



### What is VoluntEars?

**VoluntEars** arranges specialist volunteering trips to Sri Lanka for the D/deaf community and those working or training to work with them. You will do interesting practical work and make a worthwhile contribution to a local deaf school. You also have time off to travel and explore Sri Lanka.

### Who are VoluntEars?

**VoluntEars** was established by two friends, Richard Clowes and Nicolas Hall, who is profoundly deaf with speech. Their frustration that no organisation provided exciting and safe volunteering trips for the D/deaf community led to VoluntEars being established. Read more:

[www.voluntears.info](http://www.voluntears.info)

### Who can join?

We welcome a fantastic variety of volunteers on our trips. Common backgrounds are:

- D/deaf people of all ages
- Teachers of the deaf
- Students studying degrees such as Deaf Studies, Sign Language, Interpreting
- Families including a D/deaf person

### Why join VoluntEars?

- Learn what it's like to be deaf in another country, gain perspective on your life as a D/deaf person in your home country
- Do worthwhile work in Sri Lanka
- Learn about another culture
- Make new friends, both with Sri Lankans and other volunteers
- Have our support and guidance

- Develop your skills and confidence by helping others
- Travel in a tropical paradise; Sri Lanka

### What trips do we run?

We run 2 kinds of trips; 2 Week Group Trips and Flexi Trips.

**2 Week Group Trips** combine practical renovation work at a Sri Lankan deaf school in the mornings, cultural activities in the afternoons and weekend trips to an elephant orphanage, a turtle conservation project, and mystical Buddhist temples.

Popular with people wanting a group atmosphere, they are very organised trips. Our daily schedules ensure you achieve a lot in a short time. 2 Week Group Trips are highly supervised by **VoluntEars** staff who support the group 24-7 to ensure good interpretation and safety. These take place during summer, winter and Easter holidays. [Read more on our website.](#)

**Flexi Trips** offer flexible start dates and durations. Join us at any time of year for 2 weeks or longer; you decide! You will work alongside local teachers in a deaf school assisting in classes, helping run fun educational games with students. You can also get involved with sports like volleyball, cricket and tennis and help with vocational training like baking, carpentry, hair dressing, art, weaving and sewing and even mushroom cultivation!

Afternoons and weekends are free to spend with your host family, meeting other volunteers, relaxing on the beach and travelling further afield to explore Sri Lanka's many national parks, Buddhist temples, beautiful beaches and magnificent mountains. [Read more on our website.](#)

### What work will you do?

#### 2 Week Group Trips

Examples of work include:

- renovating classrooms
- painting murals on school buildings
- making vegetable gardens in the school grounds
- renovating dormitories / school accommodation
- making a badminton court for students to use

#### Flexi Trips

You will work alongside local Sri Lankan teachers in small classes where you will assist the local students with their work. This can range from giving individual students one-to-one help with something they don't understand to doing creative activities in small groups or playing games with younger children. By working with local deaf students and living nearby you will become an integral part of the community.

### What are the costs?

We have to charge a fee to provide our services. However, we try to keep our fees down by employing a small team of dedicated people, we don't have expensive offices and we don't pay huge salaries. Please visit our website for [current prices](#) and what's included.

### What are the benefits to our partner schools?

- Tangible improvement to school building / classrooms / dormitory / playground (for 2 Week Group Trips)
- Cultural exchange for local Sri Lankan students
- International friendships established between local students and volunteers
- Long term relationships mean deeper understanding and better help and assistance

### What are the benefits to you?

- Use your skills to help others
- Learn about a new culture
- Gain confidence by challenging yourself (with our support!)
- Improve future employability prospects by gaining valuable experience
- Make your CV stand out
- Make international friends for life

### How long are the trips?

Our 2 Week Group Trips are 2 weeks long. Our Flexi Trips are 2 weeks upwards; you choose!

### What are the dates?

2 Week Group Trips run on the following dates:

- ★ Sunday 27 March to Saturday 9 April 2016
- ★ Sunday 12 June to Saturday 25 June
- ★ Sunday 3 July to Saturday 16 July
- ★ Sunday 24 July to Saturday 6 Aug
- ★ Sunday 7 August to Saturday 20 August
- ★ Sunday 18 December to Saturday 31 December

Flexi Trips run all year round. You choose the start date and duration so you can fit it around your other plans.

### Our responsibilities & staff support

We take our responsibilities very seriously. **VoluntEars** carry out risk assessments for your work, accommodation, food arrangements and weekend trips (weekend trips only for 2 Week Group Trips). Our local Sri Lankan staff and UK staff meet all volunteers on arrival and will assist and support you throughout your stay.

**Want more information?**

Please get in touch to find out more about the trip of a lifetime!

Website: [www.voluntEars.info](http://www.voluntEars.info)

Call us: 01273 782288

Email us: [contact@voluntEars.info](mailto:contact@voluntEars.info)

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