



SIAMA BULLETIN

2023

CONTENT

INTRO	3
HISTORY	4
SOCIAL MEDIA	6
FLIGHT BOOKING INSIGHT	8
SOCIETY	10
CLIENT REVIEWS	12
TRAVEL OPTIONS	14
DIFFERENCES	16
PROSPECTS	17
RESERVATION PROCEDURE	18
MEET THE TEAM	20
MISSIONARY STORIES	22
CONTACT	24

INTRO

Dear Missionary, Dear Friend,

A warm welcome to our newest 2023 edition of the SIAMA Travel Guide. A long-time tradition of our history.

In the 53 years of SIAMA's existence (since 1970), SIAMA shares your purpose and is genuinely committed to serve you to the best of our ability.

The Corona pandemic, The Ukraine war still going on, the energy crisis, it effects and touches all of us.

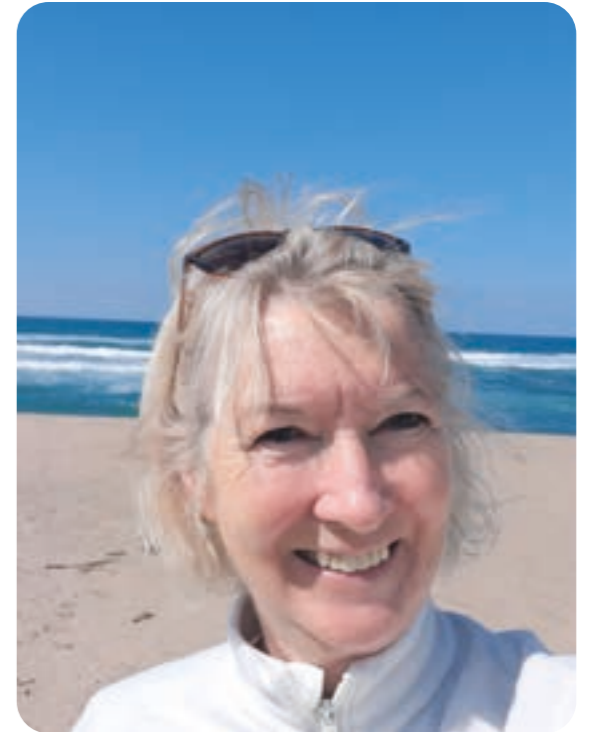
If I look back, working with SIAMA since 1982, there have always been new challenges and hardships in the world. I see it is as my task and SIAMA's task to stand by your side and be there for you, when you need us. The Lord is my Shephard. SIAMA's motto has not changed over the years:

SIAMA: For the Missionaries - Through the Missionaries - With the Missionaries

In my opinion you make the difference and bring light into the world, and to the people in need. By spreading the word of God, you give people around the world a chance, comfort and meaning in life.

Therefore irrespective of any world situation, SIAMA will go the extra mile to get you and your family home or to your Mission field. We are truly grateful and committed to assist you.

SIAMA can offer special Missionary fares and flexible conditions on most major airlines. When you have travel plans, contact us without obligation for price information.



It is our profound wish to help and save you money and time with the arrangements for your travel, so that you have more means to help others in their needs.

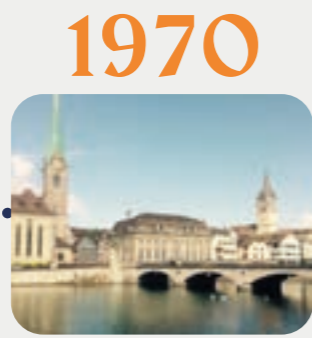
Kindly note we can also assist your direct family members to visit you in the Mission field.

With our recent new fresh look, website and more visibility online with Facebook, LinkedIn and Instagram, we like to reach more Missionaries, Mission organizations and Bible school students and teachers worldwide, and make them aware of our services.

I thank you for your support to SIAMA in the past years and the years to come. May God bless you and assist you in realizing your goals in 2023.

Els Langezaal
President SIAMA

HISTORY



SIAMA was founded in April 1970 in Switzerland and consisted of

- SIAMAS (Society for the interests of active Missionaries in Asia)
- SIAMAF (Society for the interests of active Missionaries in Africa)
- SIAMSA (Society for the interest of active Missionaries in South America)

SIAMA is presided by Reverend M. Fiedler and secretary Mr. L.W.A. Ruygrok. The secretariat was in the Netherlands. Services were also rendered through appointed agencies in Asia and Europe.

