

Aussies for Orphans Incredible India Trip



WHAT?

Join us for a once in a lifetime adventure on the *Aussies for Orphans Incredible India Trip* to help get disadvantaged children from Kalyanpuri and Yamuna River Slum in East Delhi off the streets and out of danger.

We have created a 'money can't buy' holiday sure to amaze, move and inspire even the most seasoned traveller. Discover India's kaleidoscope of colour and fascinating history with an itinerary you definitely won't find anywhere else! Take a journey through the land of Maharajas, palatial palaces, incredible landscapes, crazy cities and bustling markets as we stay in heritage accommodation filled with character and charm. Be touched by the warmth and hospitality of India's beautiful people and get a unique insight into this ancient culture dating back thousands of years. With the perfect balance between sightseeing, adventure, relaxation, your own time to explore and experience the traditional way of life, you will do more than just see India, you'll live it.

From a special show performed by the children of The Brighter Future's Study Centre to a camel safari under the full moon, being welcomed into the home of an Indian family for dinner, sunset cocktails overlooking the magnificent Taj Mahal and being serenaded by fifty young Brahmin priests in a sacred fire ceremony; so many magic moments will be yours to cherish long after you return home from this extraordinary journey of the soul and senses.

WHO?

Aussies for Orphans is a Northern NSW based children's charity, established in 2005 after the Tsunami in Sri Lanka. We work closely with local NGOs in developing countries to provide orphans and vulnerable children with access to health care, education and life skills, enabling them to move onto the next phase of their lives, confident that they can provide for themselves and others.

We all have the capacity to help create positive change, but sometimes we get so busy and find ourselves thinking "how much difference can I really make anyway?" Aussies for Orphans are about bringing together great people to do great things. We are also about making it easy to help and having fun in the process.

No matter what your birth place, religion or culture may be, the one thing we all have in common is the desire to live our lives with dignity and pride. Over the last seventeen years we have created real and lasting change in the lives of hundreds of disadvantaged children in Cambodia, Africa and Nepal, working with international development agencies around the world including World Relief Australia, Rotary Australia, World Community Service, Nepcam Trust Aid Fund and Global Development Group.

With a dedicated committee in Northern NSW and a team of big hearted donors and volunteers, we continue to protect and uplift children around the world who need it the most.

WHY?

One more day on the streets of East Delhi is one day too many for the children of Kalyanpuri and Raj Ghat Slum. It can literally be a matter of life and death. Children as young as four in these slums are forced to scavenge on putrid garbage dumps for recyclable rubbish to survive, in constant danger of life threatening disease, abuse and trafficking.

On average, eighteen children go missing in Delhi every day and according to statistics 44,000 children disappear in India each year, with one in four children remaining untraced. The actual number of abducted children is believed to be much higher.

WHEN?

Wednesday December 27th 2017 - Tuesday January 9th 2018.

HOW?

By the end of 2017 we will have raised a minimum of \$25,000 due to the generosity of our adventurous travel partners coming on our inaugural Incredible India tour in December this year.

Our goal is to kick start a ground breaking education initiative centered around the performing arts that is set to change the destiny of extremely vulnerable children living in the slums Kalyanpuri and Raj Ghat Slum, East Delhi.

By nurturing the talent children from the slums and staging a musical based on the true story of Rahul, a boy from Kalyanpuri Slum who was abducted earlier this year, these children can not only use music, dance and drama to help heal their hearts, but also raise awareness and funds to protect and educate and change the destiny of hundreds of other vulnerable children.

We aim to launch the show at the World Sacred Spirit Festival held at the magnificent Mehrangarh Fort in Rajasthan in early 2019 and then tour Australia that same year. Through the generosity of Aussie for Orphans supporters, our partner Lakshya Aakriti Foundation will be able to launch the project in New Delhi at a location near where the children live, and longer term, establish The Destiny Performing Arts Academy on 2.5 acres of donated land near the banks of the River Ganges in Varanasi, India.

Once we have secured enough funds to launch the project we will enlist the support of high profile public figures in the entertainment industry and some of the best teachers and production managers to prepare the children for the stage show.

