **Guaranteed Volunteer Placement Prior to Departure**
Cultural Embrace pre-arranges your volunteer project before you leave home to ensure an easy and hassle-free transition to your volunteer placement abroad.
- **Housing/Accommodations**
Basic, clean & comfortable accommodations on twin sharing basis in volunteer facilities, guesthouses, homestay, or equivalent. Single supplement available upon request for additional fee.
- **Meals**
All meals during volunteer days are included. Breakfasts only during excursions, unless otherwise specified.
- **Visa Assistance**
Cultural Embrace will assist you with information to obtain a visa, but we have neither control nor the ability to guarantee government issuance and/or visa availability.
- **Local Sight-seeing/Excursions**
Varies with location and placement duration. Examples include: visit to Taj Mahal, overnight camping trip, trekking, camel safari
- **Cultural Activities**
A variety of local cultural activities and lessons are offered, based on duration and location. Sample activities include: learning and practicing yoga, meditation, learning Hindi, cooking lessons, Indian massage, etc
- **Arrival Pick-Up & Transfer**
- **Arrival Orientation & Training**
Our local representative will provide you with cultural tidbits, basic language skills, and orientation of the city.
- **International Traveler's Health Insurance**
A comprehensive traveler's medical insurance is included with your program.
- ***Cultural Embrace's Cultural Kit***
Useful tips, advice, and information to prepare you for the amazing adventure of living and working abroad.
- **Full-time Representation**
Cultural Embrace provides representation in the United States and India prior to, during, and after your placement.

Program Requirements

- You must be at least 18 years of age. Or, if younger than 18, you must have parental or guardian consent
- Enjoy providing a service and working with others in a challenging environment
- Open to foreign cultures and living abroad
- High level of responsibility
- Dedication to the full term of commitment

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- Criminal background check may be required by some projects and positions

2009 Schedule & Fees

Location/Region	Age Group	Min. Duration	Price (in US\$)	Extra \$/week(s)
Rajasthan	Adult & Youth	2 weeks	\$1500	\$330 per week
Himalayan	Adult & Youth	2 weeks	\$1555	\$330 per week
Lower Himalayan/ Rajasthan	Adult	4 weeks	\$2170	\$375 per week
Himalayan/ Rajasthan	Youth	4 weeks	\$1855	\$330 per week
Goa	Youth	4 weeks	\$1990	\$360

*Contact us for discounted rates for extended stays

** Prices subject to change with international currency fluctuations

**Age Groups divided as: Youth 18-29 years old; Adult 30+ years old

2009 Program Dates

Adult (30-65) program (4 week)

GROWN UP PROGRAM DATES 2009 – 4 weeks			
Himachal 2009		Rajasthan 2009	
Start Date	End Date	Start Date	End Date
12-Jan-09	8-Feb-09	5-Jan-09	1-Feb-09
9-Feb-09	8-Mar-09	2-Feb-09	1-Mar-09
9-Mar-09	5-Apr-09	2-Mar-09	29-Mar-09
6-Apr-09	3-May-09	30-Mar-09	26-Apr-09
4-May-09	31-May-09	31-Aug-09	27-Sep-09
1-Jun-09	28-Jun-09	28-Sep-09	25-Oct-09
29-Jun-09	26-Jul-09	26-Oct-09	22-Nov-09
27-Jul-09	23-Aug-09	23-Nov-09	20-Dec-09
24-Aug-09	20-Sep-09	21-Dec-09	17-Jan-10
21-Sep-09	18-Oct-09	18-Jan-10	14-Feb-10
19-Oct-09	15-Nov-09	15-Feb-10	14-Mar-10
16-Nov-09	13-Dec-09	15-Mar-10	11-Apr-10
14-Dec-09	10-Jan-10		

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Youth (under 30) program (4 week)

YOUTH PROGRAM DATES 2009 - 4 weeks			
Himachal 2009		Rajasthan 2009	
Start Date	End Date	Start Date	End Date
5-Jan-09	1-Feb-09	19-Jan-09	15-Feb-09
2-Feb-09	1-Mar-09	16-Feb-09	15-Mar-09
2-Mar-09	29-Mar-09	16-Mar-09	12-Apr-09
30-Mar-09	26-Apr-09	10-Aug-09	6-Sep-09
27-Apr-09	24-May-09	7-Sep-09	4-Oct-09
25-May-09	21-Jun-09	5-Oct-09	1-Nov-09
22-Jun-09	19-Jul-09	2-Nov-09	29-Nov-09
20-Jul-09	16-Aug-09	30-Nov-09	27-Dec-09
17-Aug-09	13-Sep-09	28-Dec-09	24-Jan-10
14-Sep-09	11-Oct-09	25-Jan-10	21-Feb-10
12-Oct-09	8-Nov-09	22-Feb-10	21-Mar-10
9-Nov-09	6-Dec-09	22-Mar-10	18-Apr-10
7-Dec-09	3-Jan-10		