1975 – 1980
SIAMAS – SIAMAF – SIAMSA have been merged to one Society SIAMA

1980 – 1985
SIAMA has assisted 80.000 members and services are now only rendered on a direct basis. Mr. Ruygrok is President of SIAMA. The telex is introduced. Until 1982 all travel was handled through letters or visits.

1985 – 1990
Besides air tickets SIAMA offers special stopover packages for the Holy Land, Egypt and Europe. Our cooperation with several airlines started in 1988 Lufthansa, Air France, United Airlines and in 1989 British Airways.

1990



2009



2004



2001



2000



1992



1991



2005 – 2010
We now have the yearly SIAMA Bulletins available digitally on our website www.siamanl.nl
In 2009 Mrs. Ruygrok retired but still active with the SIAMA Children Namibia society. Els Langezaal continues the services of SIAMA together with all dedicated staff members.

2000 – 2005
The 11th of September 2001 was a black day that shocked the whole world. This terrorist action had a lot of impact on aviation.

1995 – 2000
SIAMA has assisted 150.000 members so far. The introduction of email is a huge break-through in our communications. In 1998 SIAMA with 15 staff members expanded and moved to Pieterskerkhof, Leiden.

1990 – 1995
Fax is introduced, a true Blessing for many Missionaries. Travel plans could now be made closer to departure dates. Tickets were sent to all over the world by DHL, special courier, which guaranteed the save and quick delivery of the tickets (instead of mail!).
SIAMA staff visit Asian countries, USA, East and South Africa to meet the Missionaries and assist them on their travel plans personally. In 1992 Mr. LWA Ruygrok passed away. Mrs. Betty Ruygrok continued as President of SIAMA.

2010



2015



2018



2022



2022



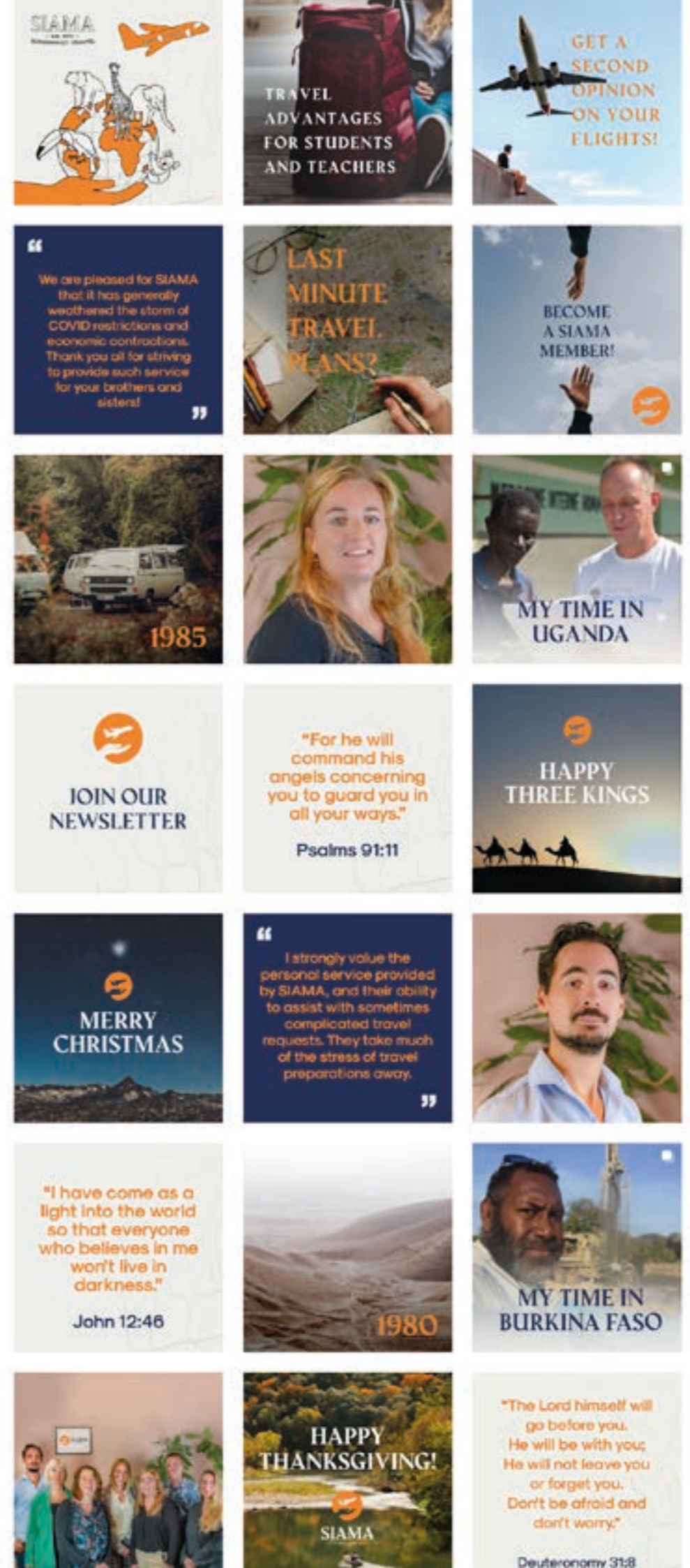
2010 – 2015
Although there are an increasing number of other sources available online for booking air tickets, the SIAMA members continue to book their tickets via SIAMA. Especially Star Alliance Airlines and British Airways with their flexible conditions for Missionaries have proven to be a good partner of SIAMA.

