

### ***“Travel with Gina” . . .***

*is NOT a typical tour. You are a friend “Traveling with Me” the way I like to travel. We see the important sights & the real local culture - safely. Due to the ongoing impact of Coronavirus (COVID-19), protecting the safety and wellbeing of travelers, local guides, and suppliers remains my priority and I have adjusted my flexible cancellation and change policy to accommodate the changing times. These trips are good for people who are independent travelers wanting some free time when they travel with a “group of friends”. Not every 5 minutes is planned. We have a lot of free time for individual interests. Many of the people who join this group trip become “lifelong friends” because you have so much in common. Not everyone in our life loves to travel so we need these “traveller friends”. These trips are also for people who want longer, extended & cultural travel. Maybe you are retired already or preparing for retirement? Maybe you want a lifestyle & work-life like Gina’s that allows you to travel as much as you want at any age? Welcome to “Travel with Gina”!*

### ***“Travel with Gina”***

## **VOLUNTEER TEACH ENGLISH in THAILAND**

**(15 days - every January - annually)**

**Next Dates: JANUARY 11 (Sat) - 25 (Sat), 2025**

**Cost: \$695 per volunteer** (past volunteers \$595pp)

**Single room supplement: \$195** (or ask Gina to help you find a roommate)

**+ international air starting at \$900** (or FREE with 80,000 - 130,000 reward points)



### **PROGRAM DETAILS:**

Two volunteers will be placed together at each school to share this cultural experience. Gina and/or prior volunteers will orient the new volunteers each session. Volunteers will assist the Thai English teacher in the classroom approximately four hours a day Monday through Friday (based on the English class schedule at each school). We now have 7 schools! School children are K-9. One school is K-12.



During your free time volunteers can explore the local village, the hot springs, Buddhist temples, get a \$8 per hour Thai massage, practice the Thai language with the locals, read a book or simply relax.

- Volunteers do not need to be certified English teachers or have any prior teaching experience, they only need to be fluent English speakers.
- Volunteers are not required to have had a Covid vaccine.
- The local Thai English teacher will be responsible for presenting the English lesson in class, along with instruction. However many Thai English teachers are shy with their limited English and will invite you to be more active in the class if you desire. **Most Thai English teachers learned English from another Thai English teacher, so their English pronunciation is sometimes challenging to understand.** They love American English because it is more clear than British or Australian English. Try to speak clearly and slowly and wait patiently for their response for good communication.
- During the break-out sessions when students are put into small groups to practice the lesson, volunteers will help motivate the students to learn English and assist in their pronunciation of the English words.
- Many of the English lesson plans are routine & boring. Often we volunteers can make the learning more fun with games, prizes and children's songs in English.
- Many of the students come from the rural Hill Tribes where they speak their Hill Tribe language at home (Karen, Lisu, Lahu, etc). They come to school to learn Thai, English & other subjects (math, history, music, art, computers, etc).



language at home (Karen, Lisu, Lahu, etc). They come to school to learn Thai, English & other subjects (math, history, music, art, computers, etc).

- When students learn to speak English well they can obtain better job opportunities in tourism & business. English is the world's business and tourism language. As the farming opportunities in the Hill Tribe villages diminish, this helps the young Hill Tribe youth find alternative employment. In addition, promoting the Hill Tribe culture via tourism offers the youth many ways to sustain their Hill Tribe culture & tourism income.



- We now have seven schools where we volunteer. One school is walking distance from our hotel. At the other schools the Thai teachers will happily transport you each day to the school. We all stay at the same hotel so in the evenings we can share our fun stories & work on lesson plan improvements.
- Schools and the hotel have free wifi.

### **PROGRAM COST, ACCOMMODATIONS & MEALS:**

- **Fee: \$695pp (past volunteers \$595pp) (based on shared double room; single room supplement \$195)** includes orientation, transport to/from Chiang Mai to host school, and 14-nights accommodation (guesthouse with AC, wifi, and private western bathroom with hot water) and 20 meals. If you don't have a roommate, Gina will try to match you with someone in the group.
- **Meals:** Breakfast included with guesthouse (please note this is a basic breakfast consisting of 2 eggs, 2 toast, butter, coffee or tea). Lunch will be provided at school during the M-F school days (vegan & gluten free options are available). Dinner is on your own (\$3-\$7 per meal). There are two small grocery stores nearby to help you with any special dietary needs, as well as two local restaurants, food stalls and an excellent banana pancake stand! The small hotel restaurant offers dinner (pre-order in the morning). The hotel office has a microwave for our use as well. Each hotel room has a small refrigerator. Buying a local hotpot to make coffee/tea in your room is encouraged (\$10 purchase in Chiang Mai or at stores near the schools).

