

COMPASSION FIELD EXPERIENCE
PHILIPPINES

JANUARY 2017



COMPASSION INSIGHT TRIP TO THE PHILIPPINES

THURSDAY 19 JANUARY – FRIDAY 27 JANUARY 2017

Compassion is excited to offer you the opportunity to be involved in an amazing Insight Trip to the Philippines.

This Field Experience will give people the chance to experience Compassion's work firsthand and meet our incredible workers in the developing world. This is your opportunity to see how Compassion works and to judge for yourself if it truly does transform the lives of children living in poverty.

Please Note: Dates may change slightly depending on availability. We will inform you of any changes as soon as possible.



OVERVIEW AND PURPOSE

This Insight Trip is to the Philippines. This Field Experience will be fully hosted by Compassion staff. We plan to depart Australia on Thursday 19 January 2017 and arrive back on Friday 27 January 2017; however, these dates may change depending on the availability of flights.

The principal purpose of the Field Experience is to see how Compassion works with local churches to provide critical, ongoing support from the womb to the workforce to children, families and communities through four core programs:

- Child Survival Program
- Child Sponsorship Program
- Leadership Development Program
- Critical Interventions

During this Field Experience, you will experience firsthand the everyday issues and challenges confronting those living in poverty. You will be able to talk directly to parents, children, church leaders and our dedicated local staff to gain a better understanding of poverty, its forms and its solutions. Australians support Critical Interventions by giving to Critical Needs, and support the Child Survival Program through the Mums and Babies Critical Need.

You will be challenged and inspired—perhaps even bewildered or angered—as well as changed by what you see, hear and experience, and by the relationships you will form.

In the Philippines, you will visit mothers and their infants in our Child Survival Program and see firsthand the many ways children benefit from our Child Sponsorship Program. You will have the opportunity to meet with the students in the Leadership Development Program. Finally, you will see the incredible work of our Critical Interventions, from providing fresh water wells and sanitation, to potentially life-saving medical interventions that help to protect children.

Compassion's Holistic Child Development Model



 Funded through local and sponsorship resources

 Funded through non-sponsorship resources



COMPASSION IN THE PHILIPPINES

COUNTRY STATISTICS

Capital:

Manila

Population:

100.99 million

Adult literacy rate*:

Male 95.8%, Female 96.8%

Access to improved drinking water:

Urban 93.7%, Rural 90.3%

Life expectancy:

Male 65.47 years, Female 72.62 years

Religion:

Catholic 82.9%, Muslim 5%, other Christian 4.5%, Evangelical 2.8%, Iglesia ni Kristo 2.3%, other and unspecified 2.5%

Infant mortality rate**:

22.34/1000

Percentage living below the poverty line:

25.2%



*Percentage of persons aged 15 and over who can read and write

** Number of deaths of infants under one year old in a given year per 1000 live births in the same year



FAST FACTS

- The Philippines consists of over 7100 islands, but the majority of the population lives on just 11 of them.
- Twenty per cent of children are underweight, and 30 per cent suffer from growth stunting, an often-irreversible condition resulting from malnutrition during early childhood.
- Communist rebels and several Muslim insurgent groups operate in the southern Philippines, with the violence continuing despite attempts at peace talks.
- On 8 November 2013, one of the strongest tropical cyclones on record, Typhoon Haiyan, hit the Philippines. With winds of up to 270km/h, it totally destroyed over 570,000 homes across the Visayas and 1.1 million homes were severely damaged. According to the BBC, over 6000 people lost their lives as a result of the typhoon.

RELIGION

Almost 83 per cent of Filipinos are members of the Roman Catholic Church. The remainder of the population largely consists of other Christian denominations (7.3 per cent) and Muslims (five per cent). Catholicism in the Philippines often incorporates many ancient worship rites and practices from early animist Filipino traditions.

