



VATSALYAGRAM,
Vrindavan
Family for **ALL**

An overview

VatsalyaGram is a flagship program, that uniquely dovetails 3 different welfare schemes in a manner that conclusively meets the physical, social & psychological needs of all the target groups viz., orphan/abandoned children, destitute women and the elderly.

The beneficiaries, otherwise coming from different backgrounds, caste and ethnicity, are brought together and raised as close-knit families (Vatsalya Parivar).

The 52-acre VatsalyaGram campus at Vrindavan offers a full range of critical network of support starting from Shelter & Sustenance, Education (for children; up to Sr. Secondary level), Healthcare (a mix of modern medicine and traditional therapy), Literacy & Vocational Training (for girls & women) and other need-based work aimed at reducing the daily struggle of the program beneficiaries and nurture them as a resilient community with the overarching goal of their participation in the nation's economic process.

Facilities in VatsalyaGram



Gokulam – Residential complex for the members.



Krishna Brahma Ratan Vidya Mandir – A primary school for the resident children.



Samvid Gurukulam – A 3 floor, CBSE affiliated Sr. Secondary School open for everyone.



Vaishishtyam – Centre for children with special needs.



Vasukishreyam – Rehabilitation of marginalized Snake charmers community.



Girls Hostel – Residence for girls of Samvid Gurukulam



Gau Shala – Clean and well maintained shelter for cows.



National Martyr's Museum – A reminder of the patriotism of many, who laid their life for the country.



Samvid Expert School – In house vocational training and cottage industry for women.



ST MicroComputer Lab – A computer lab to impart basic computer literacy to the community youth.

Program Fees: \$25/day

This includes food, accommodation, airport pickups, around the clock support from our in-country team, pre-departure training as well as the implementation and monitoring of the projects.

WHAT'S INCLUDED?

- ◆ Accommodation (Volunteer House)
- ◆ Meals (Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner)
- ◆ Delhi Airport Pick Up (24 Hours)
- ◆ Private Transport To/from Project
- ◆ In-country Orientation
- ◆ 24 Hour In-country Support
- ◆ 24 Hour US-based Emergency Support
- ◆ Dedicated VatsalyaGram Travel Mentor
- ◆ Unlimited Email & Telephone Access
- ◆ Comprehensive Volunteer Handbook
- ◆ Certificate Of Completion

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED?

- ◆ Flights to Delhi from US (\$1200-\$1500)
- ◆ Travel Insurance (\$14 Per Week)
- ◆ Return Airport Transfer (\$12)
- ◆ Visa for Non-Indian Citizens(\$55-\$120)
- ◆ Criminal Background Check (\$25)
- ◆ Administration Fees(\$50)

Frequently Asked Questions

CHOOSING YOUR EXPERIENCE:



1. What are the requirements to join?

We welcome volunteers of all backgrounds, nationalities and religions. You must be able to provide us with a clean criminal background check prior to your program start date. We are unable to accept anyone who has any previous criminal convictions.

You should also be physically fit. If you have any medical/mental health conditions that may affect your participation overseas then these must be declared to us during your online application.

2. What date should I arrive and leave?

You should arrive at Indira Gandhi International Airport in Delhi on the selected start date. You will be met at the airport by one of our local staff or an appointed driver who will be holding a named sign. They will take you to your accommodation where you will spend the rest of your day at leisure.

3. When is the best time of the year to volunteer?

Volunteer feedback tends to suggest that joining us outside the European summer months is the best time to get the most out the experience from a project involvement and cultural integration perspective. The summer months tend to be our busiest times in-country where we have peak numbers across the projects and with accommodation.

5. Are there any age restrictions?

In order to join the program you need to be at least 12 on the program start date.

6. How early should I apply for volunteering/internship program in India?

As such there is no deadline to join any of our program. We process applications on first come first serve basis so it is highly recommend to fill in your application well in advance to secure your spot.

7. What duration would you recommend?

Based on volunteer feedback we believe a period of 7-14 days is the ideal time to get really involved in a project and make an impact. This also allows you to

have enough time at the weekends to explore the local area and further afield. Participants who join us for 2 weeks frequently tell us that they did not believe this was long enough and wish they had stayed for a longer period.

If you are interested in joining us for a period of 4 weeks+ then we strongly recommend you give us enough lead time to plan your stay and experience.

8. Can I volunteer if I live outside of the India?

We accept volunteers from all over the world. The majority of our participants are from the UK, US, Canada & Australia.

