

What is Volunteering in Goa at El Shaddai through Gonserve Bethel Hospitality PVT Ltd?

- Volunteering is a golden opportunity to give back to the community by sharing your time and talents in making good happen.
- Gonserve Bethel Hospitality PVT Ltd is a hospitality company that partners with El Shaddai Charitable Trust for volunteering in Goa
- Gonserve Bethel Hospitality PVT Ltd looks after the accommodation, transport and other requirements of the volunteers during their stay in Goa
- If you are looking at volunteering in Goa, El Shaddai needs volunteers with various skillsets to help them throughout the year.
- El Shaddai run the Shanti Niketan School in Assagao. This is a non-formal school for children from underprivileged communities in Goa. The role of the volunteers within the school is vital in providing skills training and individual attention to the children.
- El Shaddai also need volunteers to help with activities at their shelters and community centers across Goa.

How can Volunteers help?

- Volunteers are deployed according to the needs of El Shaddai with a view to utilising the volunteers' skills.
- Examples of this are helping the children with their studies, giving extra tuition for those who need it, helping our teachers and children with arts & craft, dressmaking, sports, imparting education in health care and hygiene in the slum communities.
- Please let us know when completing the volunteer application form what skills you have and what you would like to help us with. We're sure you will find volunteering with us very rewarding and fulfilling.

What is a typical Volunteers' week?

- During the week, you may find yourself helping in the School, one of the Shelters or Community Centres or in the slums.
- You may be asked to help at the stall at the Wednesday Anjuna Flea Market.
- On Saturday and Sunday afternoons, El Shaddai has a beach programme, when they take their resident children to the beach for fun and games.
- Lunch will be provided at the Day Shelters and at School, a "lunch pack" will be given.
- You cook your own evening meal, for which basic food items will be provided, comparable to that provided in our Homes. If you wish to eat out or have more luxurious food, that is at your own expense.
- To aid better efficiency in the volunteer programme, volunteers are asked to arrive on the first or third Monday in the month and to leave on a Friday.
- If this conflicts with University term dates etc., please discuss alternatives with our Volunteer Co-ordinator.

What are the Pre-requisites for Volunteering at El Shaddai in Goa

- A DBS or Police check.
(We have a responsibility to ensure all volunteers who work with us have a clear police check, this is in line with our Child Protection policy).
- Most of our children and staff have a good level of spoken English, so to enable communication, a good level of spoken English is a requirement.
- A willingness to adapt to the culture, work hard, help and make a difference

What is the Cost of Volunteering?

The Cost of Volunteering with Gonserve Bethel Hospitality PVT Ltd is £750 per month.

This includes:

- Accommodation – AC rooms
- Transport – Airport/station Pickup and Drop
- Volunteering – help with volunteering in El Shaddai
- Food – as outlined under ‘a Typical Volunteers Week’
- Administrative Costs

Volunteers may also come for 2 weeks (£500) or 3 weeks (£600). If a Volunteer wishes to stay for 2 months, this would cost £1250.

El Shaddai Policy for Volunteers

It is mandatory to comply with the following:

Dress Code

- To wear your ID badges at all times on site (this will be provided when you arrive, during your Induction).
- Always wear suitable clothing whilst around our staff and children (cover your shoulders and knees).
- We will provide 2 t-shirts; these must be worn at all times whilst on duty with either three quarter or long trousers or skirt (not mini).
- When on beach duty, ladies should wear a top - El Shaddai t-shirt with shorts over bikini/swimsuit. Men should wear swimming shorts, not trunks and a top - El Shaddai t-shirt.
- Always remove your shoes when entering our Homes.
- Smoking and/or drinking of alcohol is NOT PERMITTED when on duty.

Favouritism, Do's and Don'ts

- It is often difficult during your time with the children not to have “favourites”. We always insist all children are treated in the same way, so please do not give anything to one child if you are not able to give to all the children in the Centre.
- Please do not give any gifts or items to a child without first consulting the House In Charge or another member of staff in their absence. No gifts to staff or visits to staff homes as this may cause distrust.
- Goa is one of the most westernized States in India, as well as being a highly lucrative tourist area. English is widely spoken and many westernized values and ideas influence daily life. However, the majority of our children come from other States, which have not been exposed to many of the western values we take for granted. The same applies to many of our staff and we would always ask you to be respectful and sensitive to their views and culture at all times.
- DO NOT offer to take the children anywhere or spend time alone with a child without a member of staff being present as this is against our Child Protection Policy.
- Please DO NOT discuss problems or complaints with the house staff or children as this may cause distress or start rumors.
- Obviously, we want your volunteering experience with El Shaddai to be as enjoyable as possible but please remember the primary objective of your visit is to support the children and their welfare must always be your first priority.
- Please respect there are sometimes very different ways of doing things in India to where you may come from!

