

Circle Tour 2016 FAQ's

❖ What specific things will we be doing on the trip?

- Tentatively, we plan to:
 - Visit 4-5 safehouses.
 - Have group worship with rescued and redeemed women.
 - Hear from program directors from around the world. Previous years have included directors from: Nepal, Cambodia, India, Malaysia, Burma, and others.
 - Develop circles of support and protection around these program leaders as well as the women working in Bangkok's red light districts.
 - Spend time with programs leaders in order to be exposed to safehouse development and outreach opportunities.
 - Shop the incredible market places of Siam and visit cultural sites.
 - Spend time in prayer and worship.
 - Participate in outreach in one of Bangkok's famous red light districts.
 - There is prayer, training, and you can choose to decline participation if desired.
 - There is no physical danger associated with outreach, only potential spiritual struggles, and we work to pray on the armor of God, prep the team for what to experience, and we have many safety nets in play if needed.

❖ Where will we be going on the trip?

- Bangkok, Thailand
- Chiang Mai, Thailand

❖ When is the trip?

- February 11-23, 2016

❖ How much does the trip cost?

- \$4,500.00

❖ Which traveling expenses does my \$4,500 cover?

- Lodging
- Transportation
- Meals
- Travel Insurance
- Passport or Visa fees
- Immunizations if needed (*see further in FAQ for coverage of this question, most do not need it for this trip*)
- \$300 non-refundable deposit (*This deposit will go towards the overall cost of the trip*)
- Airfare
 - Tickets must be purchased through the WAR, Int'l travel agent, Carol Lenger at 877.531.6677. This includes airfare for your trip to Bangkok as well as Chiang Mai.
 - There are many reasons we choose to go through our travel agent. If you would like to know more details please email Jen Roberts at jr@warinternational.org.

- **PLEASE NOTE:** *Your overseas plane ticket is the **LAST** thing we purchase...all other costs must be covered first. i.e. If you have raised \$3,000 in funding – this is great, praise the Lord, but we will not purchase your overseas plane ticket from your WAR Travel Account until you have raised the full amount in order to cover all costs. We know this might put you behind schedule for deadlines in purchasing your ticket. Here are some ways people have overcome this in the past:*

- Paid the cost of their own ticket out of pocket (by credit, cash, donating to their own account, etc), and then if the rest of the \$ comes in they will be reimbursed for the cost of the plane ticket as shown on the receipt from CAROL LINGER. This does not mean buy your own ticket on Travelocity, but still through Carol.

❖ **Which traveling expenses are not covered by my \$4,500?**

- Personal expenses
 - Phone calls home
 - Personal shopping bills
 - Luggage fees
 - Your 1st piece of luggage is free, but your 2nd piece will cost \$100 or more depending on the airline.
 - IMPORTANT: If WAR, Int'l gives you a suitcase (duffel bag) full of WAR materials to take over, we will pay the cost of that \$100 luggage fee over to Thailand..
 - Possible internet usage – each year our hotel says they are upgrading to have wifi, however in the past the wifi has not worked. Please budget, just in case you desire to use the business center for access to your emails and such.

❖ **How do I cover the cost of this trip?**

- We recommend raising support to cover trip expenses. WAR, Int'l will create a support account for you at our office and keep track of your incoming support funds. For more information, see below.
- Raising Support
 - Based on when the trip expenses are due, we recommend you mail support letters *at least* four months prior to departure. Below you will find a time line explaining when trip costs are due. It has been constructed to help you raise funds in a timely manner.
 - When sending support letters, WAR, Int'l will provide brochures and return envelopes for mailings. Each team member is responsible for postage. Remember, this postage may be reimbursed when all is said in done if you have raised above and beyond your \$4500 needed for the trip. Based on this possibility, keep all your receipts.

❖ **What if I raise more than the \$4,500**

- This overage can be used in multiple ways:
 - You can let us use it to cover unforeseen cost associated with the trip, which always happen.
 - You may turn in receipts for the following for reimbursement:
 - Postage for support letters.
 - 2nd piece of luggage.

- You can let us know you would like to keep it in your account for a future trip (Circle Tour 2018). We will hold \$\$ in a travel account for two years as we have a circle tour every other year. It might be a great start to your next Circle Tour fund.

❖ **When are the deposits due?**

- **October 2nd (2015)** - \$300 deposit.
 - This amount locks you into the tour. If you need to cancel for any reason, you can still back out, but you will not be able to receive your \$300 back. This deposit is used well in advance to cover logistic areas of the trip, and is therefore non-refundable.
- **November 13th (2015)**- 50% of funds should be raised 90 days prior to departure. This is approximately the cost of airfare.
- **December 11th (2015)** - 100% of funds should be raise 60 days prior to departure.

❖ **What should I include in my support letter?**

- We suggest...
 - One paragraph of personal information
 - One paragraph explaining information and details about the trip
 - One paragraph to request prayer and/or financial support
- * A sample support letter is included in your interest packet*

❖ **How many people will be going on the trip?**

- We will keep you posted on the final count when the time comes. The trip is designed for a group of 30-50 women. However, we have yet to set a limit on the number of people who can attend.

❖ **Where will we be staying?**

- We will be staying at the Indra Regent Hotel in Bangkok, which is modern, safe, and comfortable; a perfect place for us to relax and debrief on all that we experience. You can find out more about the hotel at www.indrahotel.com.

❖ **Will we be flying to Thailand together?**

- We will have a travel agent find the least expensive flight. Because of this, everyone will be together on the last flight into Thailand. Since people will be coming from different places, we will meet up with one another in connecting cities (Detroit, Tokyo, etc.), but everyone will travel with at least 1 or 2 other Circle Tour members into Tokyo from the states, and then we all fly into Bangkok together.