**Costs not included:** International air to/from Chiang Mai, Thailand (starting at \$900RT); Chiang Mai airport to Chiang Mai hotel transfers (\$30 each way, up to 3 people); TravelGuard trip insurance (required, approx. cost \$25-\$100pp); weekend/free time sightseeing activities; dining out; pre & post trip activities, etc.

Many volunteers pack teaching supplies in their outbound checked suitcase & use these in the classroom, donating them to the Thai teachers and students at the end of the 2 weeks. Suggestions include: flash cards for English vocabulary & math, games, pens, pencils, notebooks, maps, etc. A suggested packing list will be provided to each volunteer.

### **VOLUNTEER TEACH ENGLISH PROGRAM SCHEDULE:**

**Jan 11 (Sat)** Arrive Chiang Mai by noon (or arrive the day before on Jan 11 or earlier - Gina can book your pre-trip hotel for \$60 per night single or double room). See recommended "Chiang Mai sightseeing suggestions" below for ideas of what to do in Chiang mai.

Our meeting point is our Chiang Mai hotel (airport transfer is available for \$30 each way, 3p max). **At 2pm meet in the hotel lobby for orientation**, a local walking tour to the Warowot Chinese Market. Enjoy a short break back at the hotel. **At 5pm meet in the hotel lobby to take a walk around the Night Market** and participate in an optional group dinner (get to know your new friends!) Free evening to enjoy the famous Night Bazaar & the “Saturday Walking Street”. Get a Thai massage for \$8 per hour!

### **Jan 12 (Sun)**

Buffet breakfast starts at 7am at our hotel. At 9am we drive to the volunteer village, Ban Pa Ngui village 1.5 hours north of Chiang Mai. Enroute we will stop at a large grocery store to get food provisions & snacks. We check into the Big House Hotel in Ban Pa Ngui. Late afternoon orientation with our Thai teachers and you will receive your class schedule. Optional group dinner.

Meals: (B)

**Jan 13 (M):** Breakfast at Big House begins at 7am. At 8am the local Thai English teachers will greet us at our hotel and take us to our volunteer school (we have seven schools where we will be volunteering in the local area). Enjoy the morning school ceremony with the Thai national anthem, English word of the day, exercise and meditation. The first volunteer day is primarily an observation day where the Thai English teacher presents the lesson plan and the volunteers help with the English word pronunciation. However, the Thai English teachers are very enthusiastic about our being there and they want us to “jump right in” and participant with the kids.

Meals: (B,L)

**Jan 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 (M-F):** Volunteer at the local school, assisting the local Thai English teacher in the classroom approximately 4-5 hours per day. During your free time, explore the local village, the hot springs, Buddhist temples, get a \$8/hour Thai massage, practice the Thai language with the locals, read a book or simply relax. Enjoy after school activities with your host teacher & students. Join other volunteers for dinner.

Meals: (B,L)

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### **OPTIONAL WEEKEND activities:**

**Jan 17 (Fri), Jan 18 (Sat), & Jan 19 (Sunday):**

#### **a. PAI WEEKEND TRIP: Elephants, Water Buffalo, Waterfalls & Hot Springs**

Friday afternoon drive to Pai (4 hours), returning Sunday evening. Private air-conditioned minivan or car.

I traveled to Pai in 1995 when it was a very small hot springs village. Last year I returned with the volunteers and loved seeing all of the good growth in Pai. Please join me for this trip if this interests you. **I will need to know your interest in this optional weekend trip by September 15, 2024.**



**Cost: \$145pp including transportation and two nights Pai hotel (single room option \$40 for 2 nights hotel).**

Pai sits in a valley on the banks of the Pai River. It's known for its nearby gorges, hot springs like the Tha Pai Hot Spring (\$9pp), scenic bamboo bridge (\$1pp), white Buddha (free), sunset at Pai Canyon (\$3pp) and waterfalls like Mo Paeng Waterfall. Downtown food stalls and handicraft shops line Pai Walking Street. West of town lies Baan Santichon, a traditional Chinese village with clay houses and eateries serving Yunnan cuisine.