9. Can I go with my friend/parent/boyfriend/girlfriend?

You're more than welcome to travel and volunteer with friends and family members. If required, we can make sure that you stay in the same accommodation and volunteer at the same project. Please note our volunteer accommodation is on a single-sex basis.

Please outline in the 'Special Requirements' box of your online application if you'd like to make sure you're placed alongside another applicant/s.

10. Is it safe to travel to VatsalyaGram?

VatsalyaGram Vrindavan is a 3 hrs drive from Delhi, the capital city of India. We are committed to the safety of all our volunteers, and we ensure a healthy, safe environment at all times within the campus.

11. What should I do in case of an emergency during my trip?

In emergency situations we have the necessary protocols and equipment in

place and we are able to evacuate our volunteers from potential dangers. Our local coordinators are trained to deal with emergency circumstances.

12. What items should I bring along for my trip?

You may bring personal medicines, non-alcoholic items, a sweater or a light jacket (during winters). Please don't forget to carry sun screen cream or mosquito repellent lotion or spray.

13. What are my payment options?

In order to confirm your place on a VatsalyaGram program you need to pay the Registration Fee (\$50). The remaining Program Fee is then due no less than 60 days prior to your program start date.

You're only required to pay your \$50 Registration Fee once we can guarantee you a place on the program, unless you're applying within 60 days of your program start date in which case you'll need to pay the full amount to confirm your place. We will notify you by email that you have been successful in your application.

Any remaining payments must be made no less than 60 days prior to your start date. This payment can be made in one lump sum or in several instalments. If you chose to take our insurance or book a flight with VatsalyaGram then these must be paid for (in full) at the time of booking.

We will outline instructions to make payment in our email communication with you.

14. Can I use VatsalyaGram's Volunteer participation certificate as part of a university or college placement?

PSP is a registered Non-Profit with arms across US/UK. It is certainly possible to use one of VatsalyaGram's volunteer program certificate as part of your university or college placement. Project staff can sign off any paperwork required by your course tutors, on successful completion of your program.

BEFORE YOU DEPART:



1. What are the qualifications?

For VG volunteers joining our teaching programs the only real 'qualifications' you need are bags of energy, commitment and enthusiasm. If however you'd like a chance to do some preparation work before you hit the classroom, we've got the perfect introductory course to teaching English abroad and understanding Indian Cultural values.

2. Can I fundraise for my trip?

We recommend setting up an online fundraising page to allow friends and families to learn more about your trip and make donations. (GoFundMe.com) This professional online fundraising service creates a personalized fundraising page for your VatsalyaGram trip, allowing you to set financial goals and get the message across about what you're doing. You can also share your VatsalyaGram fundraising page across various social media platforms such as Facebook and Twitter to spread the word.

3. Can I raise money for the projects?

The VatsalyaGram Foundation is a US/UK and India registered charity that has been set up to help provide financial aid and assistance to the projects we work with on an ongoing basis.

If what you experience at VatsalyaGram inspires you, you are encouraged to raise funds to support our projects across the country

4. What about vaccinations and Malaria tablets and other medical precautions?

As we are not medical experts we cannot, unfortunately, tell you exactly what vaccinations you'll need to obtain so it is vital you consult your local GP or travel clinic a few months before you intend to travel. Your local doctor/nurse will advise you as to what vaccinations and malaria prevention is needed for entry into your volunteer destination.

We do not take responsibility. Additional information can be found on your country's travel website.

US: <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/india>

UK: <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/india>

Canada: <https://travel.gc.ca/destinations/india>

5. How do I arrange my flights?

Most major airlines fly into New Delhi.

You can choose to book your flights independently or we can help you in arranging them. Through our close partnerships within the travel industry we are able to offer flights at very competitive rates. VatsalyaGram has a wealth of experience in travelling to and from our host countries; we know the most affordable ways to travel and the best airlines to use.

When you apply for a VatsalyaGram program we cannot guarantee your acceptance immediately. On receiving an application we have to liaise with our local team to ensure there is space available on the program and to assess your suitability for the specific project.

Therefore, we strongly recommend that you do not make any flight and/or travel arrangements until your program has been confirmed by us in writing. Once your program has been confirmed you're then free to book your flights either with VatsalyaGram or a through third party travel agent.

6. Will I be covered by some insurance during the stay?

It is mandatory that all VatsalyaGram volunteers hold travel insurance during the entire time on our program, this includes your travel to and from the host country. Although VG does everything to ensure your trip is safe, inevitably things can go wrong so you must adequately protect yourself.

Although we do not offer travel insurance, we can help you pick up a suitable one.

