



OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN AWSOM PROJECT VOLUNTEER MISSION



Have you ever thought about volunteering overseas? Are you a qualified swimming teacher? We have the perfect adventure for you! This is an opportunity to be involved in rewarding humanitarian work at a reduced cost compared to similar tours organised by travel companies.

SOME BACKGROUND ABOUT THE AWSOM PROJECT

Most people in Australia are unaware that thirty children drown every day in Vietnam (TASC). The Australian Water Safety on the Mekong (AWSOM) Project is a small charity based in Perth, Australia (Charitable Licence 21613). The Tien Giang Provincial Government has requested our ongoing assistance with the enormous task of ensuring the children in the region are provided with essential water safety skills and education.

As part of our project we run annual water safety and swimming clinics for disadvantaged, disabled and orphaned village children in the Mekong region. The Tien Giang Province is located along the Mekong River and is the source of life for over one and a half million people. Ironically the river is also an omnipresent hazard for children and adults who live and work along the banks of the Mekong. Children do not know how to swim and sadly education about water safety is almost non-existent. Children in this region regularly need to cross makeshift bridges (often consisting of a tree trunk across the water) to attend school. Drowning is a common occurrence in these situations.

We work in collaboration with the People's Committee, The Education Department and the Sports and Cultural Centre of My Tho.

TOUR TO VIETNAM

The team meets in Ho Chi Minh City (HCMC) and travels by bus to and from My Tho City. The week in My Tho City is completely arranged for you (clinics, accommodation, most meals, sightseeing etc). The week is challenging and hard work but previous participants describe it as one of the best experiences of their lives!

COST

\$1099.00 (includes \$99.00 cost of Vietnam business visa)

What is included in these costs?

- Business visa for entry to Vietnam
- Two nights of accommodation including breakfast (twin share) in 3 star Elios Hotel in HCMC (one night prior and one night post clinics in My Tho City)
- Private coach trip to and from My Tho City
- Five nights of accommodation in 4 star Mekong Hotel in My Tho City
- Breakfast and lunch every day in My Tho City
- Some evening meals in My Tho City
- Team polo shirt
- Teambuilding activity in HCMC
- Sightseeing in My Tho City
- Fully organised volunteer experience
- On ground support of team leaders and local representative throughout volunteer mission

What is not included?

- Airfares
- Airport transfers (approximately \$15.00 each way)
- Travel insurance
- Spending money
- Some evening meals
- Vaccinations

ITINERARY FOR NEXT TOUR

Saturday 04 January 2020:

- Arrive at Elios Hotel by 1245
- Team meeting in board room at 1300
- Team activity in HCMC
- Team Dinner

Sunday 05 January 2020:

- Hotel check out by 0930
- Travel to My Tho City by private coach
- Official Welcome Meeting in My Tho City
- Sightseeing in My Tho City

Monday 06 January 2020:

- Welcome Ceremony
- Drowning prevention clinics (local and remote)

Tuesday 07 January 2020:

- Drowning prevention clinics (local and remote)

Wednesday 08 January 2020:

- Drowning prevention clinics (local and remote)

Thursday 09 January 2020:

- Drowning prevention clinics (local and remote)

Friday 10 January 2020:

- Drowning prevention clinics (local)
- Travel by private coach to HCMC in evening
- Official end of tour upon arrival in HCMC
- Check in at hotel

Saturday 11 January 2020:

- Check out of hotel

WHY PAY TO VOLUNTEER?

We are a not-for-profit organisation which does not receive any financial support from the government, so volunteers must finance themselves. The money you pay allows us to provide you with an amazing opportunity to contribute your skills to a lifesaving mission. Our charity has worked hard to establish partnerships in Vietnam and be recognised as an INGO in the Mekong Delta region. You will be working in a project where you are genuinely needed and, in addition, we ensure that our partner organisations and schools don't have to pay for the help of our volunteers.

WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?

The AWSOM Project is an entirely independent organisation and of course, we don't request money from our partner organisations in Vietnam. Therefore your contribution as a volunteer helps to fund our vital work. A major goal of our project is sustainability. As part of this commitment we provide training and professional development for local teachers. We also provide equipment and teacher training courses in Vietnam as well as managing a year-round child sponsorship program, and providing hire pools for remote schools. Part of your contribution will assist with these costs.

Your project price, therefore, not only covers the costs that are directly linked to your presence on the ground, but also a small share of all the other costs that are involved with the work of the AWSOM Project.

HOW TO APPLY

Please complete the AWSOM Project Volunteer Mission Application Form. Submit this with a certified copy of the following documents by **COB 28 June 2019**:

- Swim Australia Teacher or Austswim Certificate
- Working With Children Card
- Resuscitation Certificate
- Passport

SHORTLISTED CANDIDATES

Shortlisted candidates will need to make themselves available for an interview in June at a mutual time agreed upon by the selection committee and the candidate.

SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS

Successful applicants will be advised by mid July 2019. The decision of the selection committee will be final and there will be no grounds for appeal.

All team members must sign the AWSOM Project Code of Conduct prior to travelling to Vietnam. It is the responsibility of candidates to arrange their own airfares, travel insurance and vaccinations. Candidates may travel to and from Vietnam at any time within the dates of the business entry visa, conditional upon meeting the above criteria listed in the itinerary. All candidates must be at the Elios Hotel in HCMC by 1245 on Saturday 04/01/2020 and be available to participate in all scheduled events until returning to HCMC on Friday 10/01/2020.

The business visa application process will be conducted on your behalf by the AWSOM Project. The cost of the visa is included in your fee. Business visas will be issued for a four week period (26/12/19 to 22/01/20). Please note that you will only be permitted to be in Vietnam within the dates issued on your visa. You must be able to supply a photocopy of your passport (valid until at least the end of July 2020) by **31 July 2019**.

A \$500.00 deposit will need to be paid by 15 September 2019 to secure your place on the AWSOM Project mission. Please note that this deposit is non-refundable. Payment may be made by cash, cheque or direct bank deposit. The final payment is due by Friday 15 October 2019.

All candidates are welcome to fundraise the project price (conditions apply – please speak to Bev Christmass or Nikki Grazulis for further information).

Further information is available from admin@awsomproject.com or in person from the founders of the AWSOM Project - Bev Christmass or Nikki Grazulis.

We look forward to receiving your application!