CURRENT ISSUES

The Philippines is recovering from a history of political corruption, social unrest and a series of natural disasters that have contributed to widespread poverty and unemployment. Since 2001, poverty has worsened due to a high population growth rate and the inequitable distribution of income. The country is saddled with a large national debt, and 26 per cent of the population lives under the poverty line of US\$1.90 per day. The economy is heavily dependent on the billions of dollars sent home each year by four-to-five million overseas Filipino workers, with many parents forced to seek employment outside of the country to support their families.

Between 2000 and 2007, extremist groups killed or injured more than 1700 civilians, mostly in bombings in public places. In 2012, the government and the main Muslim rebel group, Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), announced a breakthrough in their peace talks, signing a ceasefire agreement to end the 40 years of conflict. However, on 9 September 2013, a breakaway group of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) moved into five coastal villages of Zamboanga City, Mindanao. Taking residents hostage in protest to the peace talks, the group said they are fighting for an independent state and not the autonomy the government is negotiating with MILF. During the violent nine-day siege, 100 people were killed, 120,000 people fled the city, and fire destroyed hundreds of homes.

On 8 November 2013, one of the strongest tropical cyclones on record hit the Philippines. Super Typhoon Haiyan brought a mass of destruction across the Central Philippines with winds of up to 270km/h. Over 570,000 homes across the Visayas were totally destroyed and 1.1 million homes were severely damaged. According to the BBC, over 6000 people lost their lives as a result of the typhoon. Thankfully, no Compassion assisted children, their family members or Compassion staff died as a result of Typhoon Haiyan but more than 6000 had homes damaged or destroyed.

The combination of clan feuds, internal conflicts, and natural disasters—the Philippines are hit by some 20 typhoons each year—have resulted in almost 845,000 internally displaced persons.

COMPASSION IN THE PHILIPPINES

Compassion International began working in the Philippines in 1972. Over 78,200 children participate in Compassion's Child Sponsorship Program activities at 347 child development centres. Compassion Australia assists more than 8800 of these children. Compassion's Child Survival Program and Critical Interventions also operate throughout the country. Our goal is to reach out to Filipino children; helping to provide them with the opportunity to rise above their circumstances and become all God has created them to be.

INSIGHT TRIP DETAILS

- Compassion Australia will arrange all flights, including transfers and transportation within the Philippines, organise clean and comfortable accommodation and provide all meals and bottled water.
- It is the traveller's responsibility to seek medical advice regarding necessary immunisations or medication prior to leaving Australia.
- During the visit, the traveller will be hosted by local Compassion staff from the Philippines, who will arrange all local travel and meals and will be on hand at all times to help with translation.
- There will be some time available for shopping, visiting local markets and sight-seeing. Our local staff will host and guide this time to ensure the traveller gets the most from the experience.
- Some travellers may wish to depart the main party at the conclusion of the visit in the Philippines, and make their own arrangements to travel privately before they return to Australia. Compassion partners with Escape Travel, an Australian-based provider that can assist with personal travel arrangements.
- The Field Experience Leader will contact the traveller to provide them with further details, and also conduct pre-Field Experience training to prepare for the visit and help connect the members of the group.

“For as the soil makes the sprout come up and a garden causes seeds to grow, so the Sovereign Lord will make righteousness and praise spring up before all nations.”

—Isaiah 61:11, NIV



COST

The estimated cost of this Field Experience, including flights, accommodation, meals and internal transport, is \$2870 per person, based on twin-share accommodation and economy class airfares.

**Price is subject to airfares and exchange rate fluctuations. Final price will be advised once airfares have been confirmed.*

INVOICING

You will be issued with two invoices to cover the total cost of this Field Experience:

1. Invoice one will be for the three payments below. Each payment will be listed as a separate item on the invoice with its own due date.
 - Deposit of \$300 (or \$200 for an early bird rate), which must be paid by the due date on the invoice to secure your place on the Field Experience.
 - First instalment which will cover the bulk of the Field Experience costs, due approximately six months before the Field Experience.
 - Second instalment which will cover the balance of your Field Experience package, due approximately three months before the Field Experience.
2. Invoice two is for any additional costs related to visiting your sponsored child, and will be sent out one or two months before the Field Experience. If you do not incur any costs related to visiting your sponsored child, you will not receive this second invoice.

