



Construction project in Nepal



EXPECTATIONS

An important part of the pre-departure support we provide is managing your expectations. This section is not meant to patronize or put you off – but to advise you as to what to expect and how to approach your volunteer programme. This handbook is a general guide to help you prepare. However, you will be volunteering in the developing world and as much as we try to be as accurate as possible, things are prone to change, so please don't read into the information too literally. Full details of your placement will be given to you during your in-country orientation.

THE PROJECT

We always do our best to give a good over view of the program on our website. However, each project is different and each volunteer's contribution is unique. You should be willing to take the initiative to identify areas you can assist with. Whilst there is a general structure in place at the project, you should not expect an itemized schedule to your day. You are there to make a positive difference and so you are expected to help in any way possible (within reason!).

CULTURE DIFFERENCE

Volunteering in a place where the lifestyle may drastically differ to your own will expose you to various cultural differences. Whilst the majority will amaze and entertain you in

so many ways; some you may find difficult to accept and understand. We ask that you try to appreciate the context of the situation and see both sides of the story before making a final judgment. Many of the customs or types of behavior that you may find offensive or strange are easily understood when you learn more about the local culture. As a volunteer you are there to help and not impose your values upon the local people. If you can teach the local people about a more progressive way of doing things then we always encourage this. But you must remember that change is slow and values are deeply rooted, so you will need plenty of patience and diplomacy.

If you join us with an open mind, give things time, talk to us if you are struggling and adopt a positive attitude whereby you help where you are needed, then you will have a life changing experience and make a valuable contribution.

THE PROGRAMS

We are running different volunteer programs in Nepal. We offer year-round volunteer program in the areas of Teaching English in Schools, Child Development Centre, Medical & Non-Medical and, Community Development Program.

ENGINEERING PLACEMENTS

Kot Danda Agro aims to be a model agro resort with pure local theme accommodation encouraging locals to produce local agricultural produce and poultry whilst creating income opportunities and empowering local communities. It takes approx. 1-hour 30minutes from the volunteer house, during site visits participants will stay at the resort or 15minutes walking distance from the home stay.

What our Volunteers do on the Project in order to create the local theme accommodation:

- Understand a project by site visit and stay at the site when needed.
- Prepare site plans, specifications, and cost estimates
- Investigating the natural resources, features, wildlife and plants in the area.
- Analyze environmental reports on land conditions, such as drainage and energy usage
- Design and built eco-friendly meeting hall with the capacity of 100 people
- Design of Eco-friendly individual houses one storey and two storied including manuals
- Prepare graphic representations of proposed plans using computer-aided design and drafting (CADD) software including the dummy model of the above eco-friendly Houses

RECOMMENDED ATTIRE

Visiting the sites will require comfortable walking shoes, comfortable attire such as t-shirts, shorts up to the knees during summer and warm clothing during winter.

PROGRAM STRUCTURE

ORIENTATION

Orientation in Kerala starts on the Sundays of your selected start date. Program coordinator will conduct detailed introduction on the Nepalese life, culture training and necessary health precaution along with an area orientation tour. Coordinator will brief on the project and provide necessary support on planning. Support staff will assist participants to and from the project, taking public vehicles, introduction to the project site. Additionally, weekly bi weekly and final follow-up meetings are performed to monitor the progress.

Example Volunteer Week

On your first day of volunteering, you will be escorted to your placement by a local coordinator and introduced to the placement staff you will be working with. Local project coordinators will be there to guide you and also support you until you are comfortable. Generally, on the first day it will be introductions and you can opt to observe as well but we do want you to dive into things soon. A typical daily schedule would be as follows:

→ 8.30 AM - 9.30 AM Breakfast at your accommodation.

→ 9.45 AM - 12.00 PM Volunteers leave home and travel to their placements. Work and hours are dependent on the project and placement that the volunteer is working at.

→ Your unique skills, interests and qualifications and experience relevant to your chosen project

→ 12.30 PM - 2.00 PM Lunch break either at the placement.

→ 2.00 PM - 3.30 PM Work at the placement. Volunteers are free to travel back to the volunteer house once project time is over, go sightseeing or relax once placement is over.

→ 6.00 PM - 7.00 PM Dinner at the accommodation

Please note, this schedule may vary depending on the particular project you are participating on and the local team will advise on your project timings on arrival only.

Please keep a small budget for any project resources you may need.

ACCOMMODATION

Volunteers in Nepal are accommodated depending on the program you are at. You could be staying in a home-stay in Kathmandu, Nuwakot, Bhaktapur or Lalitpur or at our volunteer house based in Kathmandu. Living is basic but comfortable and you will have access to electricity and western style toilets. WIFI is not always very strong but you can always get 4G data on your mobiles and stay connected. There are fans provided, however, it is important to be aware that there is no air-conditioning at the accommodation.

All bedding is provided and you can expect to be sharing a room with up to 3 other volunteers of the same gender. Typically, mattresses in Asia are a lot firmer than what you may be used to, so please be prepared for that. If you also wish to use a mosquito net over your bed, you will need to bring a pop-up net with you. You will be required to bring your own toiletries and towels.

Private room upgrades for \$40 per night in AC rooms and \$25 for non-AC rooms are available at extra and you can pre-book this with us. This may be at a nearby guest house.

If you are planning on arriving to your program early or wish to depart a day or two after your program has finished, you can book extra nights of accommodation directly with your program manager for an additional US\$25 per night (this includes meals).

MEALS

Two meals are provided per day. Please note that only breakfast and dinner are available to volunteers on all projects and lunch needs to be purchased near the site you are placed at, for a very affordable price. In case you are at home or can come back home lunch can be given to you.

Nepali food is tasty and diverse, and volunteers can expect to experience a myriad of local flavors and meals during their experience. Breakfast is different on each day and would be eggs, bread, and tea and coffee. Lunch/Dinner features local curry dishes made with a base of rice, roti or chapatti. Meals are typically vegetarian and include potatoes, okras, carrots, and various pulses and lentils that are the staple of locals and available locally.

If you have any dietary requirements, please let us know ahead of time so that we can make arrangements for you. However, we need to stress the point that you should not expect to eat as you normally do at home, we will do our best to see that you are well taken care of, but as a volunteer there is also a need to be flexible. If you want western meals, you can easily get this at the local cafes and restaurants in the tourist areas.

TRANSPORT

Volunteers need to arrange their own transport to and from their placements. Some placements are within walking distance but most placements will require a bus and the local team will be happy to guide you until you are comfortable.

We will try to ensure your accommodation is very central so you can easily walk to your projects or into town or there would be a bus service available.

For travel further outside Kathmandu, it is possible to hire a driver and car, catch a flight, train or bus. The local team can arrange transportation for you.