

## REDLIGHT Pattaya Outreach Trips Frequently Asked Questions

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**Q. What is REDLIGHT?**

- A.** REDLIGHT is a short-term volunteer program that takes you to some of the world's human trafficking hubs, such as Pattaya, Thailand for two weeks to help liberate girls from exploitation. You will not only learn more about sex trafficking but also create relationships with girls, boys, men and women trapped in the sex industry and introduce Not Abandoned's practical programs and services to them, providing hope and a way out. You will also help connect them with our staff, transitional house and resources to find a new and safe job. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to make a real difference and significantly impact a life that so desperately needs help.

**Q. Is this work dangerous ... is a mafia bully going to kidnap me?**

- A.** Pattaya is a safe city for tourists and you are not in danger as long as you follow our safety guidance covered during pre-outreach training. You will also travel in small teams so that you are not working alone. We are strategic in choosing neighborhoods in which we involve our volunteers for the purpose of outreach.

**Q. What is the intent of this outreach program?**

- A.** The primary intent of a REDLIGHT outreach trip is very simple, we show up and we love. We do this by caring for sexually exploited individuals, offering empathy and practical help to girls and women, boys and men who have been trafficked. Our goal is to offer a way out of their injustice and oppressive life situation. We are often asked if this is a "mission trip." While many people define a "mission" differently, we do want to be clear that our intent as a team is not to proselytize those we are working with. Because of the vast amount of trauma and emotional damage trafficked victims have endured, our mission during this trip is to reach-out with love, care, compassion, and the practical programming that Not Abandoned's local staff is able to provide. We are careful not to communicate the message that they need to welcome a new faith in order to enter our help programs. However, you will build significant relationships with these women and you will eventually have an opportunity to share your personal faith journey and what this means to you. You will be coached in how to proceed in this area. We always welcome REDLIGHT volunteers to be open and authentic about their own faith journey as we believe that this journey is a necessary part of true holistic health and hope.

**Q. What is the cost to participate in REDLIGHT?**

- A.** The cost is \$2,100 plus airfare (approx. \$3000 total). You can fund your own trip or raise funds to cover your personal costs. If you are fundraising, you are welcome to set up a volunteer account with us to collect tax-deductible funds on your behalf on our website. If interested, please contact us at [REDLIGHT@notabandoned.org](mailto:REDLIGHT@notabandoned.org).

**Q. What is included in the program cost?**

- A.** The \$2,100 includes all ground transportation, meals, and accommodation and daily expenses for doing the outreach. This amount will also cover other project outreach costs while building relationships with victims of sex trafficking once onsite in Pattaya. Also included in this amount is a mini-training-conference at the front end of your trip and a special last day activity. (Shh! I can't give you details, I don't want to spoil the surprise!) In short, all of your expenses will be covered by this amount with the exception of that extra afternoon coffee and any souvenir shopping for your someone-special.

**Q. Is there a registration deadline?**

- A.** We ask that you try and commit to these special outreach trips three month prior to the trip date so that we can make the appropriate arrangements such as hotel accommodations. You are more than welcome to email us at [REDLIGHT@notabandoned.org](mailto:REDLIGHT@notabandoned.org) for last minute participation requests though we cannot guarantee plausibility.

**Q. When is the payment due?**

- A.** You'll want to book your airfare immediately for the best travel rate or join the team-booking schedule where the NA staff does all the booking of tickets. However, you may continue to save/fundraise up until a couple weeks before you leave.

**Q. How should I book my airfare?**

- A.** The Not Abandoned staff coordinates the reservation and purchase of airline tickets. You are also very welcome to make your own travel arrangements if you prefer using miles/point or covering the expense out of pocket, or if you're joining us from somewhere outside the greater Seattle area. We ask you coordinate with NA staff regarding departures and arrival times to ensure connections with the team in country and ground transportation.

**Q. Is there an international airport in Pattaya?**

- A.** We fly into Suvarnabhumi Airport in Bangkok (BKK), located just east of Bangkok. From there, driving time to Pattaya is approx. 1.5 hours. There is technically a Pattaya airport but it will not accommodate our necessary flights.