Adult & Youth short term Project Dates (2 and 3 week)

Himachal Program Dates - 2009		
Start Date (Arrivals on Thursdays)	2 week End Date (Departures on Fridays)	3 week End Date (Departures on Fridays)
15-Jan-09	30-Jan-09	6-Feb-09
12-Feb-09	27-Feb-09	6-Mar-09
12-Mar-09	27-Mar-09	3-Apr-09
9-Apr-09	24-Apr-09	1-May-09
7-May-09	22-May-09	29-May-09
4-Jun-09	19-Jun-09	26-Jun-09
2-Jul-09	17-Jul-09	24-Jul-09
30-Jul-09	14-Aug-09	21-Aug-09
27-Aug-09	11-Sep-09	18-Sep-09
24-Sep-09	9-Oct-09	16-Oct-09
22-Oct-09	6-Nov-09	13-Nov-09
19-Nov-09	4-Dec-09	11-Dec-09
17-Dec-09	1-Jan-10	8-Jan-10

Rajasthan Program Dates - 2009		
Start Date (Arrivals on Thursdays)	2 week End Date (Departures on Fridays)	3 week End Date (Departures on Fridays)
15-Jan-09	30-Jan-09	06-Feb-09
12-Feb-09	27-Feb-09	06-Mar-09
12-Mar-09	27-Mar-09	03-Apr-09
24-Sep-09	09-Oct-09	16-Oct-09
22-Oct-09	06-Nov-09	13-Nov-09
19-Nov-09	04-Dec-09	11-Dec-09
17-Dec-09	01-Jan-10	08-Jan-10
14-Jan-10	29-Jan-10	05-Feb-10
11-Feb-10	26-Feb-10	05-Mar-10
11-Mar-10	26-Mar-10	02-Apr-10
08-Apr-10	23-Apr-10	30-Apr-10

Goa Youth Program 2009		
Start Date (Arrival on Monday)	4 week End Date (Departure on Sunday)	8 week End Date (Departure on Sunday)
12-Jan-09	8-Feb-09	8-Mar-09
9-Feb-09	8-Mar-09	5-Apr-09
9-Mar-09	5-Apr-09	3-May-09
6-Apr-09	3-May-09	31-May-09
4-May-09	31-May-09	28-Jun-09
1-Jun-09	28-Jun-09	26-Jul-09
29-Jun-09	26-Jul-09	23-Aug-09
27-Jul-09	23-Aug-09	20-Sep-09
24-Aug-09	20-Sep-09	18-Oct-09
21-Sep-09	18-Oct-09	15-Nov-09
19-Oct-09	15-Nov-09	13-Dec-09
16-Nov-09	13-Dec-09	10-Jan-10
14-Dec-09	10-Jan-10	7-Feb-10

**Volunteers can extend their stay in multiples of weeks or months at the same location. If you wish to combine different locations, please contact us for further details.*

How to Apply

1. Obtain the Volunteer Abroad **Application Forms & Procedures** documents in one of three ways:

(a) Download the forms from our website at www.culturalembbrace.com

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(b) Call **Cultural Embrace** at 1-512-469-9089 or 1-888-214-8570 (US toll-free) to have the forms mailed to you in 7-10 days.

2. Read the instructions carefully and complete all forms.

3. Submit your completed application packet to:

CULTURAL EMBRACE
7201 Bill Hughes Road
Austin, TX 78745 USA

Completed packet should include:

- Volunteer Program Application
- Signed Volunteer Agreement
- Copy of your passport (information page only)
- Copies of diploma or certificates related to field of interest (if applicable)
- Resume/CV
- Cover Letter explaining why you want to volunteer in India
- Two References: preferably professional and/or character references
- Doctor's Certificate verifying that you are in excellent mental and physical health
- Copy of Police Clearance (obtainable from your community's local police station)
- Four 1½" x 2" official passport-size photos (print your name on the back of each photo)
- One smiling full-length photo of yourself
- US\$200 non-refundable deposit (credited towards your program fee)

Upon receipt of your application, a **Cultural Embrace** coordinator will contact you for a 20-30 minutes phone interview. Once we accept you in to our program, you will receive an invoice for the remainder of your program fee. In order for us to contact our local partners to start your placement process, we require at least 50% of your program fee.

We recommend submitting your application and program fee at least 12-16 weeks prior to your desired start date in order for us to organize and arrange your volunteer placement.

***Cultural Embrace** requires an expedited application fee for those applying 12 weeks or less before the desired date of departure. Applications received 8-12 weeks prior to desired departure date will be charged \$150. Applications received less than 8 weeks before the desired departure date will be charged \$250.

