ARCC

Adventist Rescued Children's Care

THAILAND

Volunteer Booklet - All you need to know

WHY SHOULD I VOLUNTEER AT ARCC THAILAND?

The warm smiles and laughter that characterise the Thai people belie the frailty of life in Thailand. Its population of 70-million people continues to show symptoms of overcrowding stress and related struggles through years of rapid development. Today, Thailand has a young population with 30% (2021) of their people being under 25 years of age. Many live in rural areas, are poorly educated and are dependent on subsistence farming for survival.

Until the mid 20th century, most permanent immigrants to Thailand were allowed – even encouraged – to become citizens. However, the situation changed for later immigrants, many of whom entered Thailand as political refugees from neighbouring countries. The first significant group of refugees arrived from Vietnam just after WW2, and most were eventually granted Thai citizenship. Thailand was inundated with a much larger wave of refugees in the 70s, following the establishment of communist governments in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia. Although the majority of these refugees were ultimately resettled in other countries, some Hmong from Laos remained in refugee centres in Thailand. In the late 1980s an even greater number of refugees began to enter the country from Myanmar in search of employment. This influx has continued, and although some of the immigrants have been accorded guest-worker status, tens of thousands of refugees from Myanmar as well as Cambodia, Laos and China, have continued to live and work illegally throughout the country. (*www.Britannica.com/place/Thailand*)

Can you make a difference? Yes; every person has the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of these people, one person, one family and one village at a time. Through this cultural exchange and sustainable development, ARCC volunteers have had a clear impact in the areas of child protection, education, housing, medical care, sanitation, clean water, livelihood training and opportunities --- with each one making a real difference. So step up and make an impact where YOU can.

You have never really lived until you have done something for someone who can never repay you

HOW DOES ARCC THAILAND EMPOWER COMMUNITIES?

ARCC Thailand is a property located approximately 9 hours north of Bangkok. Our project aims to provide a secure environment for children, providing them with all they need for strong physical and emotional health and educational opportunities.

ARCC is home to 36 children who live on campus and 9 children who attend vocational schools or are studying at university. Together, as a large family they perform their daily chores, they cook and eats together and enjoy worships together. The children are safe, secure and happy in this environment. When they become adults and leave they often call ARCC Thailand their home and return there to work, caring for the next generation of children in their 'family'. The current manager grew up at ARCC and has a teaching degree.

Each of the children who live within ARCC Thailand come from vulnerable situations. These might range from being orphaned, being deserted, enduring domestic violence or having parents who are unable to care for them due to neglect or mental illness. These children have endured hardships that no child should have to encounter in their young years. ARCC Thailand works to provide a pathway to a brighter future for each of these young lives. When these children have completed study in Year 12, they are given the option to apply for a scholarship and study at University or to undertake vocational training. These children value their education and know what a privilege it really is, and understand how it will change their futures.

Adjacent to the ARCC property is an independent SDA K-12 school with around 1100 students inclusive the ARCC children. The ARCC students see education as a pathway out of poverty.

In addition to formal education, ARCC has a well-developed agriculture program that provides a range of healthy fruit and vegetables for the children in the rescue centre. The children also gain valuable agriculture and life skills as they work and develop the farmland and care for the cows and chickens.

WHERE IN THAILAND WILL I BE VISITING AND VOLUNTEERING?

Chiang Mai

Chiang Mai is approximately 850km north of Bangkok and ARCC is located 50km north of Chiang Mai. Chiang Mai has an international airport and there are direct flights from Australia to Chiang Mai or alternatively you could fly into Bangkok and then get a connecting flight to Chiang Mai. It is the largest city in northern Thailand and the capital of Chiang Mai province. Chiang Mai is home to hundreds of elaborate Buddhist temples, night markets, Doi Suthep National Park, a night safari zoo, Thai cooking classes, elephant sanctuaries, tiger sanctuaries, hot springs and lush scenic attractions.

Bangkok

You may want to spend a day or night in Bangkok on your way to Chiangmai. Bangkok is the capital of Thailand and is a large city with a population of about 11-million. It is well known for its ornate shrines and vibrant street life. The boat-filled Chao Phraya River feeds its network of canals and flows past the Rattanakosin Royal District, home of the opulent Grand Palace and its sacred

Wat Phra Kaeu Temple. There is a lot to see and do!