We'll have the opportunity to visit a local elephant camp, letting you interact with these beautiful, sensitive animals in an ecologically responsible fashion (no riding). One of them is Thom's Elephant Camp. Here is her story: "Thom was born into a mahout family. She grew up with elephants, and played with them as a child. Being born into a family of elephants, Thom has a deep love for her "family". She knows from a lifetime of experience how to care for the welfare of elephants. With sufficient food, compassionate treatment and loving care, Thom's "family" is able to live together happily. Thom knows how much fun the experience with these wonderful animals is. She wants **you** to experience it too.



Thom's Elephant Camp options: For more information & pictures, go to [www.ThomElephant.com/](http://www.ThomElephant.com/). 2 hour trek & bathing elephants in the river = \$70pp (minimum 2p). Also included is the hot springs at Thom's elephant camp.



**b. RETURN TO CHIANG MAI & ENJOY SIGHTSEEING IN CHIANG MAI:**

See Chiang Mai sightseeing recommendations below. The 2 hour transportation to Chiang Mai is either by public bus or public songthaew (in Thai it means "two rows" which are converted pickup trucks that accommodate eight to 12 passengers in two facing rows of seats (approx. \$15RT). If you want Gina to book your Chiang Mai hotel

the cost is \$60pp per night (double or single room) including breakfast. The travel agency across the street from the hotel can help you book activities.

c. REMAIN IN THE VOLUNTEER VILLAGE for the weekend & plan activities with your Thai students or your Thai English teacher. There are local hot springs, Buddhist temples, or go together by public bus to Chiang Rai (2 hours north) and visit the White Buddhist temple, Blue Temple and Black Temple.

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**Jan 20-24 (M-F):** Volunteer at the local school.

Meals: (B,L)

**Jan 24 (F):**

Friday farewell program at the school & afternoon transport back to Chiang Mai. Free evening to enjoy the famous Night Bazaar & get a Thai massage for \$8 per hour!

Meals: (B)

**Jan 25 (Sat):** Fly home or add a trip extension - see below for suggestions. Airport transfer is available for \$30 (up to 3 persons).

Meals: (B)

### **TRIP EXTENSIONS: Join Gina for all three trips:**

**1. NEW YEAR'S TOUR in CAMBODIA & FAMOUS ANGKOR WAT TEMPLE (6D)**

Dec 30, 2024 to Jan 4, 2025 (Land cost \$995 + International Air).

**2. THAILAND BUDDHIST TEMPLE TOUR (9D)**

Jan 4-12, 2025 (Land cost \$1895 + Int'l air).

**3. VOLUNTEER TEACH ENGLISH PROGRAM**

Jan 12-25, 2025 (Land cost \$695, Int'l air).

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**4. PRE or POST VOLUNTEER Trip Extensions:**

*for those wanting to experience more of Chiang Mai life*

Arrive Chiang Mai early (or stay longer after the volunteering). Chiang Mai is Thailand's second largest city and an excellent retirement destination. Gina can book your Chiang Mai hotel for \$60/night (single or double room).

a. Optional tour of the sacred **Wat Phra Doi Sutep**

**Mountain Monastery** (a spiritual pilgrimage for all Thai's to make at least once in their life). It's the most-visited, most famous, and most highly revered temple in



Chiang Mai. The journey up the winding mountain road to the entrance is an experience in itself. The final leg of the journey requires you to climb 309 steps (or take the tram) to reach the 600-year-old golden chedi at the top, which towers above the surrounding temple building, the monks' living quarters and the city of Chiang Mai. (\$15pp on your own; \$45pp with an English-speaking guide - 2p minimum). You can book this tour via the travel agency across the street from our Chiang Mai hotel. I recommend going early morning or around 4pm (for sunset and monk chanting). Closes at 7pm.



