



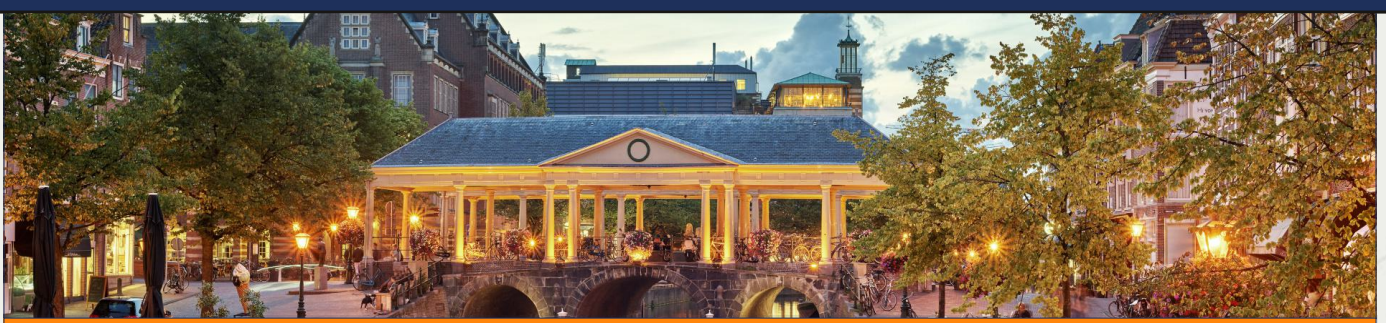
SIAMA

— EST. 1970 —

MISSIONARY TRAVEL

Travelguide 2025





A warm welcome

Dear Missionary, dear Friend,

It is my pleasure to present to you our new Travel Guide 2025, with the theme 'Global Connections'.

This theme is particularly relevant to the world of Missions and to SIAMA. As an active missionary, you travel to distant countries to share your faith and support the local population with education, healthcare, and other forms of humanitarian aid. During your work, you come into contact with diverse cultures and customs and find ways to build valuable connections and friendships. Your work is both rewarding and inspiring.

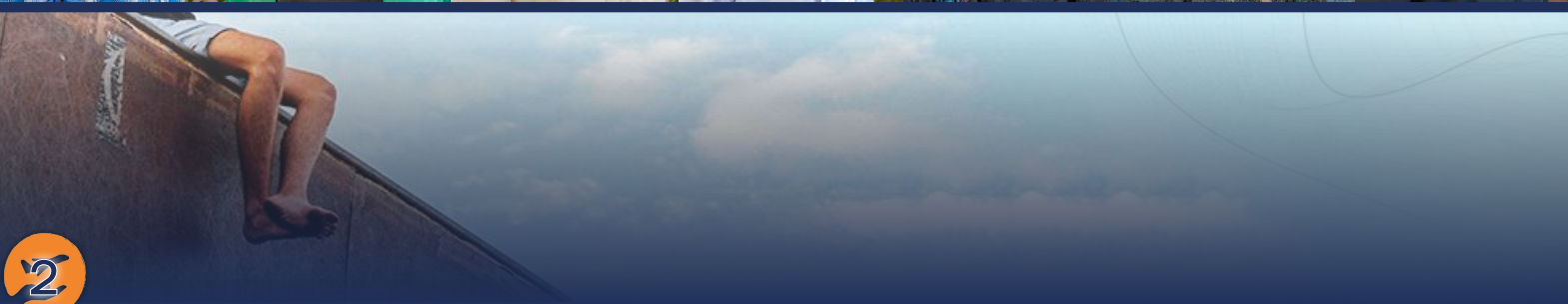
SIAMA has a global connection with you as a missionary. We are grateful to support you in your travels to and from the Mission field and in various projects worldwide. We always feel deeply involved in your field objectives. Our relationship with you feels warm and rewarding.

When you are satisfied, so are we, and this gives us great satisfaction. Since 1970, 55 years ago, we have been offering you our services from the Netherlands. We hope to continue doing this for many more years. This year, our travel guide is more comprehensive than ever before and has a festive touch, as five years ago, during the COVID-19 pandemic, we unfortunately had to skip it. It is wonderful that we can do this now.

During the COVID period, we noticed that stories and travel experiences from your fellow missionaries were greatly appreciated. We will devote more time to this in the future. See also page 7.

We hope to be of service to you again in 2025!

Sincerely yours,
Els Langezaal





SIAMA Society

SIAMA Society

The Society for Active Missionaries Abroad (SIAMA) is not your typical travel agency. Instead of viewing you as a mere customer, SIAMA regards you as a partner in the field of missionary and non-profit development.

Headquartered in Leiden, SIAMA is a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting its members in their missionary, humanitarian, and non-profit development endeavors.