The success of the academy and the show itself will serve as a shining example of what can be achieved when communities from two different worlds come together with focus and determination to bring children's dreams alive and through education and training enable them to literally change their destiny.

We may not be able to change the world, but we can make a world of difference!

HOW MUCH?

Experience this incredible 13 day tour for the heavily discounted price of \$2,500 AUD (below cost), excluding international flights. All trip participants are required to raise a minimum of \$1,000 (donated or fundraised). If you would like assistance with fundraising ideas and/or receive AFO marketing support materials, contact Sue Lewis on 0423 555 739 / sue@aussiesfororphans.org

All proceeds from the trip go to establishing Project Destiny. Financial statements are prepared annually by Aussies for Orphans and Lakshya Aakriti Foundation after comprehensive assessment by independent auditors and compliant with international financial reporting standards.

NEXT STEPS...

1. **Confirm your place** by calling or emailing Sue Lewis to request a Trip Registration Form.
2. **Complete the Trip Registration Form** and return via email.
3. **Acknowledge receipt and acceptance of Trip Terms and Conditions** via email.
4. **E-mail Sue a copy of your passport** to secure your international/domestic flights,
5. **Transfer** funds for the international flight at the special discounted group rate of \$1,445 (subject to availability) ex-Brisbane/Sydney and 50% deposit for accommodation/complete payment of three internal flights (\$1,000) by **October 20th, 2017**.

Account Name - Aussies for Orphans Inc.
BSB - 637 000
Account Number - 713713201
Description - Your name

Note: to arrange travel insurance at a discounted group rate, upgrade your international flight or plan onward travel please contact our Group Travel Consultant, Tiffany Ambler of Escape Travel directly on (02) 4723 7677 tiffany.ambler@escapetravel.com.au

6. **Transfer funds for the balance of accommodation/ground travel** into the above account (\$1,500) by **November 20th, 2017**.
7. **Transfer your donation** to AFO by **December 20th, 2017** to a different account as detailed below:

Account Name - Aussies for Orphans Overseas Aid Fund
BSB - 032 591
Account No - 180686
Description - Your name

8. **Get ready** for the trip of your life!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YerRGSysM8o>



AFO Founders,
Steve and Sue Lewis



Nandini



Balli, Sameer, Ritik & Arjun



Puja S. Singh - LAF, Joanne
Heath - AFO, Diptesh Singh - LAF

We look forward to sharing this incredible journey with you.

Thank you for your support!

AFO Management

www.aussiesfororphans.org www.lafindia.org

A Little Boy Named Rahul

Diptesh (co-founder of LAF) first met Rahul in 2014 outside a Sikh temple in East Delhi. He was standing in a long queue waiting for his turn to receive free food. He was about four years old then. Diptesh noticed Rahul because even after receiving a full plate of vegetable curry, rice and bread he asked for a take away food parcel. The food serving team were so busy they ignored his repeated request.

Diptesh was intrigued by this determined little boy and wanted to help him. He approached Rahul asking about his family and where he lived, but Rahul was not the least bit interested in having a conversation. All he was interested in was how he was going to get a food parcel. Diptesh offered to help and see him home safely to which Rahul agreed.

They walked through alleyways between slum houses, bushes and rubbish dumps to reach an old bus stand next to a broken sewage pipeline where he live with a lady who was nearly blind in her eighties. Rahul introduced the old lady to Diptesh and proceeded to give her the food packet. Diptesh swallowed back the tears. Never before had he met a four year old boy who took responsibility like this for his grandmother.

In the days that followed Diptesh found out that Rahul had been orphaned as a baby. He enrolled Rahul into the Brighter Futures Study Centre, found him shelter amongst the one hundred and ten families of Kalyanpuri Slum associated with the Lakshya Aakriti Foundation project and organised to have food delivered to his grandmother regularly on the promise that he attend classes every day.