- b. Visit one of the many elephant conservation sanctuaries to learn about Thai elephant life and see elephant bathing. Elephants were a major part of Thai life in the lumbering business which was outlawed in the 1990's. The elephants and their mahout drivers have had to learn new ways to support their elephants since elephants eat 10% of their body weight each day. We will learn how to feed, bath and care for the elephants. Some of the elephant sanctuaries allow elephant riding, some do not - you will be offered several recommendations as we get closer to the trip based on your interests. (\$55-\$200pp).



- c. Tour to the White Temple and Blue Temple in Chiang Rai (\$40pp transportation & guide + \$10 entrance fee). Book via the travel desk across the street from our Chiang Mai hotel. Option to visit the long-neck hill tribe (\$12pp).





d. Chiang Mai Recommended Chiang Mai activities: Visit Wat Phra Singh (reclining Buddha), Lanna Thai History Museum, and Three Kings Monument in the Old City. At 6pm meet the volunteers in the hotel lobby for an optional group dinner. Meals: (B)

e. Visit the Buddhist temple Wat Suan Dok on a Friday & enjoy their free one day (930am-5pm) Buddhist Meditation retreat learning about Thailand history, Buddhism & meditation (donation suggested). Free evening for the Night Bazaar & Thai massage (\$8/hour). At 6pm meet the volunteers in the hotel lobby for an optional group dinner. Meals: (B)

f. Doi Inthanon (the highest mountain in Thailand, waterfalls, Twin Pagodas) \$75pp (includes guide, transportation & entrance fee).

g. Morning Monks Alms Giving: On your own at 6am - take a tuk tuk to Three Kings Monument in the Old City or to Kru Ba Srivichai Shrine at the base of Doi Sutep to see many monks doing their morning alms giving. Or for a tour with a local guide, see [tripadvisor.com](http://tripadvisor.com) for guided tours to see the morning monk alms & other Chiang Mai temples for 755 baht = \$25pp (6-9am).

h. Buddhist Meditation 1-Day Program (every M & F) at Wat Suan Dok 930am-5pm - FREE (donation suggested).

i. Monk chat at Wat Suan Dok - Informally talk with the monk. Get to know about monk's life, Thai culture and tradition, Buddhism, meditation etc. Every Monday, Wed, Friday 4pm – 7pm.

j. See more Buddhist Temples:

Wat Chedi Luang (tallest Buddha temple in Chiang Mai) (monk chat 9am-6pm).

Wat Phra That Doi Kham (huge seated Buddha)

Wat Chiang Mon (oldest temple in Chiang Mai)

Wat Phra That Doi Kham (Temple of the Golden Mountain),

Wat Phra That Doi Suthep & Wiang Kum Kam

Wat Suan Dok (500 year old Buddha bronze image)

k. Massage/manicures/pedicures/facials: Highly recommended is Chai Massage (one block from our hotel). It is best to make an appointment, walk in or call 093 250 8068. Plus there is local massage EVERYWHERE with no appointment needed! My tip: When you find a masseuse you like, keep going back to the same person because they know your body. Typical costs: half hour Thai massage (\$3-\$5), 1 hour Thai massage (\$8-\$10), one hour foot massage (\$8), body scrub (\$25), etc. A 10% tip is appreciated.

l. Saturday Walking Street (Wui Lai Market) south of the Old City, starts 4pm (very crowded after 6pm) HIGHLY RECOMMENDED!



m. Sunday Walking Street (inside the Old City at Thapae Gate), starts 4pm (very crowded after 6pm) HIGHLY RECOMMENDED!

n. Traditional Thai Dance - Kantoke Dinner at the Old Chiang Mai Cultural Center. Cost approx. \$25pp.

o. Thai Cooking Classes:

half day (\$35-\$45pp including transportation & tour of the local farmers market):

Thai Farm Cooking School [www.ThaiFarmCookingschool.com](http://www.ThaiFarmCookingschool.com) (founded in 2001; Cost 1,200 baht pp; includes roundtrip transportation from your hotel and lunch you prepare). Phone 66-81-288-59-89

Ajarn Saiyud's Kitchen <https://g.co/kgs/z5mRVnB>

Thai Kitchen Cookery Centre, [www.thaikitchencentre.com](http://www.thaikitchencentre.com)

