



As part of this 10-12 day experience, travelers have a unique opportunity to not just visit a country but actually experience the culture as an active participant through immersion and volunteerism. Traveling with a small group of like-minded individuals with a passion for learning will make for an unforgettable adventure. The YMCA has a long history of international philanthropic exchange trips and partners with reputable change-making organizations abroad, providing participants an extraordinary cultural encounter like none other.

- The Madurai YMCA has been serving the needs of the local community since 1884 through social action programs and a mission of educating and empowering people in need. Currently 5,000 members strong, the Y is serving people from all walks of life. With the help of 110 staff members, more than 1,500 underprivileged children have had the opportunity to transform their lives and transition away from the most marginalized sections of society.
- Committed to serving our local community by harnessing the power of the global YMCA movement, we have established a partnership with Madurai, India. Our goals in creating this mutually benefiting partnership are to increase community engagement, expand cultural competencies and support the work of both YMCAs.

Madurai YMCA

Belleve Family YMCA

A GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP



FOSTERING INTERNATIONAL PHILANTHROPY

Global Exchange: Madurai, India 2015

Journey to the heart of South India for an unforgettable experiential expedition, making lasting memories through hands on service and cultural exchange.

October 7 -17, 2015

- Visit the city of Madurai and Madurai YMCA programs, plus Goa on the western coast
- Accommodations: Madurai YMCA guest house and hotel in Goa

PHASE ONE: PRE-TRIP

Orientation

Team Building

Cultural Overview

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PHASE TWO: TRIP

Day 1 – Arrival and temple visit

Day 2 – Welcome, orientation, Gandhi Museum

Day 3 – YMCA Rural Education programs visit, arts tour

Day 4 – YMCA School for the Mentally Challenged, Boys' Home

Day 5 – YMCA Center for the Hearing Impaired, afterschool programs visit

Day 6 – Travel to Goa

Day 7 – Explore Goa

Day 8 – Departure

TRIP HIGHLIGHTS:

- Explore one of the oldest continually inhabited cities in the world, known for its temples
- Build a community of like-minded individuals to support reputable change-making organizations abroad
- Be part of a mutual exchange of experiences and cultures
- Become familiar with local life and customs through a temple visit
- Discover the region's vibrant artistic community and historical significance with a cultural arts tour and a trip to the Gandhi Museum
- Engage with local children at the YMCA Boys' Home which provides housing and education for orphaned youth
- Find inspiration through a visit to the YMCA Center for the Hearing Impaired that supports students in speech language training and lip reading, integrating them into regular schools
- Learn about India's striking culture by interacting with community members
- Investigate India's Portuguese influence, colonial architecture and exotic beaches with a trip to Goa, on the western coast along the Arabian Sea

QUESTIONS & TO REGISTER:

CONTACT:

Jackie Martinez – Vasquez
Community and Global Engagement Executive
jmvasquez@seattlemca.org or 206 331 7882

Paul Lwali

Executive Director, Bellevue Family YMCA
plwali@seattlemca.org or 425 746 9900

global.seattlemca.org

OUR PARTICIPANTS

Through service and daily interaction with local kids, our participants will gain a deeper understanding of the challenges facing the children of Madurai, the global reach of the YMCA, and their individual role in creating a supportive international development community.

TRIP COST

Total cost: \$5,500*

Fee covers travel costs including airfare, accommodations, meals, guide fees, and local transportation.

*A significant portion of your fee will be a direct donation to support local programs. Cohort members are encouraged to fundraise for global programming beyond this initial contribution.