



## Kindergarten & Teaching projects



**Capacity:** Kindergarten: up to 10 volunteers at a time; General Teaching: up to 10 at a time

**Availability:** Kindergarten school: 9 months of the year (Jan, Feb, March, June, July, Aug, Sep, Oct, Nov and Dec); General Teaching: available all year round. During April and May alternative teaching projects in the community will be organised.

**Project Start & End Days:** Saturdays

**Project Work Days:** Monday to Fridays (weekends are free)

**Support Provided:** Program Manager provides detailed introduction and culture training on arrival along with an area orientation tour. Teaching Coordinator gives project-specific training. Our teaching staff also assists participants with lesson planning, guiding them on the specific curriculum to follow each week and conducting daily/weekly meetings to monitor progress.

Participants also have access to our in-house teaching library consisting of manuals, books and various teaching materials to help with lesson planning and providing general guidance. Local transportation to and from the projects is included each day.

**Age Requirement:** Must be 16 years or over

**Nearest Airport:** Cochin International Airport

**Location of Project:** Kindergarten class is held at a local government school (about 10 min from our volunteer house). General teaching project is held in two schools - (both 10 min from volunteer house)

**Accommodation:** You will be living in the gorgeous town of Fort Kochi in our volunteer house with other volunteers. All rooms are shared and will have fans and en-suite bathrooms. For those who want to upgrade, the option of private accommodation will also be available at an extra cost. Your volunteer home will have a lounge area, dining area and comes equipped with WiFi. For your safety we have fire extinguishers, security cameras, first aid box, and a safe in our office which is in the premises as well. In general Fort Kochi where your home is a very safe residential as well as tourist area with low crime rates. You will be walking distance to ATMs, supermarkets, local cafes and restaurants, shopping as well as hospitals.

Breakfast, lunch and dinner will also be taken care of by our chef. All food will be freshly cooked local Keralan meals. A typical breakfast can be dosas, puttu or Keralan style pancakes. Lunch and dinner is usually curries prepared with season vegetables. Kerala curries are delicious, light and healthy – usually infused with coconut milk or grated coconut making it truly tropical to taste.

Please note that during busy times we may house you in alternative accommodation near our volunteer house.

**Meals Provided:** Breakfast, lunch and dinner

**Background to this Program:** In the Fort Kochi and Mattanchery area, there are a number of government schools, ranging from primary to secondary, that cater to children of varying age. Public (or government) schools provide free education to children, and is therefore in greater demand, especially for parents from poorer communities that lack the resources to put their children in private schools, for which they have to pay extra. The unfortunate reality of the situation is that the difference in quality of the education received from a public school, more often than not, pales in comparison to those received by better-funded private schools, particularly as it relates to a foreign language like English. Hence, there is a strong

need to develop English skills (speaking, reading and writing) in public schools, where teachers are not as well equipped, and this is where our main focus lies.

### **What our Volunteers do on the Project:**

We work with three public schools in our area - both with kindergarten school and secondary school. Both are not well-funded and in need of help, hence the impact our volunteers make there is substantial and very much appreciated.

For the Kindergarten program, our volunteers assist the local school teachers with the day-to-day running of the classes. The classes are held in the mornings for 2 hours per day (10 am-12 pm) for children aged from 3-6 years old and then again in the afternoon for 1.5 hours (2- 3.30pm). Typical activities include teaching basic English (reading and writing), playing educational games, occasional singing and dancing and caring for the children by giving them attention and warmth in an intimate environment.

For General Teaching, the school we work with two public schools with a session in the morning from 10-12 pm and an afternoon session from 2-3.30pm. Both are minority public schools, where the children do not have as many opportunities for growth and development compared to others in the region. This is a highly impactful class run solely by our volunteers (with guidance and support from our local team) as the school lacks adequate English teachers to teach the language. Our volunteers work in small groups to teach English at a basic to intermediate level here for children aged 8-12 years old. Typical class size ranges from 10-20 students.

One of the main reasons we established our own Teaching Program in Fort Kochi was to cater to the and children of our immediate neighbourhood, where the need and desire to learn English is very high.

As with all teaching projects, lesson planning is a key part of the daily tasks, which can take up to 1-2 hours each day. Volunteers are expected to conduct this on their own with guidance from our local team.

**Recommended Attire:** A conservative dress code needs to be adhered to while at the project. Knees and shoulders must be covered, as well as any tattoos or body art. Rest of the clothing can be comfortable and casual.