Baan Thai Cookery School, [www.cookinthai.com](http://www.cookinthai.com)

p. HIGHLY RECOMMENDED! Mae Ping River cruise

Enjoy river scenery, teak houses, numerous bridges, temples. Stop at a farmer's house to learn about local herbs, fruits, rice planing and fishing techniques (2 hours river cruise). Departs every 2 hours from 9am-5pm [www.maepingrivercruise.com](http://www.maepingrivercruise.com) Cost approx. \$20pp. They also offer a dinner cruise every evening departing at 630pm (90 minutes; cost \$TBD). You can book at the travel agency directly across from our Chiang Mai hotel and cost includes the roundtrip transportation from the hotel.

q. Secret Temple Trek - 1 Day Trip - Chai Lai Orchid

<https://chailaiorchid.com/daytrips-and-elephant-experiences/secretjungle-trek>

r. Chiang Dao Cave & 5 Hilltribe Villages Daytrip

<https://www.kkday.com/en-us/product/153371-chiang-dao-cave-5-hill-tribe-villages-day-tour-chiang-mai-thailand>

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## 5. DO YOU WANT EXTRA VOLUNTEER WEEK(S)?

*If you loved this experience & want more volunteer time!*

Once you have completed the 14-day "Volunteer Teach English Experience" with Gina, you are eligible to volunteer for more weeks anytime during the school season between mid-May to mid-Feb (Please note the hot season with temperatures in the low 100 degrees runs from March-June. The hot/rainy season is from June-Oct. It is highly recommend doing this volunteer program in the cool/dry season between November-February when the temperatures are only in the low 90's in the daytime, 60's at night). You can work with your same school & Thai English teacher if you choose.

**COST: \$100pp per week fee + guesthouse @ \$20/night sgl or dbl room** (you will pay the hotel directly for the room and breakfast).

Not included: international air, roundtrip transportation from the Chiang Mai airport to the volunteer town 1.5 hours north of Chiang Mai (however information will be provided on affordable options for this transport - approx. \$15pp), extra meals, extra sightseeing. To reserve your spot and pay your \$100pp per week fee, go to [www.GinaHenry.com](http://www.GinaHenry.com), call 512-751-5096 or email [ginahenrytravelinfo@gmail.com](mailto:ginahenrytravelinfo@gmail.com).

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## **TRIP INSURANCE**

**TRIP INSURANCE is required for this volunteer program:**

1. Gina recommends “TravelGuard Preferred” trip insurance as it is based on the trip destination and trip cost. It offers \$50,000 medical insurance along with other coverage (lost baggage, trip delay, etc). Gina recommends purchasing the “additional medical coverage” for a small amount which offers \$100,000 in medical insurance as well as evacuation insurance. Some countries are now requiring you to have \$100,000 in medical coverage to enter. TravelGuard also offers a “cancel for any reason” add-on for just a few more dollars which is a good idea during this time of COVID. Go to [GinaHenry.com](http://GinaHenry.com), click on “Gina Recommends” for the TravelGuard links. Use Gina Henry/Go Global Inc. code #62401. Air refunds are based on airline policy.

2. TravelGuard also offers an “Annual Plan” for \$259 per year - this is what I purchase because I travel so much. You only have to be 100+ miles away from home for coverage. It offers two trip evacuations per year, \$50,000 of medical coverage per incident, lost baggage, trip delay, etc. However, it does not offer the “cancel for any reason” add-on. Go to [GinaHenry.com](http://GinaHenry.com), click on “Gina Recommends” for the TravelGuard links. Use Gina Henry/Go Global Inc. code #62401. Fill out the form with the first trip destination & trip departure date. Make the trip end date exactly one-year and this will calculate your \$259 annual insurance (you don’t need to name all of your trips for the year).

**For more information on TravelGuard,  
please go to my web site at [www.GinaHenry.com](http://www.GinaHenry.com)  
and click under “Gina Recommends” at the top of the web site.**

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## HOW TO EARN A FREE AIRLINE TICKET TO THAILAND?