2015 – 2020
SIAMA started a cooperation with American Airlines and Iberia, the alliance partner of British Airways (One World). In 2018 SIAMA moved to Kanaalpark 157 in Leiden.

2020 – 2022
In April 2020, SIAMA celebrated its 50th anniversary. Mrs. Betty Ruygrok, former President of SIAMA passed away in March 2022. The Corona pandemic has given many challenges but SIAMA survived thanks to your support and trust in SIAMA. SIAMA has a new logo; SIAMA Missionary Travel and is looking forward to continue our long-time relationship with their many present and new SIAMA members

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

f i in @siamamissionarytravel



INSIGHTS INTO WHEN TO BOOK FLIGHTS?

WE ARE HERE TO HELP!

SIAMA is a specialist in air travel for Missionary and humanitarian charitable purposes. SIAMA is not a regular travel agency. We are a Christian Society and operate non-profit. SIAMA values the shared Christian identity and principles with its members and works exclusively with Missionaries and humanitarian workers since 1970. SIAMA is a transparent service-oriented organization. SIAMA's mission is to provide Missionaries with the best professional, personal and true-hearted advice and service to ensure Missionaries attain the best tickets available for their care-free travel.

Today, there are so many sources to book travel around the world. We have to be realistic and clear on this. SIAMA can not be "price" competitive for every routing in the world. We can offer you good prices on one way and multiple stopover trips, but for simple roundtrip tickets airlines regularly stunt with their prices and these cannot always be beaten by us. However we are always willing and helpful to challenge these prices for you.

If you book relatively close to the departure date (less than 1-2 months before) the SIAMA Missionary fares will usually become more attractive than the average online fares, but still it is a puzzle for the regular passenger when and what to book. Sometimes fares differ per booking website, travel agency or per country (currency). Fares also depend on space availability and the date of booking is also important. It all can make a difference.

Economy class tickets are usually divided into multiple booking classes. For each booking class the airlines want to have a certain turnover. If the flight does not fill up quickly enough and the occupancy rate of the flight is lower than average, they will revise their fares and booking classes or do some promotion

In that period, if you are lucky you can book cheaper tickets. All this information is kept secret and you cannot be sure cheaper fares will become available in the future. Airlines make this on purpose hazy. Now comes the tricky part: It is possible to make reservations about 11 months prior to departure. If you think that if you book well ahead of time you will still get the lowest possible booking class, you are mistaken. Some Airlines have the strategy to block the cheapest economy class seats until closer to departure. If their flights are fully booked at a certain time, they will not offer the cheapest economy class anymore and only the next one, which will be more expensive.



In the end, it is still the passenger who decides when to book. We understand it is sometimes hard to understand why one time you have a better fare for this and later on it seems to be totally different again. Also it is hard to understand that the passenger sitting next to you in the plane has maybe paid USD 200 more or less than you did, but it happens! Sometimes it is wise to book well ahead of time and the other time you may be lucky with booking a last minute ticket at a really cheap fare. On the other hand if you wait too long, you can end up with paying much more. It is difficult and at one time you must decide and book what is best for you and be happy with that. We honestly like to help you to make the best decision and choose the itinerary/ fare that works best for you.