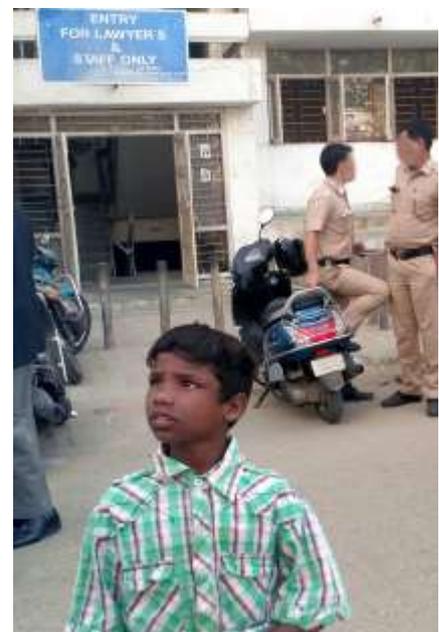
Like the majority of children living in Kalyanpuri Slum back then, Rahul was rag picking on rubbish dumps for recyclable materials every morning. He was also begging outside temples on Saturdays and labouring at a brick shop in exchange for food. Today Rahul is going to school but still rag picking and begging as needed.

Rahul has a magnetic quality about him, makes friends easily and includes rickshaw drivers, vegetable sellers, hawkers and beggars amongst his good friends. Despite his troubled past he appears to be a happy child with an infectious personality and a priceless smile. Anywhere else, such qualities would work in Rahul's favour, but in the back streets of East Delhi they can get a child into all sorts of trouble.

This is Rahul's story...



Food distribution location, East Vinod Nagar



Rahul outside the Karkarduma Law Court

On Sunday, the 2nd of April this year, Rahul was filling a bucket of water on a road side at five thirty in the morning when two women grabbed him and forced him into a waiting car nearby. Three days later, Diptesh received a call from Javeen, one of the LAF project volunteers reporting that Rahul was missing and that no-one had seen him for three days.

When Diptesh questioned Javeen about why it had taken so long to inform him, he replied that Rahul had a habit of travelling long distances on public buses to go begging or rag picking in new areas. He often returned late at night before waking to the sound of Muslim prayers to start collecting recyclables again, so it was possible not to see him for several days.

Diptesh wasn't in Delhi at the time so he asked one of the LAF volunteers Anil Pandey and Senior Teacher at the Brighter Futures Study Centre Chandra Shekhar to lodge a First Information Report (FIR) in person at the police station immediately. During this time, Anil and Chandra were able to track down Pankaj, Rahul's uncle who lived in a slum nearby to assist with the investigation.

Diptesh travelled to Delhi the following day and the search for Rahul began. As the days passed, conflicting reports from eye witnesses and the police started coming forward and the relentless pursuit of this missing little boy continued.

Desperate to find Rahul, Diptesh proposed to the Investigating Officer the idea of organising a gathering of 1,000 residents from Kalyanpuri Slum to raise more awareness about the disappearance of Rahul and sending out a press release to media agencies around the city alerting them of the case.

In the meantime, Diptesh and LAF volunteers continued looking for Rahul in hospitals, brothels and transit homes. They also spoke with slum leaders and rag sellers, circulated Rahul's photo amongst other slums and stuck the photos on bus stands. The word was out that people were looking for a little boy named Rahul.

Diptesh was finally reunited with Rahul at the local police station after being transferred from another station 25km away. Rahul tells of being taken to a nice place where he was given cake and new clothes. What the plan was for him after that will forever remain a mystery. It would appear his abductors released him after becoming aware of the investigation.

Child trafficking in India is a large and lucrative industry and such good fortune evades thousands of children who fall victim to abduction. Stolen children are forced to work in illegal factories, in homes as domestic servants, as sex slaves, in the child pornography industry, as camel jockeys in the Gulf countries or as child beggars in begging rackets. Others are illegally adopted, forced into marriage or have their organs removed to be sold on the black market. Most of the victims are between two and eight years of age.

Rahul is one of the lucky ones.



Rahul, Diptesh and Gulu



Puja and Rahul



Sameer and Rahul



It starts with one child.