



**A great opportunity to Work, Study or Volunteer
In the Rural & Cultural Himalayan India**

RIAES
www.riaes.org.in

**RURAL INDIA AWARENESS & EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY
VPO Thakurdwara, Palampur Himachal Pradesh
INDIA 176102**

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Geographical Information

Location

We are based 550 Km North of New Delhi in the State of Himachal Pradesh. The city we are based in is known as Palampur in District Kangra at an elevation of 4500 Ft above sea level. The district of Kangra is very well known for its beautiful Tea gardens, Tourist Attractions specially Dharamsala which is just 30 Km east of Palampur. Dharamsala is the home town of The Dalai Lama and provides immense tourist and learning opportunities.

The village of Billing is 30 Km North of Palampur which has hosted several International Hang Gliding competitions. Palampur is also close to the start up points of very Interesting trekking routes through the Dhauladhar Mountain Ranges which are snow Cap Mountains with ample scenic sites .Palampur is blessed with natural water streams flowing from the mountains besides thick forest cover, culture and tradition promoted by the tribal herdsmen the Gaddis and also by the urban population which does not exceed 30,000 in this small hill city. Our base camp is in Bundla which is a small village 2 km from Palampur right next to natural water streams and the Neugal River.



Climate

Palampur enjoys a very tourist friendly climate throughout the year. The summers are mild with occasional showers unlike the hot summers in the plains The monsoon can be very harsh from July to September causing heavy rainfall. The winters from Dec to Feb are full of sunshine but the nights can be cold. The rest of the year is full of greenery and wildlife. Temperatures in the Summer range from 65 to 86 F and in winters from 50-70 F with 1-2 inches of snowfall every 2 years or so.



Accessibility

Palampur is connected by a National Highway from New Delhi and is a 10 hrs drive from there. The nearest airport is Gaggal that is 30 km south of Palampur which shuts down on and off based on weather.

The next nearest airport is Chandigarh which is connected by all major Indian Carriers and is a 5 hrs drive from Palampur. There is ample road transport connecting Palampur to Chandigarh and New Delhi throughout the year. The nearest rail link for express trains is Pathankot, 120 Km south of Palampur and has 7 to 9 trains daily to New Delhi which cover the journey in 6 to 8 hrs. There is also a toy train that starts from Pathankot through the mountains and brings you right up to Palampur but is time consuming but very scenic. We pick up all our volunteers from New Delhi airport.



Volunteer Programs

Volunteer Programs

We at RIAES provide opportunities to Volunteers to hand pick their programs and duration unless it is a specialist volunteer program. RIAES provides these programs at subsidized rates and pays 30 % of the costs for each volunteer from local sources to bring the fee down to very affordable rates as quoted below for the reason to attract more volunteers to help out in the cause that RIAES is pursuing:

2 & 4 Week English Teaching Volunteer Program

Volunteers go to nearby villages to government schools and teach English to children aged between 6-12 years. The teaching program is based on 6 days a week and 5 hours of teaching every day. The fee for this program which includes Boarding, Lodging, Food, Educational Supplies, Culture and Tourist tours. The program is running effective February 2006 on the 1st and 15th of every month. The four week programs start every 1st of the month. For groups of four or more we can design the above program on dates required by the group.

4 Week Cultural Volunteer Program

Volunteers get a great opportunity to learn about different cultures and communities by teaching in different communities and schools. The program starts with a two day orientation of the Caste & Community System in Rural India. The first week consists of Community English teaching in village Sloh. In this Rajput dominated community volunteers get a chance to meet and learn about Rajputs in Himachal. The interaction is dominantly with women and children. The second week consists of Teaching Health Awareness programs in Gaddi Villages (Herdsman of Himachal Pradesh). The Gaddis have preserved their ancient culture to date and are very receptive to new programs and ideas, a great learning and teaching experience. The third week consists of teaching English to Tibetan Children in a monastery in Mcleodganj the home of the Dalai Lama. Volunteers teach these kids English and also benefit from learning about Tibetan Culture. The final week of the program consists of visiting Monasteries & Village Temples, Volunteers help in a Hindu Marriage which includes decorating and making food arrangements for the marriage conducted free by RIAES for the needy and also a Sikh marriage doing the same and thus learning about traditions and ways of marriage in diverse communities. The last two days of the week include a tour to the Golden Temple in Amritsar a majestic sight made out of gold and a tremendous opportunity to learn about the Sikhs, The program starts on the 4th of every month effective July 2006.

