

RUCHI, INDIA

RC-01/25 Solan/RUCHI Holi-Festival of Colors 10 Vols. 03.03.25 – 15.03.25

Background: One of the major festivals of India, Holi is celebrated with enthusiasm and gaiety on the **full moon day** in the month of **Phalgun** which is the month of March as per the Gregorian calendar. Holi is also called the **Spring Festival** - as it marks the arrival of spring the season of hope and joy. Entire country wears a festive look when it is time for Holi celebration. During the year 2025, main Holi festival (playing with colours) falls on 14th March, though celebrations in different forms start 4 days before the main festival. Market places get abuzz with activity as frenzied shoppers start making preparations for the festival. Heaps of various hues of colors can be seen on the roadside days before the festival. Womenfolk cook loads of **sweet dishes** for the family and also for the relatives.

People light a bonfire at important crossroads, called Holika on the eve of Holi festival and celebrate the victory of good over evil.

Location & leisure: The project site is Ruchi campus and the nearby Bandh village (1 km) in Solan district. It is 30 km from Kalka and 70 km from Chandigarh. The village is small with 35 families.

Self organized city tours and excursions. Old Sikh and Hindu temples in the near vicinity can be visited. Nearby Kasauli town is another hill station as a tourist attraction. A visit to Shimla will offer an opportunity to see high Himalayan Mountains.

Work: The Holi festival celebrates the onset of spring and renewal. Coming forth with the full flush of life, the invigorating air of Holi festivities spreads into the lives of people throughout the year.

With an initial orientation on festivals, you will get chance to participate in our ongoing humanitarian projects addressing ground realities and needs of communities. We will be visiting communities and schools to create awareness, share experiences on culture and festivals, learning from community actions and be involved in ongoing projects. The major festival will be attended to on 8th march when you will play with colours.



Accommodation: Volunteers will live under simple conditions and share accommodation with other volunteers. English WC will be available. Vegetarian food will be served. Sleeping bags are not required.

International Terminal: IGI Delhi

Domestic Terminal: Chandigarh (70 kms)

Nearest railway station: Kalka (30 kms)

Participation Fee: Euro 230/-

Background: Through this project we aim to provide volunteers with an enriching (rural & urban) experience where they would participate in our ongoing rural community development initiatives aimed at uplift of marginalized people and later move to McLeodganj, Dharamshala where Tibetan Government in exile has its head quarters. Volunteers here would get chance to increase their understanding about Tibetan Culture, their movement and their ongoing struggle to keep their identity alive. Relates to SDG-11 (Sustainable cities and communities)



Location & Leisure time: (1st week) RUCHI Campus at village, Bandh of Solan district and (2nd week) in the town of Mcloedganj in Dharamshala, a tourist hub.

In the first week, Nearby Kasauli town is a major attraction. A visit to Shimla will offer an opportunity to see high Himalayan Mountains and British architecture.

During 2nd week, the volunteers will visit Dharamshala, the headquarters of Tibetan Government in exile. Opportunities will be there for short and long treks in the mountains. After the camp, if they like, volunteers may visit Golden Temple in Amritsar, Punjab.

Work: During 1st week volunteers would join us in our headquarter which is based at a rural location where they have opportunity to live & experience a typical mountain village culture, their lifestyle and during process join our ongoing initiatives like NFE, women empowerment, NRM (Protection of fresh water sources), organic farming etc. They will also enjoy the opportunity to witness and participate in Holi festival (Festival of colours) during this week.

During 2nd week the group would move to Mcloedganj in Dharamshala which is a touristic town and also Secretariat of Tibetan Government in exile. Over here they would visit Tibetan, monasteries, museum, schools and join language classes with Tibetan monks. There is a likelihood that we may take up some cleanliness work or some other activity. Otherwise, this week will be more of touristic and culture sharing.

Accommodation and Food: Volunteers will live in shared accommodation in both places. The minimum basic amenities will be available. Vegetarian food will be served but in the town you will have access to non-vegetarian meals as well. A cook will be there but volunteers are expected to help him and occasionally cook their own meals and self-management is required.

Requirements: Interest in understanding different life styles and issues with a sharing and learning ability, High motivation & open mindedness is a must.

International Terminal: New Delhi

Domestic Terminal: Chandigarh

Nearest railway station: Kalka

Participation Fee: Euro 260