Our mission is to "Serve those who Serve" by providing our members with the necessary travel assistance, information, and advice.

To travel with SIAMA, membership is required due to our contractual agreements with airlines. Membership costs USD 25/EUR 25 per individual, couple, or family and is valid for three years.

You do not need to be a member to request fare information; the membership fee will only be charged with your first booking through SIAMA.

The Society Board members are: Johan den Hartog, Inge Tuijthoff and Els Langezaal.

Global Connections

SIAMA was founded as a society dedicated to meeting the travel needs of missionaries worldwide—this is reflected in the 'S' of our organization's name.

As a society, we are deeply connected to the interests, goals, and calling of our members. In a world that grows smaller with each technological innovation, we remain committed to staying informed about the needs and developments on the mission field.

We are excited to engage with you more actively through social media, building meaningful connections and sharing in the journey of faith and service.

Your stories inspire us, and we would be honored to hear what God is doing through your ministry. Please feel free to share them with us. We would love to celebrate with you and pray for you!



Connect with SIAMA



Whatsapp: +31 85 8425387 (+31 85 TICKETS)



Facebook: Siamamissionarytravel



Instagram: Siamamissionarytravel



LinkedIn: Siamamissionarytravel



Email: membersupport@siama.nl

Help us Serve you Better!

Your valuable feedback helps us tailor our service to meet your unique needs. Please take a moment to share your thoughts in our short survey: <https://www.siama.nl/siama-questionnaire/>

Or send us your ideas through our contact form: <https://www.siama.nl/contact-siama-world-mission-travel/>



2023 SIAMA Picture Perfect Contest

In 2023, we asked you to take a photo of the SIAMA promotional item. The Family Barbosa won this Picture perfect contest. They are Brazilian missionaries serving in Cambodia for almost 10 years. They took the photos near the famous Angkor Wat temple, located in Cambodia. And as you can see, SIAMA is there too!



2024 SIAMA Picture Perfect Contest winner

In 2024, we invited you to show how you would promote SIAMA to your colleagues and friends with a photo or video.

We were very impressed with all the entries we received from all over the world. It wasn't easy picking the best one but in the end we managed and came up with Priscilla and Hans Breekveldt as the winner.

Active in Salta, North Argentina, Priscilla and Hans offer hearty warm lunches for those who most need it.



2025 SIAMA Picture Perfect Contest

Help Us Choose the Theme and Win!

Since the previous Contests were such a succes, we decided to relaunch the contest in 2025 with a new theme. Wat is that theme you might ask? Well that's where you join. What theme would you add if you would organise a Picture Perfect contest showing a connection with SIAMA?

What can you win?

The winner of the selected theme will receive a **USD 250 / EUR 250 voucher**, which can be used for a discount on your next trip!

How to participate?

1. Think of an original and fun theme for our 2025 photo contest.
2. Send us your idea via WhatsApp or social media.
3. The deadline for submissions is **April 1, 2025**.

We will choose the most creative and exciting theme, and make it our photo challenge for this year. Maybe your idea will be the winning theme! We look forward to receiving your submissions and thank you in advance for your participation!





Round-the-World Travel or Travel with multiple stopovers

Have you ever dreamed of exploring specific cities or indulging in an extra stopover during your next journey?

Share your travel aspirations with us, and we'll craft the best route for you at the most affordable price. Whether it's a long adventure or a round-the-world expedition on your bucket list, we're here to help.

Just let us know your must-visit destinations and optional stops, and we'll start planning. We merge published rates with Mission rates to find the best route at the lowest possible price.

Traveling broadens our hearts and minds to the marvels of God's creation. With SIAMA as your trusted partner, you can discover the world's beauty with faith and confidence. We believe each journey is a blessing, and we are committed to making your travel experience seamless and fulfilling.

Tell us about your desired future trip, and as a guide, here are three options with multiple stopovers:

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Chicago-Vienna-Nairobi-Delhi-Ho Chi Minh city-Bangkok-Chicago | USD 2099 |
| Los Angeles-Nadi-Port Moresby-Singapore-Rome-Los Angeles | USD 2499 |
| New York-Lisbon-Amsterdam-Johannesburg-Bangkok-Sydney-New York | US\$ 2899 |

Conference Travel (travel from any destination to one destination)

Take the stress out of your next international conference with SIAMA! Planning a conference can be overwhelming, but it doesn't have to be.