Tours Maps
Wat Indrawihan
Phra Sumen Fort
National Museum of Royal Barges
Ratchadamnoen Boxing Stadium
Royal Thai Government House
Royal Turf Club
National Art Gallery
National Theatre
National Museum
Khao San Rd.
The Queen's Gallery
Democracy Monument
Maha Kan Fort
Golden Mount
Royal Princess
Prince Palace
Wang Lang Pier
Chang Pier
Temple of the Emerald Buddha
City Pillar Shrine
Sanam Luang
Chao Phraya River
The Grand Palace
Temple of Dawn (Wat Arun)
Tian Pier
Museum of Siam
Wat Pho
Flower Market
Bangkok Yai Police Station
Thai Hotel
Loha Prasat
Giant Swing
BMA City Hall
Saranrom Park
Rommaninat Park
Miramar
The Old Siam Plaza
Sampheng
Grand China
Grande Ville
Bumpa
Uruguay
BMA General Hospital
Suan Mali Center
Hua Chew Hospital
Yaowarat Rd.
Chakkawat Police Station
White Orchid
July 22nd Circle
Khongsiew Hospital
Cathay
Indra
Wat Ratchaburana
Wat Suthat
Wat Saket
Wat Phra Chetuphon
Wat Arun
Wat Phra Kaew
Wat Pho
Wat Rakhang
Wat Kalayanamit
Wat Phraya Tham
Wat Suk Klang
Wat Dusitaram
Wat Pathumwanaram
Wat Phaphla Chai
Wat Sommanat Worawihan
Wat Bowonniwet
Wat Parinayok
Wat Chakkawat
Wat Tri Thessathep
Wat Sangket
Phra Pinklao Bridge
Rama VI Bridge
Memorial Bridge
Phra Phuttha Yodfa Bridge
Rama VIII Bridge
Krung Thon Bridge
Saphan Phut Pier
Rot Fai Police Station
Thon Buri Railway Station
Chana Songkhram Police Station
Wang Doem Rd.
Phra Athit Rd.
Phra Chan Rd.
Na Phra Lan Rd.
Maha Rat Rd.
Phra Phinit Rd.
Bamrung Muang Rd.
Ratchadamnoen Klang Rd.
Ratchadamnoen Nok Rd.
Lan Luang Rd.
Damrong Rak Rd.
Siam Samp Canal
Nang Loeng Police Station
Samran Rat Police Station
Phahurat Rd.
Charoen Krung Rd.
Yukhon Rd.
Worachak Rd.
Mahesak Rd.
Ratchasongkroh Rd.
Phaphla Chai Police Station
Yosse Hospital
Siriraj
Wang Lang Pier
Rot Fai Pier
Tian Pier
Sathon Pier
Chang Pier
Thammasat University
Silpakorn University
Government Lottery Office
Rattanakosin
14 October 16 Memorial
Democracy Monument
Ratchadamnoen Klang Rd.
Phra Sumen Rd.
Wisut Kasat Rd.
Thanon Phra Pinklao
Thanon Chakkraphong
Thanon Tanao
Thanon Khao San
Thanon Tani
Thanon Chakrawat
Thanon Charoen Krung
Thanon Yaowarat
Thanon Rachini
Thanon Ratchasongkroh
Thanon Ratchawithi
Thanon Phra Athit
Thanon Phra Chan
Thanon Na Phra Lan
Thanon Maha Rat
Thanon Phra Phinit
Thanon Bamrung Muang
Thanon Ratchadamnoen Klang
Thanon Ratchadamnoen Nok
Thanon Lan Luang
Thanon Damrong Rak
Thanon Mahesak
Thanon Worachak
Thanon Yukhon
Thanon Charoen Krung
Thanon Phahurat
Thanon Chakkawat
Thanon Ratchasongkroh
Thanon Yaowarat
Thanon Phaphla Chai
Thanon Sathu Pa Di
Thanon Lan Luang
Thanon Nakhon Sawan
Thanon Krung Kasem
Thanon Phra Pinklao

Projects

1
ARCC Children's Village

The warmth that you feel within its gates truly has a positive impact on each one of the children who live here. It is a hive of activity which you can clearly imagine when there are over 36 children living on the campus. Smiles and laughter greet you from all corners and you cannot help but feel the love.