You will need approximately 80,000-130,000 reward points to fly FREE roundtrip coach class. Please note reward point levels and credit card promotions change frequently. Please confirm with the web sites below. Gina recommends applying for one or more of these reward credit cards to earn a FREE ROUNDTRIP airline ticket for this trip:

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1. When booking through **“Chase Ultimate Rewards”**: Apply for **“The Chase Sapphire Preferred credit card”** offers a 60,000 sign-up bonus when you spend \$4000 in the first 3 months of getting the card. Annual fee \$95, even the first year. Put all your monthly bills on this card to earn the additional points. This credit card is available to you if you do not have any Sapphire cards and have not received a new cardmember bonus for any Sapphire card in the past 48 months. For more information, go to [www.Chase.com/](http://www.Chase.com/). Total 60,000 + 4000 (spend) = 64,000 points. Use Chase Ultimate Rewards to book your flight and receive a 25% bonus = 80,000 points. You can also transfer your Sapphire points to United airlines, but you would miss the 25% bonus.

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2. When booking through **United Airlines**: Apply for **“The United Airlines Explorer credit card”** which offers a 60,000 sign-up bonus when you spend \$3,000 in the first 3 months. No annual fee the first year (\$95 year two). This credit card bonus is available to you if you do not have this card and have not received a new Cardmember bonus for this card in the past 24 months. Put all your monthly bills on this card to earn the additional points. Total 60,000 + 3,000 (spend) = 63,000 points.

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Next: apply for **“The United Gateway credit card”** (30,000 sign-up bonus with a \$1,000 spend in the first 3 months of getting the card = 31,000 more points. No annual fee. Total 31,000 points + 63,000 (above points) = 94,000 points.

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Next: If you have a business, apply for a **“Chase United Business Mileage Plus credit card”** (50,000 sign-up bonus with a \$5,000 spend in the first 3 months of getting the card = 55,000 points. No annual fee year one (\$99 year two). Plus earn 2 miles per \$1 spent on United purchases, dining (including eligible delivery services), gas, office supply stores, and on local transit and commuting. Plus first checked bag free for you and one companion traveling on the same reservations, earn a \$100 United travel credit after qualifying flight purchases, and 1 mile per \$1 spent on all other purchases. Also, 5,000 anniversary bonus miles when you have the UnitedSM Business Card and a personal United credit card\*. Total at least 94,000 (above points) + 55,000 = 149,000 points. For more information, go to [www.United.com](http://www.United.com) or [www.Chase.com/](http://www.Chase.com/).

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3. When booking through **American Airlines**: Apply for **“The American Airlines Advantage Platinum Select World Elite Mastercard”** offers a 50,000 sign-up bonus when you spend \$2,500 in the first 3 months of getting the card. No annual fee first year (Year two \$99). Total 50,000 + 2,500 (spend) = 52,500 points.

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Next: apply for a **“Citi AAdvantage MileUp credit card”** (10,000 sign-up bonus with a \$500 spend in the first 3 months of getting the card). No annual fee ever. Put all your monthly bills on

these cards to earn the additional points. Total at least 10,000 + 500 (spend) = 10,500 points + 52,500 (above points) = 63,000 points.

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Next: If you have a business, apply for a “**Citi Advantage Business credit card**” (65,000 sign-up bonus with a \$4,000 spend in the first 4 months of getting the card) = 65,000 + 4,000 (spend) = 69,000 points. Annual fee \$99. Total 63,000 point (above) + 69,000 points = 132,000 points. For more information, go to [www.aa.com](http://www.aa.com) or [www.Citi.com/](http://www.Citi.com/).

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## **HOW DO YOU SIGN UP FOR THIS TRIP?**

### **Your \$400pp TRIP DEPOSIT**

holds your spot and is **100% refundable up to 90 days** of trip departure & **100% transferable up to 60 days** of trip departure.

See Gina’s flexible “Cancellation & Change Policy” on the trip summary brochure.

### **TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT or for more information:**

**contact Gina Henry / Go Global Tours**

**512-751-5096**

**[GinaHenryTravelinfo@gmail.com](mailto:GinaHenryTravelinfo@gmail.com)**

**[www.GinaHenry.com](http://www.GinaHenry.com)**

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**PLUS: Receive a FREE TRIP for yourself (land portion)**  
**when you bring 8 paying friends on a trip!**

**And if you follow the tips in this publication,**  
**you will also have a FREE AIRLINE TICKET for this trip!**

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**TO SEE MORE PAST VOLUNTEER PHOTOS , VIDEOS, & TESTIMONIALS**  
**go to: [GinaHenry.com](http://GinaHenry.com)**

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