



Thailand - Lantern Festival Signature

November 2, 2025 — November 8, 2025

Starting at: \$4,500



OVERVIEW

The Need

Your team will treat remote indigenous groups of the Akha who dwell high in the Chiang Rai mountains. Our other patients will include local orphans, migrant workers, and refugees from Myanmar. While at clinic, you can expect to treat bacterial diarrhea, hepatitis, dengue fever, malaria, Japanese encephalitis, rabies, and leptospirosis. You will also care for patients with symptoms of HIV/AIDS, rabies, food and water-borne diseases, tuberculosis, and miscellaneous sexually transmitted diseases.

You and the rest of the volunteer team will also educate locals on how to stay healthy and how to care for their loved ones. One of the main focuses of this mission is dentistry. Because all community members are encouraged to attend, the demand for dental care will be high. Because the World Health Organization reports that Thailand is still recovering from a strikingly high infant mortality rate,

another focus of this mission is women's healthcare. We will provide general women's and infant care, as well as empower women to seek higher education.

Our Work

International Medical Relief (IMR) first responded to Thailand in 2015, providing clinics and supplies. We have since served more than 4,000 patients through nearly 250 staff and volunteers. IMR specifically works with the most underserved communities, which has brought our clinics to mountain villages. We also provide medical supplies and health education in order to deliver sustainable health care services to the communities we serve.

With diligent planning and preparation, IMR is dedicated to ensuring that specific goals are met on our missions, each in correlation to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals 3 and 17.

IMR works to elevate vulnerable populations through shoulder-to-shoulder care with our local partners, creating workforce density, and a cadre of future healthcare and public health leaders in association to UNSDG 3: Good Health & Wellbeing.

In correlation with UNSDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals, our organization works in collaboration and at the request of local hosts where we are under their direct influence and affluence. IMR never goes into a country without a formal invitation where there is a great community need for medical or dental care, and health education.

This Mission

Experience the real "Land of Smiles" in Chiang Rai, a serene town in Northern Thailand. You will stay in a small forest compound surrounded by mango trees. Nestled among rice fields and the quiet hum of daily life, this town neighbors the bustling Chiang Rai night market. Stroll through lines of vendors for a total sensory experience; immerse yourself in the appetite-inducing smells, regional fruits, stunning silk tapestries, and even sizzling fried insects. With our advantageous location, remove yourself from the bustle with a short walk up the mountain to take in spectacular views of the valley below. Your team will participate in an ongoing effort to decrease specific health concerns in the villages we work in.

On this mission, you will have the opportunity to care for the indigenous Akha Tribe and many children in the orphanages. You will travel through some of the most beautiful country in the world; keep a sharp eye out for the Akha in their native dress and the smiles of the children as you pass by!

Lodging/Transportation

You have selected a Signature Trip! The accommodations for the Signature trip

are at a 4-star hotel with plenty of amenities to make your stay in Thailand comfortable and enjoyable. In the evenings you and the team will be able to explore the city and take part in the many events surrounding the Lantern Festival. All transportation to and from clinic sites will be included and provided by safe, trustworthy drivers. Some travel times to clinics may be longer than others, but you won't want to miss the stunning views of the hillsides and towns as you ride throughout Thailand.

Highlights

Having the opportunity to work in the Hill Country is certainly one of the many highlights of this trip. You'll have time to enjoy the children and make a real difference in their lives during your orphanage days. The Akha are very traditional and unfailingly kind.

During your stay, your team will attend Thailand's stunning Yi Peng and Loy Krathong festivals! During these celebrations based on the Thai lunar calendar, people decorate their homes and craft baskets made from flowers, leaves, and lights which they then float on the river. You'll have the opportunity to send floating lanterns up into the sky, joining thousands of others that light up the sky for miles around!



ITINERARY

This itinerary is subject to change without notice.

Please note: You will be notified about the group flight option prior to the Early Bird deadline. Domestic flight arrangements should not be made until after the group flight is booked.

If you choose to fly independently, transportation between your arrival airport and your IMR accommodation is not included. If you wish to arrange transportation, you can contact flights@worldwidenavigators.com.

*If you have any questions regarding flights, please contact flights@worldwidenavigators.com.
Thank you.*

Sunday, November 2, 2025

Arrivals & Orientation

You and the team will fly into the Chiang Rai International Airport and transfer to your lodging. Please be at the lodging by 2:00pm. Upon arrival, you will meet with your team and team leader for a required team orientation to discuss clinic roles, review protocols and gain insight into the communities and populations you

will be serving.

Monday, November 3, 2025

Clinic

Today is your first day of clinic! You and your team will provide training for local healthcare providers to continue IMR's long-term, sustainable education efforts. Education is as important as medical and dental care for our patients. Each clinic includes basic health education according to the specialties and skills of the IMR volunteers, as well as the needs of the local people. When communities become empowered to take health and wellness issues into their own hands, they become self-sufficient. IMR provides learning opportunities for the local communities through classes and hands-on learning to sustain their well-being beyond our visit.

Tuesday, November 4, 2025

Clinic

You and the team will work in a large orphanage outside of Chiang Rai. You will spend the day caring for the children's medical and dental needs and providing education for the children and staff on hygiene and disease prevention.

Wednesday, November 5, 2025

Clinic

You will spend time with the beautiful Akha tribe and other smaller tribes in the area. Your patients will be both the very young and the very old. After clinic you will return to Chiang Rai. You'll discover family is very important to your patients. Health care is difficult at best for them to obtain, and you will find many of them are dealing with significant health issues and dental needs. Community education is important here!