2
Agriculture

ARCC is blessed to have fertile soil and ten hectares of land. A variety of vegetables and fruit trees are grown on site including bananas, dragon fruit, papaya, mushrooms, eggplant, mangoes and other fruits and vegetables depending on the season. Produce from these gardens is largely consumed by the ARCC children's village, and also purchased by the adjacent SDA school and the wider community.

3
Animal Husbandry

Animal husbandry includes cattle, chickens and aquaculture. The cattle are almost treated as pets but are in fact a valuable source of income. Chickens and eggs are in high demand as well as fish during harvest times. All farming is growing rapidly and will be a key source of income in the next few years.

What will I be doing?

Day 1: Arrive in Chiang Mai. Registration at hotel and welcome dinner and a briefing on the various aspects of the project that the team will be volunteering on during your visit.

Days 2 and 3: Chiang Mai and surrounds: These couple of days give you the opportunity to immerse yourself in the Thai culture past and present, and visit and experience some of the projects that are making a difference to vulnerable children and families in the country.

Days 4 – 10: ARCC Village: Step outside the rush and bustle of Chiang Mai and experience rural life around the ARCC Village. You will share your days with some of the most special children and locals at the ARCC Village. You will enjoy sharing your experiences and skills with the ARCC community. See how much of the local language you can learn while you let the children practise their English.

What other skills can you share?
There is something for everyone to share and do, and this will be planned according to the skills of the team. While you will be busy during the day, there will be plenty of time for fun and games, and even a cook-up with the kids living at ARCC. Witness a cultural dance performed by the children – you might even have the chance to join in and learn a move or two. Meet and Mingle with the local and experience magical sunsets.

Days 11 – 13: Bangkok: An early departure to Bangkok will re-engage you into the vibrancy of Bangkok. You will enjoy the local markets and the exciting night markets will give you the opportunity to enjoy some last minute shopping. Canal rides, temples, fish feeding … you will never be short of things to do.

Day 13: Depart to your home destination.
Your flight will leave from Bangkok today and you will leave Thailand with a heart full of memories of those you have learnt from and served during the last two weeks.

COSTS AT A GLANCE

Return Airfare:
You are responsible for the purchase of your own ticket. You might like to get together with a few other team members and do a group booking. You need to fly into Chiang Mai on December 3 and out of Bangkok on December 15.

In-Country Costs ($1,200):
This cost is not tax-deductible, and you will need to pay with cash in Thailand on arrival. This cost will cover all of your food, transport and accommodation and any tourist activities listed on your itinerary while in Thailand. The only extra money that you will need to consider will be for your personal spending money.

Single Room Supplement:
All costs are priced on sharing a room. If you would rather have a single room there will be a surcharge of $220 to cover extra accommodation expenses.

FUNDRAISING

There are many empowering projects that we as a team like to support, so we encourage you to help fundraise for these goals. We suggest that you have a fundraising goal of $1,000 and you may raise much more when your friends and family get excited about the impact these funds will have in the local community. This goal is not too hard to reach and you will see that this money will have a significant impact in the community.

We know that once you have been on the trip and served in these projects that you will see that the fundraising effort was all worth it!

If fundraising isn't your thing, you can choose to donate the funds (which are tax-deductible) but if you'd like to give others the opportunity to support you in this service we are happy to give you some tools and ideas to make your journey a little easier.

An on-line fundraising platform will be available for all volunteers to use. This site tells your story, accepts donations and then automatically issues the donor with a tax deductible receipt. All you have to do is share your passion to serve and give your friends the opportunity to share in your service. We will be in contact with you about this once you have completed team registration.

PROJECT COSTS:

This cost is 100% tax deductible and will be paid through the World Relief Australia website or an associated fundraising platform. These funds are used to cover the costs of the projects that you are engaged in while at ARCC. A portion of the funds will also be used to maintain the on-going operational costs at ARCC.