More information on invoicing will be sent to travellers closer to the date of departure.

What's covered in your total cost?

- International flights leaving from Sydney. Trips depart from Sydney and all travellers must depart with the group. [If feasible, occasional exceptions may be made for travellers from Western Australia.]
- Accommodation in the Philippines
- Taxes
- On the ground travel costs
- Meals and bottled water
- Compassion Field Experience leader, local guides and translators
- Travel insurance

What's not covered in your total cost?

- Any extra travel you want to do outside of the trip schedule, including domestic flights in Australia to meet the group for departure
- Visas, if required
- Pre-travel vaccinations/immunisations and medications
- Costs related to meeting your sponsored child
- Any additional food requirements above what is supplied
- Any souvenirs or gifts you purchase during your travels

We will communicate any and all pricing changes immediately.

Please Note: a portion of the cost of your Field Experience is used to fund the travel of the Field Experience Leader. This allows Compassion to use as much of our supporters' gifts and donations as possible for our child development programs.



TRAVEL INSURANCE

Travel insurance is required for the entire length of your travel and will be organised by the Compassion Travel Centre. You will be provided with the details of your travel insurance when your registration on the Field Experience has been finalised. Compassion Australia will not be liable for travellers who fail to comply with the travel insurance terms, conditions or other policy obligations.

VISAS

Compassion will contact you regarding visa requirements and associated Field Experience costs for your visit. Visa conditions may change at any time.

GENERAL TRAVEL INFORMATION

Compassion recommends that you check the Australian Government Smart Traveller website: www.smarttraveller.com.au for more information about travelling overseas and the country you will be visiting. Information available at this website includes country specific travel advice, health and safety information, and general travel tips.

BASIC TRIP OVERVIEW

On this Field Experience, we will spend our time in the Philippines, with opportunities to travel through urban and rural areas.

The trip will include activities such as:

- Visiting Compassion's church-based projects and witnessing Compassion's ministry to children firsthand
- Meeting with individual families in their homes
- Meeting young leaders who have been sponsored through Compassion's program
- Games and activities with the children
- An opportunity for some sight-seeing and shopping at local markets

MEETING YOUR SPONSORED CHILD

If you sponsor a child with Compassion or have supported a critical intervention in the Philippines, you may be able to visit at an additional cost. We will do our best to arrange this visit for you, and provide you with a cost estimate as quickly as possible. Please give us plenty of warning, as we will need to arrange these meetings well in advance of our departure. If you don't already sponsor a child in the Philippines, why not do so before you go!

HOW TO REGISTER

To register for an Insight Trip:

- Visit www.compassion.com.au/insighttrip and complete the online form
- Or phone 1300 22 44 53 to speak to a Compassion Travel Centre representative

Once you have registered your interest, the relevant forms will be emailed to you for completion. Once these forms have been returned to Compassion, your registration can be completed.

CANCELLATIONS

Your deposit cannot be refunded if you decide not to go on the Insight Trip.

To ensure the best possible prices, airfares must be booked as soon as the team is finalised. This means if you cancel your place on the trip after airfares are booked, you will be responsible for all cancellation fees including the non-refundable deposit. If you are planning to meet your sponsored child, these costs will also need to be covered in the event of a cancellation.

You will be required to pay 100 per cent of the costs if you cancel 0–31 days before the trip departs.

Please Note: Only written cancellations will be accepted.

“I will treat you with such kindness that your nation will grow strong, and I will also keep my promises to you.”

—Leviticus 26:9, CEV

FURTHER INFORMATION

If you have any questions, or would like more information, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Compassion Australia

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