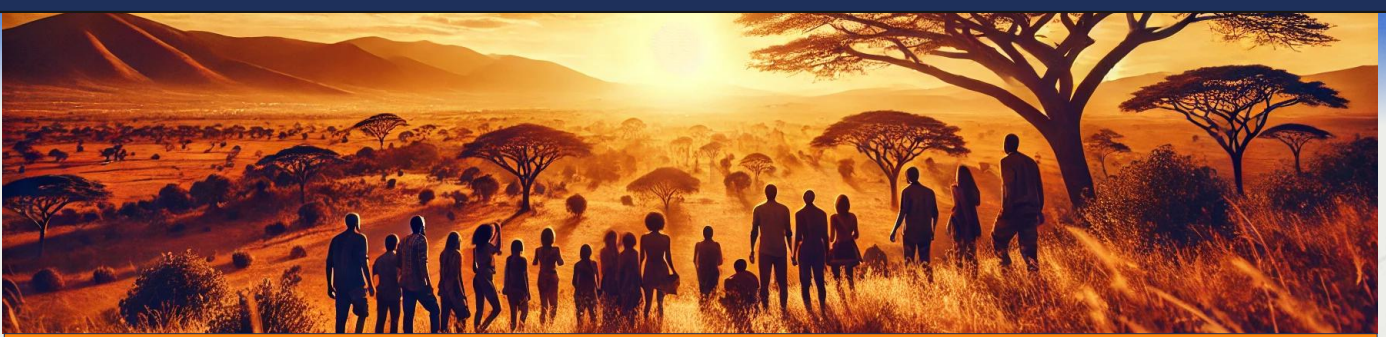
Our expertise lies in arranging seamless flight schedules, ensuring that your delegates arrive on time and in comfort. We handle everything, from complex itineraries to last-minute changes, so your attendees can focus on what's important—the conference itself. Imagine a world where logistics are the least of your worries. That's what we promise with our conference planning service.

Even during the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, we stood by our clients, providing timely refunds for affected passengers. You can trust us to navigate any unforeseen circumstances and ensure a smooth, successful event.

We simplify the entire booking process by offering a dedicated webpage with convenient online forms and other automated solutions. This makes it easier for attendees, conference coordinators, and those responsible for booking travel. This ensures a convenient booking experience for attendees, conference coordinators, and ourselves.

This year, we're excited to be managing the large conference in Johannesburg in May, with over 300 participants. If you need to travel to a conference or are planning one, we'd love to help. Get in touch with us for more information or share our contact details with your conference coordinator. We're here to assist!





Group Travel (10+ passengers with the same itinerary)

Planning a group trip can be overwhelming, but we are here to simplify the process for you. Whether you're organizing a family reunion in Italy, a mission trip to Africa, or a retreat to Thailand, we can help. No matter where your group is traveling from or to, we are here to assist you every step of the way.

We herewith list a selection of the many groups we handled in 2024:

- International Outreach: Calvary Church facilitated travel for groups to Nairobi, Kenya, and Manila, Philippines.
- Volunteers in Action: Binga-Support sent a team of 16 volunteers to Zimbabwe to contribute to community development projects.
- Supporting Global Mobility: For the past four years, we have assisted Liebenzeller Mission by providing flexible annual travel tickets between Germany and Canada, enabling their ongoing work.

-International Exchange Programs:

- A local church in Norway organized a trip to Argentina for 18 participants, fostering cultural exchange and international collaboration.
- A church in the USA required 20 tickets to Germany for their international programs, which we were able to support.

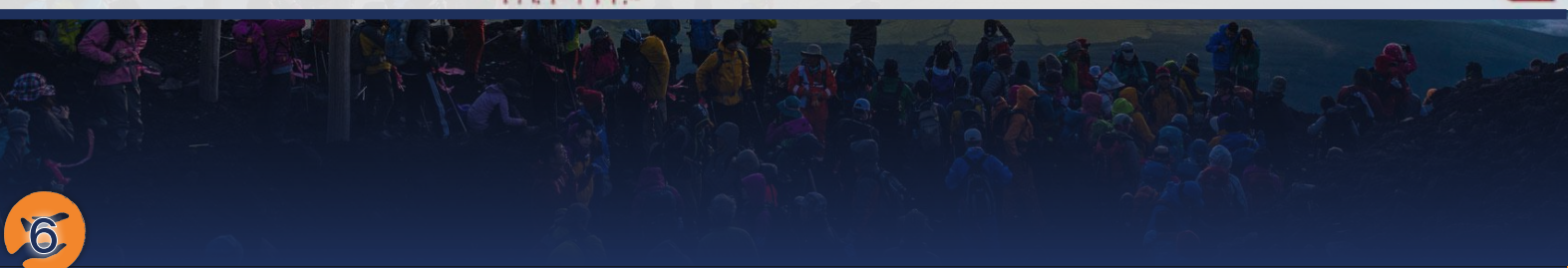
Educational Travel Experiences:

A school in the UK, nurturing future generations of global servants, arranged travel for several groups. 14 students journeyed to the USA, while another 19 embarked on a transformative trip to Kenya,

International Work Vacations:

23 individuals from Holland traveled to the Ivory Coast for a Christina work vacation, contributing to local communities and demonstrating the power of faith in action

We are dedicated to making your group travel experience smooth and stress-free. Let us take care of the details so you can focus on the journey ahead. We look forward to assist you in 2025!





