



INDIA COMMUNITY PROJECT



ITINERARY – OUTLINE FOR BESPOKE TRIPS

DAY 1 DEPARTURE

We depart London on our flight to Kochi.

DAY 2 MUNNAR

Upon arrival at Kochi International Airport where we are met by our team who will be with us throughout our stay. We transfer through the Keralan countryside towards the hill town of Munnar. As the scenery slowly changes, we can see rubber, pepper, cardamom estates and finally tea plantations that grow within this region. We arrive at Munnar, set amidst dramatic mountain scenery, craggy peaks, tall redwood trees and some of the world's highest tea plantations. In the evening we are given a briefing on the project and our work over the next few days.

DAY 3 TREK TO PROJECT

We wake early and after breakfast, transfer by jeep along the winding mountain roads towards the Silent Valley Tea Estate. We begin trekking through the grasslands and Sholas (high altitude rainforests) towards our project area. Along the way we pass small hamlets and the local communities that work the spice and tea plantations. In the distance we can see the Anaerangal lake and if we are lucky, one of two elephants roaming the area. On arrival at our project site in Survanelli, we are introduced to the local community and are shown around the village. In the evening we enjoy some good local cuisine before settling down to an early night in preparation of the challenge ahead.

DAY 4-11 PROJECT WORK

For the next few days we get to work and in teams use our collective skills to construct a traditional water conservation system along the contours of the mountains. We break for lunch every day and return to our camp in the evening for a much deserved rest and evening meal. On our final day of work we hand back the project to the village in a special ceremony.

DAY 12 COCHIN

Today we transfer back to the plains and the beaches of Cochin to relax after the last few days work. In the evening we enjoy a fantastic dinner to celebrate our achievements and mark the end of our challenge.

DAY 13 RETURN HOME

We transfer to the airport for our flight back to the UK.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

Suryanelli village lies 30km away towards the east of Munnar near the region of Tamilnadu. The region receives only 650mm during the monsoon periods of the north east compared with Kerala's average of 3000mm.

The region's population has increased dramatically over the last few years, putting pressure on existing sources of portable water. This is accentuated by the additional cardamom and tea estates that have sprung up in the region, which has increased the water stress in the village and its surrounding areas.

THE PROJECT

For this challenge we will be working with the local community of Suryanelli to harvest the limited rain fall so that water supply for the people of the community, its animals and crops will be more readily available. We will be working with traditional methods of rainwater harvesting which is suited to the terrain of the region and its rainfall patterns such as contour bunding, staggered trenching and gully plugging.

In teams we will excavate the land and implement systems to prevent soil erosion. The work will be physically tough at times, but extremely rewarding and at the end of the project we will hand back over to the community by ceremony.



LOGISTICS



COSTS OF CHALLENGE

From £1895 per person

For groups less than 15 please get in touch

CHALLENGE COST INCLUSIONS

Pre-trip briefing by Action Challenge staff

International flights

Action Challenge logistics manager

Challenge medic with full emergency kit

English-speaking local facilitator/translator

Full local staff

All accommodation

Full communications

All meals, except in free time

All transfers

3 litres of purified water provided daily

Full UK office support and management

Event manual and full challenge brief

ACCOMMODATION

This Community Challenge is based on a fixed camp at the project and all other nights in comfortable 3* Hotels.

ABOUT ACTION CHALLENGE

As our name suggests, Action Challenge specialises in the creation of challenging, travel-based activities the world over. Since 1999, we have worked with many blue chip companies, over 600 national and regional charities, schools, sports clubs, groups of friends and individuals on both UK and overseas events. With over 160 itineraries in some of the most unexplored places on the globe, we are proud of lengths we go to, to bring our clients experiences they would be unable to find elsewhere.

FOOD

Breakfasts each morning will be at our Hotel/Lodge, lunch will be at the community project and evening meals will be back at the hotel or in a local restaurant.

WEATHER

October to November is one of the best times to visit Kerala after the monsoon the temperature is warm and visibility is excellent.

NOT INCLUDED

Travel insurance (this can be organised)

Fuel supplement

Single supplement

Visas

Local departure tax

Tips for local staff

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