If that means you will end up not booking with SIAMA we are more than willing to assist you on your next trip, although we do appreciate of course, if there is a minor price difference, that you reward our hard work and assistance if you book through SIAMA so we can continue to support you and other missionaries around the world.

Please always remember SIAMA as a true-hearted professional and helpful source to check for air tickets. We are dedicated to you and to what you represent. We admire what you do and are thankful to do our part to help you, save you time and money for care-free travel to your Mission field and this way we hope your funds can be used for other worthwhile matters in your Missionary/humanitarian work. You make a difference to the world with your Christian dedication and helpfulness to mankind. We like to make a difference to you as we think it is important to Serve you! We are thankful if you make use of the services of SIAMA, as one of your travel providers, and offer us the opportunity to assist you and book the best possible fares for you. This way, we can continue to exist and negotiate for better fares/conditions in the future with the Airlines. The benefit of that is going straight back to the Missionary community.



SIAMA SOCIETY

SIAMA is a Society and not a regular travel agency. SIAMA does not see you as one of our customers, but as one of our partners in the missionary and non-profit development field. Therefore we invite you to become a member of our SIAMA Community!

The Society is based in Leiden (since 25-11-22), is non-profit and its purpose is to assist the SIAMA members in their objectives on Missionary, humanitarian and non-profit development work.

It is our goal to Serve those who Serve and assist all members with their needs for travel, information or advice.

SIAMA membership is a requirement for travelling with us, as our contracts with the airlines are based on these memberships.

Membership is USD 25/EUR 25 (individual, couple or family) and is valid for 3 years. It is not necessary to become a member for requesting fares. We will only charge this with your first booking with SIAMA.

The Society Board members are: Johan den Hartog, Inge Tuijthoff and Els Langezaal. If you have a question please do not hesitate to send this to: society@siama.nl



SIAMA COMMUNITY

Read stories from members of the SIAMA Community working in the Mission field. SIAMA aspires to be a valuable partner to you & aspire to contribute to the missionary and humanitarian work worldwide! United in our Christianity, we treasure your Missions and charities all around the world. This is what distinguishes us from other travel agencies. What is important to you, is important to us!

All our members, who have travelled or have made use of our services, are invited to tell and share their stories. Read the inspiring stories on our website or share your own with SIAMA. The latest article we received is from A.Rocha,

<https://www.siama.nl/category/memberstory/>

SELECTION OF REWARDING COMMENTS IN 2022



Thank you so much to all the team at SIAMA! Ticket all in order. Thank you for your patience, persistence and efficiency. It is such a pleasure to depend on you. Blessings.



We are pleased for SIAMA that it has generally weathered the storm of COVID restrictions and economic contractions. Thank you all for striving to provide such service for your brothers and sisters!



Next time I will be delighted to work through Siama again. May the Lord continue to bless many people through you.



On behalf of the whole NPN Leadership Team I want to express my tremendous gratitude for how easy you made this for us!



I am home from my trip to Zimbabwe and South Africa. Thank you so much for your excellent service and your faithfulness in bringing the hands and feet of Jesus to the world. Blessings.



Thank you very much for all your service, it was a great help for me and I'm really thankful for what are you guys doing. May God bless you all for this amazing service.



TRAVEL OPTIONS

SIAMA can assist you with travel for:

INDIVIDUAL TRAVEL

(for single persons/couples or families)

When you have travel plans, you can contact us by email for price information. We will search for best still available flights/fares for you and send +3 proposals. One with most direct connections, and 1 or 2 based on Missionary fare with flexible conditions and if there are better fares with strict conditions, we will also include that for your consideration. We use this as a start to find the best itinerary to your liking.

GROUP TRAVEL

For groups (10 or more passengers on the same flight itinerary) we can offer special group fares. Our experienced Group Travel coordinator will work with you to obtain the best group air fares possible. Let us set up the right itinerary and search for the best dates to obtain the best price for your next group event.

Some Tips for Planning:

- Some airlines will offer cheaper fares for mid-week flights.
- Fly during off-peak seasons (February-March and September until November).
- Book early, reservations can be made 10/11 months prior to departure/return dates.
- Waiting for last minute deals is not a good idea when you want to travel with a group.

ROUND-THE-WORLD-TRIPS

Always wanted to make this special trip? See how your Mission projects from your past are doing, or visit friends/fellow Missionaries from previous posts? Visit that country or special city you never had the time or opportunity to visit before?

