



RUCHI

Rural Centre for Human Interests

Volunteer India Program

Bilateral/Group Projects - 2026

Group Work Camps

RUCHI organises and hosts group work camps in partnership with local village councils, universities and schools. Technical and other project support will be provided by RUCHI. Projects encourage inter cultural exchanges with local communities and empower them for self sustainability.

Project Details

Code	Project	Location	Period	Activities
RC-GWC-01/26	Back to Nature and Trails	RUCHI Bandh	10 days	Live in harmony with nature and assist in developing Village trails. Developing path and clearing bushes.
RC-GWC-02/26	Natural farming	RUCHI Bandh	10 days	Promoting good Agriculture practices and organic farming.
RC-GWC-03/26	Conservation of traditional water springs	RUCHI Bandh	10 days	Protect and conserve natural springs for potable water
RC-GWC-04/26	Tibetan Culture	Dharams hala	7 days	Learn about Tibetan way of life and intercultural exchange
RC-GWC-05/26	Explore the Unexplored	RUCHI Bandh	7 days	Explore historical or ancient monuments which have remained unknown to tourists

1. Group size: Minimum 10 - 15
2. Dates: Open round the year (to be decided with interested partner on mutual agreement)
3. Duration: 7-10 days
4. Participation fee: Ranges between 200 and 230 Euros



RUCHI CAMPUS

Code: RC-GWC-1/26 **Back to Nature and trails**

Age: 18+

Location: RUCHI Campus in forest area (Solan)

Joining dates: January to December

No. of Vols: 10 - 15

Duration: 10 days

Background: Since generations the people have been living with nature – protecting and preserving it along with its exploitation for their survival. However, the greed of a few and unplanned infrastructure development the forests are receding leading to climate change and global warming. Due to current life style, the people are becoming less adaptive to changing environment and cannot differentiate between needs and wants.

Work: The project aims at restoring old paths in the Bandh–Shilli village tract. Volunteers take part in conservation activities, including physical tasks such as clearing trails and rebuilding dry stone walls

The project work involves conservation activities including manual work on development or restoration of old paths in the Shilli tract of this interior hilly area and will involve physical work: clearing paths, moving stones aside, rebuilding dry stone walls, put up signs, collected fallen fuel woods and enhancing the paved sections of the paths. Other activities will be planned keeping in view the flora and fauna of the area.

The project aims to create awareness and respect among youth towards local culture, nature and environment. During this project volunteers will live in lap of nature with just basic living facilities (Accommodation and toilets (Bath + WC)). We aim to provide an experience of living in wilderness with bare necessity and connecting with nature.

Food & Accommodation: Volunteers will stay at peaceful RUCHI campus on twin/triple sharing basis. Bed and beddings are provided. Simple basic amenities will be available. Though cooked authentic Indian vegetarian meals will be served volunteers are expected to assist the cook.

Location& Leisure Time: The project location is countryside in the foothills of Himalayas, 25 kms off the Baddi township in Solan district, Himachal Pradesh. The area offers a unique opportunity to live with nature in a peaceful environment.

During leisure time, discover vibrant rural life, visit nearby places of attraction like old Sikh and Hindu temples, Kasauli hill station. A visit to Shimla, the state capital, will offer an opportunity to see high Himalayan Mountains and British architecture.

International Terminal: New Delhi and Chandigarh

Nearest railway station: Kalka (30 kms)

Participation Fee: Euro 230 per person



Code: RC- GWC-2/26 Natural Farming

Age: 18+

Location: RUCHI Complex (Solan)

Joining dates: January to December

No. of Vols: Min. 10

Duration: 10 days

Background: According to recently concluded census, close to 70 % of India's population is agriculture dependent. As a result we are world's highest and second highest producers of fruits and vegetables. With introduction of new technical inputs agriculture production is more likely to head north. Unfortunately in pursuit of higher income few farmers are resorting to in-organic agriculture produce which is neither healthy nor sustainable.

With technical assistance from state horticulture department we have established a community farm in 5 hectare, where RUCHI will promote Good Agriculture Practices and also practice organic farming. This farm will be used for demonstration and educational purpose in future. Living close to nature and forest, our farm land is frequented by wild animals who cause damage to crop, therefore success of this project highly depends on protection of designated area by installing and repairing security fence around it.

Work: Volunteers will assist in installation work of a protective fence. This will involve physical work on dry stone wall construction, putting up barbed wire or vegetative fencing. They will also be required to introduce and promote natural farming practices including preparing organic manure, soil working, pruning and other related activities.

Food & Accommodation: Volunteers will stay at peaceful RUCHI campus on twin/triple sharing basis. Bed and beddings are provided. Simple basic amenities will be available. Though cooked authentic Indian vegetarian meals will be served volunteers are expected to assist the cook.

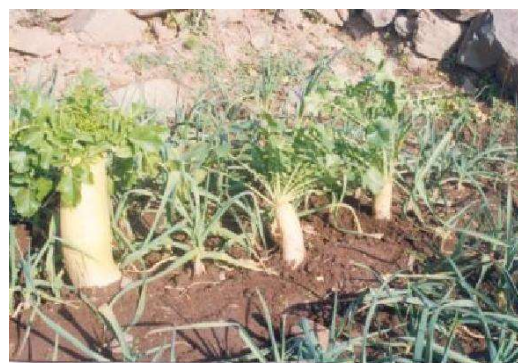
Location & Leisure Time: Ruchi campus which is located near Bandh village. It is 30 km from Kalka town and 60 km from Chandigarh city. The area offers a unique opportunity to live with nature in a peaceful environment.