**Q. Where will we stay?**

- A.** We stay at in the center of the city at the Sunbeam Hotel, a beautiful 4-star hotel located next to the city's largest shopping mall, and near the beach and areas where we will do much of our outreach. The hotel offers a fitness center, swimming pool, wifi, a hairdryer, complimentary breakfast and for a fee... laundry service. Bottom-line, it is a safe, clean hotel in the middle of everything we need, while still keeping our budget in check. <http://www.sunbeamhotel.net>

**Q. What documents do I need to travel to Thailand?**

- A.** You will need a passport, which is valid for at least six months prior to your visit to Thailand. For those with a U.S. passport, no visa is required for visits under 30 days. If you hold the passport of another country, please check your local embassy for visa regulations in regards to Thailand, or email us at [REDLIGHT@notabandoned.org](mailto:REDLIGHT@notabandoned.org) and we can further assist you.

**Q. I need to plan leave from work & family, what is the program duration?**

- A.** The program runs 14 days including travel time. Departure times vary depending on airline schedules. If you're unable to commit this length of time, we can work with you to shorten your trip at the back end if absolutely needed. Please contact us if you'd like to participate but duration is an issue.

**Q. What is the schedule and program format?**

- A.** You will receive a more detailed agenda once arriving in country. However, the schedule will include four general phases:
- i.** Training and strong glimpse into the depth of the trafficking situation and how to effectively reach out to trafficked victims.
  - ii.** Morning team meetings and daily outreach building relationships with exploited girls who work in the sex industry
  - iii.** Effectively introduce and connect victims to recovery programs.
  - iv.** Trip end party with new friends your helping
  - v.** Team celebration and reintegration training

The first 3 days will be spent in a mini-training conference with exposure trips around the city. During this time you will learn how to care for trafficked victims, culture observation and understanding, principals of trauma care, debriefing and general learning of Thai life so that you're fully prepared for personal outreach. On these days, you can expect about two hours of personal time, in addition to team meals. You can also expect late nights, as we observe nightlife in full swing.

After this initial training period, we will continue to meet each morning to debrief on experiences from the previous day. You'll manage your own outreach schedule within your assigned teams in the afternoon and evenings. We'll kick off the early afternoon together as a team before heading out for the outreach.

At the end of the outreach period, we will invite all our new friends to attend a beautiful party/ meal in the hotel's ballroom to reinforce the program, provide the opportunity to meet all Not Abandoned team members, provide you with an additional relationship building opportunity and most importantly... to show the girls how special they truly are and give them a place to blossom without judgment, pressure or expectations. At this time we give out personal gifts to our new friends.

We will end our time with some special team time of relaxation, souvenir shopping, cultural experiences and/or the beach. We will also have a time of trip debrief as a team and reintegration training before you return home.

**Q. Are the teams assigned?**

- A.** You will be grouped into teams of two to four max including your translator to help bridge the language barrier at the beginning of the outreach.

**Q. How can I contact loved ones while abroad?**

- A. There is complimentary Wi-Fi at the hotel. Using the Internet, you can make video calls with Skype (free from computer to computer or you can buy \$10 in Skype credit to call from your computer/smartphone to another cell phone or landline for under a dollar per call). If you have an iPhone, you can also text for free to other iPhone users while connected to Wi-Fi (if your text messages are blue, they are free). Most major phone carriers also offer international usage plans that you can add onto your account one month at a time. We'd suggest going into your carrier's local storefront and discussing your travel plans/needs with them to know exactly what your options are.

**Q. Do I need to get any immunizations or take malaria medication?**

- A. A tetanus shot is strongly recommended. Any doctor's office will provide this to you and it is covered by most insurance. We'll be in a very urbanized part of Thailand; no other shots or medication will be needed, though this is a good time to make sure you are up to date on your regular Hep vaccination.

**Q. What if there is an emergency?**

- A. Not Abandoned will purchase travel insurance for every REDLIGHT participant. In the event of an emergency there is good medical coverage and modern hospitals for any medical support. If needed, you may be taken to a local high-quality hospital.