Round-the-world fares are a speciality of SIAMA. When you intend to travel, ask us which countries/cities you would like to visit on your way back home or v.v. Let us know which cities you really would like to have included in your trip and which ones are optional. We can combine Missionary fares and published fares to find the best possible fare for you at reasonable cost.

We herewith list 3 examples which may tempt you to go on a longer trip next time. Do not hesitate to contact us for a quotation for your dream trip. We will be happy to work this out for you.

CONFERENCE TRAVEL

Besides assisting individual missionaries and non/profit development workers to and from the Mission field, we are specialized in Conference Travel. We have special Missionaries fares on all major airlines, like Lufthansa, United, KLM, Air France, SN Brussels, British Airways etc. and these fares have flexible conditions on changes and cancellation and can start from any point in the world to any destination, which is exactly very suitable for conference travel.

Passengers can contact us directly with their individual requirements and we can bill them individually or we can bill your Mission, whatever is desired and convenient for the Conference Coordinator.

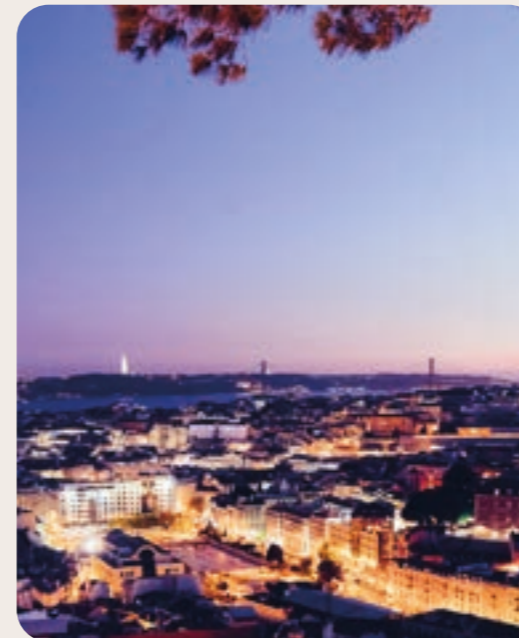
As a helpful tool we will provide a dedicated Webpage for this Conference, where you or the participants themselves can fill in different forms for all required details. We can develop this further together with the Coordinator so it works conveniently for both parties. We have worked with these standard forms with other organizations recently, like the SIM conference in Athens in February 2019, Frontier Mission Fellowship Conference in Senegal in August 2022 and the IBCM Conference in Kuala Lumpur to be held in June 2023.

When you are going to attend a conference, please contact us for price information or advise your Mission Coordinator about our facilities. We will be more than happy to oblige and make his/her task easier of the travel coordinator and/or attendants of the conference.

Some examples:

- | | |
|---|-----------|
| 1. Chicago-Istanbul-Rome-Bombay-Kathmandu-Dubai-Chicago | USD 1.859 |
| 2. Los Angeles-Sao Paulo-Lisbon-Amsterdam-Frankfurt-Hongkong-Nadi-Los Angeles | USD 2.339 |
| 3. New York-London-Rome-Johannesburg-Nairobi-Bangkok-Tokyo-San Francisco-New York | USD 2.599 |

- Prices depend on travel dates, space availability on the flights.
- Contact SIAMA for your desired travel itinerary. Indicate which stops are essential for you and which are optional. We will then check out the best possible way for you to travel at lowest cost.



DIFFERENCES

Booking online

- ✈ Tickets with strict conditions
- ✈ Non changeable or at a (high) penalty
- ✈ Non refundable or at a (high) penalty
- ✈ No free or low baggage allowance
- ✈ Immediate decision and payment
- ✈ Extra administration or reservation fee
- ✈ Changes and cancellations are time consuming
- ✈ No help in finding your best options

Booking SIAMA

- ✈ Tickets with flexible conditions
- ✈ No or low changing fees
- ✈ Low cancellation fees
- ✈ More baggage allowance
- ✈ Possibility to book and not pay immediately or in installments
- ✈ No reservation fees or hidden costs
- ✈ Assistance with making changes or obtaining refunds
- ✈ Save time and hassle by not searching all kinds of websites
- ✈ Member of our SIAMA community – We are partners and handle in your interest

PROSPECTS

The Flight Path for 2023

Over the past few years, air travel organizations in general has seen their fair share of turbulence. Air traffic demand surged due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Russian war on Ukraine and the energy crisis. Despite the fact that there are still enough challenges, there are also bright spots on the horizon. This gives us space to look ahead and focus on the future. Our prospects for travel in 2023 are:

- Airlines are recovering from their bad results in the previous years and their flight schedules are now almost back to normal.
- Airline fares are more unpredictable than ever, especially with the present climate and energy crisis.
- It is likely airline fares will increase and new/higher taxes may be levied in the near future.
- General advice: make bookings for 2023 as early as possible to avoid unpleasant surprises later on.