During leisure time, discover vibrant rural life, visit nearby places of attraction like old Sikh and Hindu temples, Kasauli hill station. A visit to Shimla, the state capital, will offer an opportunity to see high Himalayan Mountains and British architecture.

International Terminal: New Delhi and Chandigarh

Nearest railway station: Kalka (30 kms)

Participation Fee: Euro 230 per person



Code: RC- GWC-3/26 Conservation of traditional water springs

Age: 18+

Location: RUCHI Complex (Solan)

Joining dates: January to December

No. of Vols: 10-15

Duration: 10 days

Background: Himachal Pradesh is rich in natural resources. The State gets plentiful of rains but still faces acute water shortage especially during harsh summer. Fresh water springs are perennial source of drinking water for community and local wild life. However, due to increasing human pressure and negligence our fresh water sources are facing threat of extinction. With decreasing ground water table they are drying. Their importance cannot be under-estimated as they provide sustainability and bio diversity to the area.

Work: Under the project we aim to protect and recharge our fresh water springs, the major source of potable drinking water in mountains. There are many fresh water springs in this area and each volunteer group will help to restore and recharge one spring at a time. Each spring serves more than 100 families.

The project will involve physical work on improving access, construction, repair maintenance and removing mud/silt. It is great opportunity for volunteers wishing to have a career in natural resource management. Recharging a spring is a slow process which requires at least a year to measure impact.

Food & Accommodation: Volunteers will stay at peaceful RUCHI campus on twin/triple sharing basis. Bed and beddings are provided. Simple basic amenities will be available. Though cooked authentic Indian vegetarian meals will be served volunteers are expected to assist the cook.

Location & Leisure Time: Ruchi campus which is located near Bandh village. It is 30 km from Kalka town and 60 km from Chandigarh city. The area offers a unique opportunity to live with nature in a peaceful environment.

During leisure time, discover vibrant rural life, visit nearby places of attraction like old Sikh and Hindu temples, Kasauli hill station. A visit to Shimla, the state capital, will offer an opportunity to see high Himalayan Mountains and British architecture.

International Terminal: New Delhi and Chandigarh

Nearest railway station: Kalka (30 kms)

Participation Fee: Euro 230 per person



Code: RC-GWC-4/26 Tibetan Culture

Age: 18+

Location: Dharamshala

Joining dates: January to December

No. of Vols: Min. 10

Duration: 7 days

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.

Work: The volunteers would visit Tibetan monasteries, museum, schools and join language classes with Tibetan monks. The Tibetan schools will tell stories of their fleeing and about Tibetan culture. There is a likelihood that we may take up some cleanliness work or some other activity. Otherwise, this visit will be more of touristic with leisurely walks and culture sharing.

Location & Leisure time: Dharamkot in McLeodganj, Dharamshala, the headquarters of Tibetan Government in exile in the northern Indian state of Himachal Pradesh.

Dharamshala is well known as a much sought after tourist attraction. The volunteers can visit a water fall in Bhagsu, visit a church, Lord Shiva Temple and many other monasteries.

Food & Accommodation: Volunteers will stay in a private Guest House in Dharamkot, 2 km away from main McLeodganj market on twin/triple sharing basis. Bed and beddings are provided. Simple basic amenities will be available. Though cooked authentic Indian vegetarian meals will be served volunteers are expected to assist the cook.

International/Domestic Terminal: New Delhi and Dharamshala

Nearest railway station: Pathankot

Participation Fee: Euro 230



Code: RC-GWC-5/26 Explore the Unexplored

Age: 18+

Location: RUCHI in Solan District

Joining dates: January to December

No. of Vols: Min. 10

Duration: 7 days

Background: Through this project we aim to provide volunteers with an enriching experience in terms of historical sites exploration, cultural immersion, eco trekking and gain grass roots experience in rural communities. Volunteers here would get chance to increase their understanding about Indian Culture, cuisine and visit places of historical importance not figuring on international tourist map.

Location & Leisure time: Volunteers would join us at our headquarters (Bandh village campus in Solan district) which is based at a rural location where they have opportunity to live & experience a typical mountain village culture and their lifestyle.

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

Work: The project will offer a mix of cultural immersion, eco trekking and understanding community life. Three activities are planned. In cultural immersion, three sites will be covered: 1: Haripur or Joharji Gurudwara (an age old temple of Sikhism religion importance where people visit to take blessings and fulfill their wishes), 2: Hanuman Mandir (probably the oldest Lord Monkey Temple) and 3: Snake Temple. All these places are historical but do not figure on international tourist map. A short eco-trek will also be planned involving a cleanliness drive.

During the camp, a community grass roots experience sharing session will also be planned where they would participate and learn from our ongoing initiatives like NFE, women empowerment, NRM (Protection of fresh water sources), organic farming etc.

Accommodation and Food: Volunteers will stay at peaceful RUCHI campus on twin/triple sharing basis. Bed and beddings are provided. Simple basic amenities will be available. Though cooked authentic Indian vegetarian meals will be served volunteers are expected to assist the cook.

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 and Chandigarh
Participation Fee: Euro 200

Nearest railway station: Kalka