Thursday, November 6, 2025

Clinic, Yi Peng and Loy Krathong Festival Events

You will be working in another large orphanage today. Today is your last day of clinic and ending it with these children is a perfect way to wind down your trip. Dental needs in the orphanages are extremely high and many of the children will suffer from skin conditions, infections, and ear/eye complaints. In the evening, you will have the unique opportunity to take part in the festival, which is actually a combination of two festivals. Loy Krathong, a Buddhist festival celebrated all over Thailand, falls on a full moon night. Thousands of people gather at the river to release lotus-shaped baskets with flowers and candles into the river. This festival, Loy Krathong, is a tradition amongst the people of Thailand as they gather each year to set free the floating candles in an attempt to set free their fear and hatred. Taking part in this cultural experience will be a life changing and

eye opening opportunity for you and your fellow team members. The Yi Peng festival is unique to Chiang Rai and involves the release of lit candles in paper lanterns that float through the sky. You'll watch in amazement as thousands of lanterns are let loose to pay respect to the Buddha and wish yourself a good year. Legend has it if your lantern floats into the sky and disappears in the night, you will have a year full of good luck.

Friday, November 7, 2025

Cultural/Free Day

The day is yours to tour Chiang Rai. Parades and other festival-related activities will continue throughout the day, but most of the celebrations take place after dark. Be sure to make your way to the Ping River to join in the ceremonies!

Saturday, November 8, 2025

Departures

Bid farewell to beautiful Thailand as you head to the airport for your international flight home. Your airport transfer will be provided for you if you have requested to transport to the airport through IMR. Thank you for joining us at the Lantern Festival! Contact Worldwide Navigators to extend your stay or plan an activity on your last day!



EXTENSIONS

Since you're journeying halfway across the globe, have you considered extending your stay to visit some of Thailand's top spots? Join International Medical Relief on an exclusive trip extension provided by our partner, Worldwide Navigators!

Ready for the adventure? Connect with Worldwide Navigators today!



FLIGHTS AND PRICES

Minimum Donation

Your generous donation helps to save and change lives every day

Your generous donation of **\$4500** will go toward the ongoing global relief to care for the underserved and vulnerable people of this community. As a member of this medical mission team, you will elevate the long-term impact of sustainable, capacity-building efforts that improve the health, wellness, and quality of life of those most in need. A small portion of your donation includes:

- Clinic supplies and medications for patients
- Clinic participation
- Transportation, accommodations, and meals as outlined in the itinerary

Donation Payment Deadlines

\$4300 due by August 4, 2025

\$4500 due by October 5, 2025

Early Bird Savings Opportunity

To be eligible, upload all your required documents and forms, and make a minimum of 50% of your donation payment by .

FLEXIBLE FLIGHT OPTIONS

Volunteer with Airfare

You may choose to book a flight with us for an additional fee. Details on the available flight routing and US departure city will be announced on . Airport transportation to and from the team's accommodations are also included with this option. Depending on your departure city, you may still need to purchase another flight in addition to this one. After this flight has been booked, you may contact our travel agent, Worldwide Navigators, for assistance booking any necessary additional flights.

Benefits of Flying at a Group Rate

- Travel with other members of your team on select routing
- Fly on a group ticket at a guaranteed rate
- Transport to and from the airport included

Volunteer without Airfare

Many team members choose to book their flight(s) to and from the mission location independent of IMR. This is a great option if you would like to extend your stay in the area to tour and explore, or if the routing from your home airport is more feasible for you. If you choose to fly independently, please note that your transportation in between the airport and the team's accommodations will not be provided. This will need to be arranged separately. Our partner for travel, Worldwide Navigators, would be happy to assist you in coordinating flights and/or transportation. You can contact them at travel@worldwidenavigators.com.

Benefits of Flying Independently

- Extend your stay and customize your dates of travel
- Choose your departure location
- Customize your class of service

Featured Enhancements

Airfare & Airport Transfer:

Starting at \$50+ each way plus airfare that is subject to availability at the time of booking.

Single Supplement:

\$100 per night

Airport Transfers (for independent flyers):

\$50 each way

Malpractice Insurance:

\$129.50 to \$279.50

Continuing Education (CE/CME) Credits:

\$350

Personalized Scrubs (2 sets):

\$50

IMR T-Shirt:

\$15

Partner Program:

Starting at \$25 per month

*** To purchase any of the above Featured Enhancements for your mission please contact our office at office@imrus.org or call at (970) 635-0110*

Your Donation to IMR for Your Mission Cost Includes:

All group costs from the time you arrive at the team meeting point in country until you separate from the team or when the team arrives at the departure airport, including:

- Transportation
- Lodging
- Costs associated with the clinic
- Food
- Tips for services provided to the IMR team
- All logistics, including translation services and security as needed

Additional Costs That You Are Responsible For:

All group costs from the time you arrive at the team meeting point in country until you separate from the team or when the team arrives at the departure airport, including:

- International and Domestic flights to the country. [You have the option to](#)

[fly independently, or on a group flight with IMR](#)

- Passport fees, visa fees, and transit fees, including baggage or overnight accommodations/meals while in transit
- Required or recommended insurance
- Vaccinations and medications common for travel
- Spending money for souvenirs and personal purchases
- Required or desired mission supplies, personal equipment, or small gifts for the special people you meet
- Any lodging, meals, and transportation outside of the scheduled team mission, payable at the time of service to the local vendor
- COVID-related fees such as testing, vaccinations, and quarantines as required by incountry arrival/departure or USA arrival/departure