Our SIAMA Team is Committed to Assist You

To adapt to the challenges and in order to being able to weather the storm, we would like to give the opportunity to:

- Have online meetings with SIAMA staff to discuss your travelplans personally
- More (free) contact options via Whatsapp
- For urgent matters a Whatsapp emergency number

I am personally interested in your suggestions for optimizing our service and facilities. Please send this to:

els@siama.nl

Of course I will reply to you personally!



RESERVATION PROCEDURE:

- 1• Send us an email or fill in the form on our website www.siama.nl and make sure to give us the name of your Mission/Organization or purpose of travel.
- 2• Give us your desired routing, travel dates and if you also need child/infant fares
- 3• Indicate if you have preferences on airlines or an airline alliance and/or if you are flexible with your travel dates.
- 4• Within one working day (at least 95%), we will send you a selection of the best available options for your travel.
- 5• In general we check for the best fare for the most direct routing, best fare based on flexible conditions on changes and cancellation and 1 cheapest fare available irrespective of both.
- 6• After that we can go back and forth to answer any additional questions you may have.
- 7• When you are ready to book and happy with one of the offered schedules and fares, we will make the reservations and send you the confirmed schedule and invoice with our payment instructions.
- 8• If you wish we can also send the invoice to your organization.
- 9• Upon receipt of your payment, we will send you the tickets by email.



AIRLINES

We can offer you special Missionary fares with flexible conditions on changes and cancellation and more baggage allowance on the following first class airlines.



MEET THE TEAM



Els
Travel consultant, since 1983
President, since 2009



Mariette
Financial administrator, since 2000
Travel consultant, since 2009



Maikel
ICT expert, since 2006



Nicolien
Travel consultant, since 2013



Linda
Travel consultant, since 2005



Coen
Travel consultant, since 2003



Miranda
Travel consultant, since 2000

MISSIONARY STORIES



MY TIME IN MALAWI

An inspiring story by Laura about her time of service at the Passion Center for Children in Zomba, Malawi. She really fell in love with the children and it was amazing for her getting to live amongst the people, learning the culture and the language.

Read more about Laura's time in Malawi on our website.

We value your work!
SIAMA is not an ordinary travel agency as we aspire to be a valuable partner to you & aspire to contribute to the Missionary and humanitarian work worldwide! United in our Christianity, we treasure your missions and charities all around the world. This is what distinguishes us from other travel agencies.
What is important to you, is important to us!
The Missionary story page is a platform for the SIAMA Community! All our members, who have travelled or have made use of our services, are invited to tell and share their stories. Read the inspiring stories below or scroll down to share your own!

MY TIME IN BANGUI

Tabea about her two week trip to Bangui, Central African Republic, where she helped in a trauma healing workshop for children. It was her first time back in Bangui since the family visited 10 years ago and 15 years since they lived there. Having grown up mainly in Africa and having left Chad only a year ago, Tabea's first comment was: "I feel like I'm home".

Read more about Tabea's time in Bangui on our website.



MY TIME IN BURKINA FASO

"It has been a joy for us to be served by SIAMA. We have been using their wonderful service since 2013."

In 2019 Lavinia and William Maloveretaki decided to end their mission in Burkina among the Fulani and they were very happy with the service we provided them during their trip. Glad we could be part of your mission!

Read more about Lavinia and Williams time in Burkina Faso on our website.

MY TIME IN TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

Psalm 37:4: "When you delight yourself in the Lord, He will give you the desires of your heart." Astrid was reminded to this beautiful biblical verse during her journey to Trinidad and Tobago. Like to know why?

Read more about this miraculous story on our website.



CONTACT



Opening Hours (Local Time):

Monday – Thursday: 09.00h – 17.00h
Friday: 09.00h – 16.00h



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Adress

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2321 JW LEIDEN
The Netherlands



We are located in the multi-company
building De Plek – Leiden.





SIAMA BULLETIN 2023



SIAMA
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MISSIONARY TRAVEL