4 Week Women Empowerment Volunteer Program

Volunteers go to women centers & to village communities known as Panchayats and educate women about the importance of literacy and child education. Volunteers also educate women about personal hygiene and prevention of communicable diseases. The program starts on the 4th of every month and is based on five days a week volunteer work with 4 hours of rural work every day.

4 Week Rural Physical Therapy Program

We work with a Non Profit Physical Therapy Center located in Palampur. Volunteers with science background especially biology in high school are required for this program. Volunteers with a certified Physical Therapist conduct camps in rural areas making people aware of physical therapy as a branch of medicine and joint wellness demonstrations for the elderly. The program is based on a 4 days a week, 6 hours a day basis. .The program starts on 10th of every month.



In Camp



Program / Semester Date & Fees

English Teaching Program

2 Weeks - USD 680

4 Weeks - USD 1140

Program begins 1st of Every Month Effective February, 2007-2008

4 Weeks Cultural Program

4 weeks fee – USD 1200

Program begins 4th of Every Month Effective February,2007-2008

Women Empowerment Program

4 Weeks - USD 1140

Program begins 4th of Every Month Effective February,2007-2008

Rural Physical Therapy Program

4 Weeks - USD 1400

Program begins 10th of every Month Effective February, 2007-2008

Fees Includes Boarding, Lodging, Food, Educational Equipment, Extra Inclusions & Local Transportation. Fees are due 15 days prior to the start of any of the programs.

The fees is non refundable after the start of the Program. Any disputes what so ever that may arise are subject to the Courts of Palampur Jurisdiction.

Extra Inclusions of all Semester & Volunteer Programs

- Receiving at New Delhi Airport by our Society Coordinator.
- Free Transportation to our Base camp in Palampur.
- Orientation class about the local area adaptation and culture.
- Accommodation on a twin sharing basis.
- Three meals a day.
- Trek to the Dhauladhar mountains. (1 to 2 days includes food and equipment).
- 2 day Trip to Dharamsala (food, lodging & transport included) and visiting of Buddhist temples and the Buddhist capital in exile governed by His Holiness the Dalai Lama.
- Visit to a Tea Garden and Tea factory.
- Insurance (Medical & Evacuation).
- Trip to nearby tourist attractions within 20 Km free of cost.
- Educational tours at to other areas of Himachal Pradesh.
- Folk dance presentations every Friday Night.
- Free Yoga & Meditation classes.
- Volunteer Night which includes food, DJ & drinks once Every two weeks.
- Two hours trip on antique Toy Train from Palampur to Baijnath, a distance of 20 Km through the scenic Kangra Valley.
- Free access to office service center. (Email, fax, copying etc).
- Local guide provided by RIAES. Our current ratio is one guide for every four volunteers.



Accommodation

RIAES have two 6 room houses located 4km from the city limit right in the scenic mountains to accommodate up to 16 volunteers on a twin sharing basis various programs. We also have host family accommodation for our solo volunteers where they can interact with the host family and can learn about Indian traditions and Indian way of cooking. The rooms are spacious with attached bathroom and basic amenities such as hot water, in house kitchen, internet, phone facility to make the stay of volunteers as comfortable as possible. Beside the room we have a local cook to prepare hygienic local and Indian food. Palampur is an extremely safe city and with almost negligible crime rate.



Contact Information

Our Website

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