❖ **How old do I need to be?**

- Because of some of the places that we will be going to, you need to be at least 21 years of age by the date of the trip and we strongly recommend no one over 75 due to the strenuous walking conditions at times, but do not turn down due to age if over 21.

❖ **Is the trip safe?**

- Physically, we are in no danger, but spiritually we are a target. It is *absolutely vital* that you begin praying on the armor of God (Ephesians 6:10-24)...starting the minute you receive this packet (see insert provided for examples of praying on God's Armor!)

❖ **What are WAR, Int'l's requirements/expectations of me?**

- Sign a statement indicating that you accept the Code of Consent/Conduct in its entirety.
- Be a member or attendee in good standing with your local church.
- Be a growing Christian, active in your local church.
- Complete the application process.
- Attend all pre-trip meetings and post trip debriefs (this may be by conference call, or by DVD with returned signed form stating you have watched the orientation).
- Be in regular, daily prayer for WAR, Int'l, team members, and yourself.
- Be flexible, taking direction & supervision from experienced personnel, but still work independently.
- Maintain confidentiality of sensitive situations.
- Follow security instructions before, during, and after trip to protect field missionaries, **rescued women**, nationals, projects, your team, and yourself.
- Recognize that many expectations will not be reality for short termers due to language, cultural, and time limits.

❖ **What immunizations will I need in order to go?**

- **There are no required shots to take**, but it is highly recommended that you have the following:
 - Updated Tetanus shot
 - Hepatitis A
 - Hepatitis B
- Required medicine for Thailand:
 - **Doxycycline** (or another similar, gentler medication recommended by your doctor) for diarrhea and upset stomach (and also a key medication of choice for Malaria). This medication requires a prescription. Always remember to ask your doctor if new medications will cause negative side effects when combined with any current medications you may be on.
 - **NOTICE:** Do not settle for "**Larium**" or anything else in its medical family. It has serious side effects. If you are on it or anything related to it, we can not take you on Circle Tour. If this is a problem, please contact the office immediately.
- Prescription medications should have the doctor's prescription with it. Most meds come with the prescription on the side of the bottle. If the bottle does not have the information, it would be best to ask your doctor for it in writing. You will need to notify the team doctor/nurse of your medications. All information will be kept confidential. Please enclose a copy of your current medications (even over the counter) for the team doctor/nurse.

❖ **Will there be meetings about the trip before we leave?**

- We will have 1 full-day orientation in Grand Rapids. Those who do not live in Grand Rapids will receive a DVD or be given a website for a webcast viewing of the training. If you are able to come from out of town to Grand Rapids, housing will be arranged for you.

❖ **What documents will I need if I go?**

- Passport
 - A passport that is valid at least 6 months after February 20th, 2016. If you do not have one, apply for one at least three months in advance. Directions are online: http://travel.state.gov/passport/passport_1738.html. Keep in mind that processing fees double if you need to have it expedited.
 - **Passport copies need to be turned in to the WAR, Int'l office with your application.**
- Visa

- A visa is NOT required to enter Thailand. If you are traveling to other countries outside of Thailand please correspond with the WAR, Int'l office for assistance and details. For security reasons our office will help you apply for a Visa, if required.
- Travel Insurance
 - Overseas travel insurance is required for this trip. WAR, Int'l will purchase this for participants. It is vital that you have sent in your application with the proper personal information (this includes middle name) for the office to obtain travelers insurance for you. WAR, Int'l recommends you check with your current insurance provider regarding what overseas provision is included in your plan, if any.

❖ **What is the time difference?**

- There is exactly a 12 hour time difference between Bangkok and United States Eastern Time, which makes it easy. Just switch AM to PM and vice versa!

❖ **May I call home while in Thailand?**

- No one will be able to make phone calls from the hotel phones because of the high cost per minute in addition to tacked on hotel fees. In the last two years, we have had people with bills ranging from \$200-300 dollars even with using a prepaid phone card.
- Once in Thailand you may only call home if you purchase a **temporary cell phone** or your cell phone is internationally equipped. Please contact your phone provider for information on this.

❖ **How can/should I pay for things while overseas?**

- Visa/Master Card
 - Visa credit cards are most commonly accepted around the world. We do not recommend American Express or Discover cards as they are rarely accepted outside the United States. Businesses will typically charge you a **3% surcharge** for the use of credit cards vs. cash. **Please contact the bank to notify them of your travel.** In some countries (i.e. Thailand), your debit card can be used to withdraw cash from international ATM's.
- Cash
 - We do NOT recommend the purchase of traveler's checks due to their difficulty in exchanging for local currency and usually have a fee for processing. It is recommended you bring cash. **Your cash should be clean with no writing on them and crisp bills in denominations of 50's or 100's.** They will not accept bills with a slight tear or marking on it. You will only need cash for personal expenses.
- Currency Exchange
 - In Thailand, there are many official money changers. The best place to exchange money will be at either of 2 locations outside the hotel we will be staying at. Unused local currency can be exchanged back to U.S. Dollars upon departure, there are charges for reverse exchange.
 - **NEVER change money on the streets with an individual.** You risk getting shortchanged, receiving counterfeit bills, or becoming a victim of a scam.

❖ **What can/should I wear while over there?**

- T-Shirts—must have at least a cap sleeve (no tanks).
- NO Capris – We will visit religious places where showing any part of the leg is inappropriate.
- Pants—comfortable for walking, light for the heat, but covering your legs. NO Shorts.
- Sandals – yes, but recognize we will be walking a lot.

- Walking shoes – yes.
- Skirts – must cover the knee & almost to the ankle.

Any further questions may be emailed to Jennifer Roberts at jr@warinternational.org.