Frequently Asked Questions

1) *Why should I pay Cultural Embrace to volunteer?*

Cultural Embrace and our local partners specialize in arranging a guaranteed volunteer placement, housing and insurance prior to your departure. This will alleviate the troubles and stress of getting everything organized in a new country, so you will have more time and energy to spend on your volunteer project. Your time abroad will still be an independent and memorable one, but we are here to guide you to a safe, healthy and comfortable experience before, during, and after your adventure.

Fees vary according to project, destination, and length of stay. Most of the costs go toward operational project and field expenses, (ie: housing, food, transportation, supplies, etc) plus the administrative fees to cover office and local support (ie: legal, accounting, insurance, advertising, etc). **Cultural Embrace** does not add on any profits on their volunteer programs

2) What type of volunteer projects are offered in India?:

Volunteer projects in India are based on the area in which there is currently the most need. Although this requires a bit of flexibility from the volunteer, you can be assured that you are working in the area that needs the most assistance. Past projects have included: teaching, childcare, community education, labor projects and community health, among others.

3) Where will I stay?

While on your volunteer placement, you will stay in a clean, simple volunteer facility at the volunteer facility. During orientation, you will stay either in a hotel or with a host family. All accommodations are shared.

*4) What type of visa assistance does **Cultural Embrace** provide?*

All visitors to India need to make visa arrangements prior to their departure. Tourist visas are valid for up to 180 days and can be obtained from a local consulate or embassy. Please note, that any visa fees are the responsibility of the applicant. And, while **Cultural Embrace** can assist you during the process, ultimately it is your responsibility to ensure that you have obtained the appropriate visa for your volunteer experience. **Cultural Embrace** has no control over the visa process and cannot guarantee that your visa application will be accepted.

5) Do I need to get shots before traveling to India?

Yes, you will probably have to get some type of vaccinations before you travel to India. **Cultural Embrace** requires a medical report for its application process, which would be a good time to talk to your doctor about which immunizations you will need to get before traveling. You should get your immunizations 4-6 weeks before traveling in order for the vaccines to take effect. Check out the [CDC's website](#) for the most current information on travel health.

6) How long will it take to make my placement?

We ask applicants to apply at least 12-16 weeks in advance of your desired start date. The placement may take less time than this, but we want to ensure that we have enough time to find a great placement for you! There are additional administrative fees if you apply less than 12 weeks in advanced, and we do not contact our local partners until we receive at least 50% of the program fee payment.

7) Do I have to bring specific clothes?

Depending on the time of year and location of your placement, you will need to dress accordingly. Please note that India is a conservative country and the locations in which you will

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be volunteering will probably be more traditional than the larger cities. **Cultural Embrace** will provide you with more details in your **Cultural Embrace** pre-departure kit.

8) *Can I volunteer and/or live with a friend or partner?*

Yes, you can enroll in this program with other people, and we encourage it since it will enhance your experience and memories. Additionally, you will receive a discount for referring friends and family to join you on the same or other CE programs. Although you may state your preferences for shared housing, you will need to be flexible and respectful of local customs.

9) *When should I buy my plane ticket and does **Cultural Embrace** provide any resources to help with plane tickets?*

Plane tickets should not be purchased until after your placement has been confirmed. **Cultural Embrace** volunteers with consolidators and discount travel agencies that can help find cheaper tickets than those that are available to the general public.

10) *What do I do when I get to India?*

Cultural Embrace will provide you with a handbook prior to your departure with the names and contact information of your local representative, company, and other useful resources for your time in India. Additionally, you will have a bi-lingual local representative that will serve as your mentor and help you get acquainted with your local surroundings and volunteer placement.

11) *What do I do if I have a problem or complaint within my volunteer placement?*

You must speak to your local volunteer coordinator or representative to give them an opportunity to explain or investigate the situation. If the complaint still exists, please let **Cultural Embrace** (Austin office) know so we can mediate on your behalf.

12) *Why should I pay to volunteer abroad, and where does my money go to with **Cultural Embrace**?*

Cultural Embrace and our local partners in India specialize in arranging a guaranteed volunteer placement, housing and insurance prior to your departure. This will alleviate the troubles and stress of getting everything organized in a new country, so you will have more time and energy to spend on your internship and living abroad. Your time abroad will still be an independent and memorable one, but we are here to guide you to a safe, healthy and comfortable experience before, during, and after your adventure.

Your program fee includes your customized volunteer placement, comfortable, clean, and safe accommodations with all meals, comprehensive international traveler's health insurance, orientation, training, cultural activities and excursions, and all of the administrative and logistical costs to set up your placement in the States and India. **Cultural Embrace** also pro-rates the expenses for marketing, advertising, and site visits/communication among all of our programs within our fees.

For any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at info@culturalembrace.com or you can call us at 1-512-469-9089 or 1-888-214-8570 (US toll-free)

*Discover the Similarities. . .
Share the Differences. . .*

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