**Q. Is the food and water safe to eat and drink?**

- A. You can find anything from Starbucks to McDonalds, Indian food to Italian, and of course, delicious Thai dishes on every corner. However, we do ask that you only drink and brush your teeth with bottled water (we will supply you with plenty) and recommend that you avoid eating unpeeled fruits and vegetables that you haven't washed yourself.

**Q. How do I get to and from the airport once in Thailand?**

- A. Not Abandoned will arrange pre-paid ground transportation from the airport to Pattaya when traveling with the rest of the outreach team; your driver will be waiting for you in the outdoor passenger pick-up area. However, if you are arriving or departing individually, Not Abandoned staff will reserve transportation for you in advance.

**Q. Do the women we meet during an outreach speak English?**

- A. Some do. Many do not. Be prepared to use your best charades and hand-motioning-skills from time to time. Please remember to speak slowly, articulate and use simple English—staying away from English colloquialisms and slang that do not translate literally. There will also be translators provided by Not Abandoned to assist you.

**Q. I'd love to learn a little Thai before I go. Any suggestions?**

- A. While not a requirement, it goes a LONG way to learn some basic Thai before your arrival, including hello, thank you, how are you, etc. If you own a smartphone, download the “Learn Thai” app and be sure to upgrade to the \$4.99 version to allow access without Internet. This will not only give you key phrases but also allow you to hear the female or male pronunciation on the fly. A pocket-size travel dictionary will also come in handy.

**Q. Will I have a chance to meet the rest of team before we depart?**

- A. Yes, there will be a set number of meetings before everyone meets together in Thailand. Face to face meetings for those living in the Seattle area will be held and can be joined via Skype for those out of state.

**Q. When will I find out who my roommate will be?**

- A. Unless you specified your own room on your application, you will receive your roommate assignment upon arrival at the hotel. If you have a roommate request or concern, be sure to mention this on your program application.

**Q. What is the weather like?**

- A. Thailand jokingly has three seasons: Hot (Nov – Feb), Hotter (March – May) and Rainy Hot (June - Oct).

**Q. What should I wear?**

- A. Pattaya is a tourist resort town and although you will be seen as a customer we do want to be respectful of the culture, wear comfortable loose clothes for hot humid weather. With respect to the Thai culture, we request that you keep your hemlines and necklines conservative. Prior to the trip, more specific instructions will be provided regarding what and what not to take. You'll also want to bring a light sweater, as the air conditioning indoors can be quite chilly.

**Q. Are there any important personal items I should pack?**

- A. Be sure to bring a universal adapter for personal appliances. (Cell phones can plug directly into the wall as well as laptops.) You'll also want to carry a small notebook and pen to take notes during our training and team meeting times. We also encourage participants to bring your personal journal to record your thoughts and experiences. Also bringing family photos is a nice way to connect with the girls you meet during outreach. These can either be carried around in printed form or on your smart phone. Keep in mind when choosing photos to share that you do not want to flaunt your comparative affluence. On this same note, please leave your more expensive jewelry safely at home.

**Q. Should I bring any gifts for the girls I meet or for the party?**

- A. The girls you establish relationships with are likely to give you a small gift of remembrance and gratitude. It's nice to be prepared with a little gift in return—something symbolic of your relationship, of change or a little token from America. You can expect to create relationships with an average of 4-10 girls. (Examples: simple bracelets, lip balm, key chain from your home city, etc)

We will also be giving away small gift bags and door prizes at our post-outreach party and we need your help! Please involve your friends to gather small items for gift bags and prizes. These should be fun, inexpensive but nice and NEW items that would brighten your new friend's day (Think teenage & tweener stocking stuffers!)

**Q. How much should I bring for personal spending?**

- A. The minimalist can get by with as little as \$100 USD. If you're a shopper, you'll want to bring more, as there are various markets and handicrafts shops available. The average person will do fine with \$200 USD to pay for impromptu coffees, Thai foot massages, and souvenirs. Be sure to bring crisp large denomination bills for the best exchange rate, as well as bills that are no older than 10 years old. Wrinkled or older bills are often rejected.

**Q. Who do I contact if I have further questions?**

- A. You can e-mail us at our Not Abandoned e-mail address:  
[REDLIGHT@notabandoned.org](mailto:REDLIGHT@notabandoned.org)