ON THE TRIP:



1. Can I arrange a private room?

All of our accommodation options involve sharing a room with other participants (always same-sex). If you wish for a private room, please mention the same in your application form

2. Can you cater to my dietary requirements?

Our team will do their best to cater for any dietary requirements but there may be instances where you may need to purchase alternative ingredients at your own expense. Our local team will be happy to guide you.

3. Are there any public holidays that effect project availability?

We aim to communicate as clearly and accurately as possible all holidays that effect project availability and changes to the itinerary. However, this usually represents a unique experience for volunteers to enjoy in the festivities and holidays themselves and/or our local teams will always do their best to find alternative project work if applicable.

4. What is the dress code at the projects?

All volunteers can wear casual clothing, including jeans, t-shirts, shorts till knee length, Capri's etc. Tank tops are not allowed due to regional religious beliefs of India which are conservative and reveling clothes are not mutually acceptable by Indian people.

It's a good idea to take some nicer clothes for the weekends and special occasions but please avoid tight and very short clothing. You should also avoid clothing that may have potentially offensive slogans on it. Tattoos and piercings should be covered where possible whilst you're at your placement, particularly if you're working with children.

5. How much spending money will I need?

The amount of extra spending money you should take depends on where you travel to on weekends and how many travel activities you plan to undertake during your free time. If you plan to go for different excursions during the weekend then you should budget accordingly. However, for general expenses and some independent travel, you should find \$50-\$200 per week a suitable amount.

6. Will I be able to travel whilst on the program?

You'll have plenty of opportunity to travel during your time with VatsalyaGram. In fact, we encourage you to travel during your free time. All of our programs

have been designed so that you have weekends off. This gives you the opportunity to explore the local area or even travel further afield around VG. Our local coordinators will provide you with all the travel tips you need to help you plan any independent adventures. Furthermore, you're going to meet so many new people during your time with VG that you'll definitely meet some travel buddies along the way!

Before booking your flights we recommend that you look into travel opportunities either side of your volunteering placement. It is always great to spend some time travelling and seeing more of India. (Agra, Rishikesh, Jaipur, Mussoorie)

If you do plan to travel extensively please factor this into your flight itinerary, as we only encourage travel during weekends while you're volunteering as you have made a commitment to the project.

Accommodation & Meals

Volunteer House



During your time with VatsalyaGram in India you will live in our Volunteer House located in Vrindavan, a unique spiritual town 130 miles from Delhi. You will find restaurants, convenience stores and ATMs all within walking distance. You might be living with other VG volunteers from around the world, so you'll make plenty of friends along the way.

The accommodation is comfortable with attached bathrooms. Each room has comfortable beds and tables. Volunteers are provided with fans in the room and their own bed linen. Bathrooms are clean, have a shower and western style toilet. The house has free Wi-Fi (although intermittent) and a communal area for volunteers to hang out. We encourage you to bring some small padlocks and/or store any valuables with our local team in their private area. There are facilities for volunteers to hand-wash and dry their clothes. A laundry service is also available for a nominal fee.

VatsalyaGram Family Accomodation

On special request and after thorough screening on suitability, female volunteers can also be housed with a wonderful host family from Vatsalyagram (a unique Vatsalyagram experience). Volunteers will have their shared living quarters, but still have regular interaction with our local coordinator. This accommodation setup offers volunteers the unique experience of living with our wonderful loving families, as well as getting the cultural immersion of staying with a host family. It really is the best of both worlds!

The majority of our projects are within walking distance of our Volunteer House.

Wifi	.....	Yes (Free)
Single Sex Rooms	.....	Yes
Western Bathroom Facilities	.....	Yes
Airport Transfer	.....	3 Hours (+traffic)
Nearest Atm & Shops	.....	15 Minute Walk

Meals

You will be served three freshly prepared meals per day. Most meals are traditional Indian dishes that can be typically quite spicy and made up of vegetarian ingredients, although pasta and other such western dishes are prepared every now and then. If you are not a huge lover of spicy food don't worry, there will always be a milder option available!

Here is an example of the meals you can expect:

Breakfast - Cereal, Milk, Bread, Jams, Fruit, Juice

Lunch - Mixed Rice, Vegetables, Curries, Chapati

Dinner - Pasta, Noodles, Samosas, Soup

* Our team will do their best to cater for any dietary requirements but there may be instances where you may need to purchase alternative ingredients at your own expense.

Volunteer Fees

DURATION	PROGRAM FEE
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7days	\$175
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14 days	\$350
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* These fees apply to each individual application.

How Do I Start?

Click here to apply.