Arrival in Goa

- On arrival at Goa Airport, Goa volunteers will be picked up at the airport by a member of Gonserve Bethel Hospitality.
- Please look out for your name on a board.
- From the airport, we will drive you to your allocated volunteer accommodation.
- Once you have settled into your accommodation, we will arrange for you to have your Induction.
- As part of your induction with El Shaddai, you will be introduced to the team, have an ID badge made, supplied with El Shaddai branded tops (to be worn at all times when volunteering for El Shaddai), and answer any questions you may have.
- You will visit some El Shaddai's Homes and Shelters, including their School.

Accommodation for Volunteers in Goa

- Gonserve Bethel Hospitality will try to keep males and females in separate properties but sometimes this is not possible. Please clearly inform us if this is a requirement for you. All of our properties are reasonable Indian standard.
- The properties where we house our volunteers have either AC or fans and mosquito nets at the doors and windows so mosquito nets aren't a requirement, however if you plan to travel in India, it may be worth bringing a net.
- The Gonserve Bethel Coordinator (Oswyn Dsouza., Mob no: 9529750193) will take care of all your needs while you are with us. If you need any assistance, advice, require medical attention etc, please contact him. He will arrange airport transfer to your accommodation, food and your introduction to El Shaddai.

Transport to and from the place of work

- Please be aware that driving conditions and practices are different to what you are used to. Bus fares are cheap depending on distance (no journey should cost you more than Rs 40).
- Scooters can be hired at your own risk; Gonserve Bethel Hospitality can arrange this for you for approximately Rs 250 – 300 per day depending on the season.
- It is compulsory that you wear a helmet at all times which will be provided with the scooter.

Useful Information when Volunteering in Goa

- Goa is a beautiful State, we would recommend you see as much of it as possible.
- The main tourist areas in the north are between Candolim, Calangute and Baga. However, if you're staying in Assagao, your nearest beach is at Vagator which is within cycling distance. The beaches in Goa are beautiful sandy beaches stretching for miles but as you can imagine the main beaches do get crowded at times.
- There are many secluded beaches north of the Chapora River such as Morjim, Ashvem and Mandrem. They have "huts" that you can stay in overnight if you fancy "getting away from it all" for the weekend.
- The food in Goa is excellent, catering for international tastes as well as local Indian food.
- Changing your money to rupees is better done locally, rather than at the airport. Rupees are not available outside of India. There are many ATMs where you can use your bank card, but beware of possible rejection by your bank, for fear of fraud, so bring some cash;

The Climate:

Goa is warm all year around, usually varying from 28 degrees C to 36 degrees C. The Monsoon period usually starts towards the end of May and continues to the end of September. Between November and January, the days are warm and the evenings a little cooler, then from February to April the weather gets gradually hotter with May being one of the hottest and humid months of the year.

Volunteering in Goa: Next Steps

- Send an email to gonservebethel@gmail.com and let the Company Representative know that you are interested in volunteering.
- Complete the application form including dates etc and send it to him/her.
- Begin getting your DBS or police check, as we will need a copy of this for documentation purpose.
- Send your fees online through our bank details or, if you are from UK, to our UK office with completed Gift Aid Form if you are a UK Taxpayer.
- Once all the above is cleared and the Company Representative has confirmed the dates and received payments, you need to apply for a Tourist Visa, arrange travel insurance (compulsory), get your references and book your flight.
- We are always ready to listen to new ideas. Should you have any suggestions, queries or problems during your stay, please write them down and put them in the suggestion box provided or contact your our Gonserve Bethel Hospitality Pvt Ltd representative
- Towards the end of your stay you will be asked to complete an 'end of stay questionnaire' this will give you an opportunity to voice your opinions or any concerns you may have.

Happy Volunteering in Goa!