PREPARING FOR YOUR TRIP

Flights

Flights will be into Chiang Mai and out of Bangkok. You are required to arrange your own flights. The sooner you book your tickets, the cheaper they will be, as our trip is just on the shoulder of peak holiday season.

Visa

A Thailand tourist visa is not required for Australian and New Zealand passport holders. Tourists can stay for up to 30 days.

Working With Children Check

A Working With Children Check or National Police Clearance is required for all volunteers before they attend the trip. As part of your volunteer paper work you will be required to provide evidence of this.

Weather

Throughout December and January you can expect excellent weather conditions throughout the country, with blue skies, little or no rain and relatively cool temperatures averaging around 30°C. Note that it can be cold in the evenings and early mornings so bring at least one long sleeved jumper or jacket.

What should I bring?

Think about your favourite clothes, shoes and accessories - and then don't plan to pack those things. Your program involves lots of practical activities and you will only require practical, comfortable and easy to wash items; the rest will be a burden. The only extra money that you will need to bring along with you will be for shopping, tourist actiivities and massages.

What should I wear?

Girls: For girls it is important that you do not wear skimpy clothing at the children's village. The children are always well covered. Please do not wear low cut tops or skimpy shorts. You will need a skirt or dress to wear to worship Friday night and church if you are here over the weekend. The girls here never wear pants to chapel.
When you have the opportunity to swim or get wet at the waterfalls please do not wear a bikini. Shorts and T-shirt are recommended or a swim suit with shorts.
You will need slip on and slip off shoes/sandals as every time you walk into a building you step out of your shoes to enter. Thongs/flip flops or backless sandals are best.

Boys: To attend chapel please have a shirt or T-shirt with a collar. The children like to change from their everyday clothes to look a little bit smart.
You will need slip on and slip off shoes/sandals as every time you walk into a building you step out of your shoes to enter. Thongs/flip flops or backless sandals are best.

What specific things should I bring?

A good mosquito repellent.
Sunscreen and a hat.
A towel for swimming and visiting the waterfalls

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Will I be met at the airport?

Yes, if you arrive in Chiang Mai having advised us of your flight details, there will be staff to meet you at the airport and take you to the hotel for registration.

Do I need to bring bedding?

No.

Do I need vaccinations?

Ask your doctor.

Do I need insurance?

Yes. Confirmation of comprehensive insurance will be required prior to arrival in Thailand.

Will I have access to ATM?

Yes. There are ATMs in Chiang Mai and Bangkok. You should check with your bank prior to departure to determine the charges and also to ensure your card will work internatonally. Please be aware that many banks have a low daily withdrawal limit in country.

Will I have access to electricity?

Yes. Thailand operates on 240V, most hotels have universal points but it is a good idea to bring an adapter if you are bringing any 3 pronged power plugs.

Will there be WiFi?

Most of the time, but don't rely on it! Wifi is available at the hotels. You can purchase a local SIM on arrival and this will also give you some limited data.

Where will I be sleeping?

This partly depends on the size of the group you are travelling with
When you are at the ARCC campus you will be staying each night at a comfortable hotel or guesthouse that has air-conditioning and hot water.

What will I be able to eat?

You will be well fed and will eat from a variety of restaurants that cater for both Asian and western food preferences. When at the children's village we will eat local vegetarian food prepared by staff at ARCC.

Will I be able to get washing done?

Yes. Laundry is readily available, once again, don't bring your favourite things as they may not come back the same or maybe they won't come back at all.

What is the currency in Thailand?

The local currency is Thai Baht. You will need to exchange your Australian spending money for Baht. This can be done once you arrive in Thailand.

READY TO JOIN THE TEAM?

If you are ready to join a team planning on coming to Thailand or would like to create your own team email us at althea@arccthailand.com. We can make a time to chat with you and discuss the skills and hobbies you have and find a project best suited to you.

To complete your registration please fill in the Volunteer Agreement Form and make a deposit of $200 towards your in-country expenses to confirm your place. Please indicate that this deposit is for in-country expenses.

Excited to get started on your journey? We are excited to meet you.

Volunteers are not paid - not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless

ARCC

Adventist Rescued Children's Care

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Donate: www.wra.org.au/1809rescuecentre