A story from one of our members

Introduction

We like to thank Janet from SIM in West Africa for a glimpse in her missionary expertise.

What inspired you to dedicate your life to missionary/humanitarian work?

I have always seen my work as a school teacher for 28 years in Australia as my ministry and enjoyed this very much learning to lean on God each day for wisdom in hard situations. After my parents died I had the privilege of travelling through Africa for a couple of months and had prayed that if there was something I could do in my retirement in Africa that God would show me that. I had intended to return to my work in Australia until I retired. In a very round about way God led me to work in West Africa in a hospital away from the city teaching the missionary children of the doctors and other missionaries at a Hospital. I gave up my job in Australia and have worked in West Africa now for 12 years.

What are the most rewarding aspects of your work?

Seeing the children I teach thriving in an environment that is different from their birth countries and doing well in school. Building relationships local people.

What are the most significant challenges you've faced in your work?

The temperature here on the edge of the Sahara is very hot in the hot dry months and still gets warm during the cooler months. Teaching a group of children from the age of 5 to 12 without having a curriculum worked out can be very challenging but is much better when there is another teacher. Being wise in trying to understand and embrace looking at life through the eyes of a different culture.

Can you share a specific story that has deeply impacted you?

I have had the privilege of meeting with some local families through the hospital. These families have become good friends and we have been able to share many aspects of our lives together over the many years I've known them and through them I have met many other children.

What advice would you give to build stronger global Christian connections?

Get involved with specific missionaries and support them in prayer and other ways if possible. People praying is a fabulous gift. Ask questions and listen to what is happening and pray for specific things. Spend time with people when they visit their home country appreciating that they have another life that they return to and what that means for them. Just be friends and don't put missionaries on a pedestal. If you are interested in working overseas look at different organisations and speak to people who can guide you towards your possible future and pray about it and ask friends to the same.

How do you envision the future of global Christian connections?

We have always lived in a world that is forever changing. There has always been conflict between countries and different beliefs. Now, I see a trend in empowering local Christians to be reaching out to their culture because locals have less barriers to get through. They may have similar stories and will have an understanding of what locals really believe. If there comes a time when certain nationalities have to leave then the work can continue. There is also a trend of missionaries coming from even more countries to the mission field. God has a plan for workers from everywhere to be used in his work.



Selection of rewarding comments in 2024:

- Thank you very much for what you are doing for the advancing of the Kingdom of God !
- Thanks for following up. I must say that I 'm very happy with the service you have provided before our trip. I like the quick response to our requests. The checklists were very useful since it was a while we travelled. My God bless you
- I am SO grateful for you going "above and beyond" expectations by contacting me even after work hours! Thank you! God bless you more and more in every way
- God bless you as you serve so many of us in such needed and excellent ways
- Dear amazing beyond words SIAMA Team. Our deepest thanks for your incredible support to us at the time of needing to change my ticket to England a few hours before I was due to fly!!
- What a joy to work with you. It is an invaluable help
- Thank you so very much. You are a miracle worker. God bless you and your team !
- I want to specially thank you and your team of earnest and diligent workers. You have worked overtime, stretching yourselves to find the best deals for us.
- I really appreciate – and always tell my friends about your services
- Please tell your team thank you and I can't say how much I appreciate all you did. It took a load off my shoulder!

Differences booking online versus Booking via SIAMA

Booking Online

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

Booking via 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





Travel tips

When you need to travel soon, remember to check our extensive checklist on our website:

<https://www.siam.nl/international-travel-checklist/>

Underneath we list a few more travel tips, which in our opinion can be helpful or good to know:

Just before travel:

1. For your own safety. Do not write your address on luggage tags. Just list your contact telephone nr. and email. If luggage goes missing, airlines will call/ email you when found.
2. Make sure your electronic devices are fully charged before the flight.

During or after travel:

3. Flying can be stressful and uncomfortable and with just a simple item like a tennis ball you can make it more pleasant and enjoyable. Using a tennis ball as a massage ball will help improve your blood flow, muscle tension during landing and take off. If you are interested, we advise you to check on internet for more information about this life-hack.
4. Wear compression socks. These help minimize swelling on and after your flight by increasing blood circulation. At a minimum, they can keep you more comfortable, but more importantly, reduce the risk of developing blood clots during a long flight.
5. Pack a nasal spray. Have you ever noticed a generally icky and dry feeling in your sinuses while flying. Stay hydrated.
6. Take your own bottle of water with you and some snacks as back-up as provide airline food/drinks are not always plenty.
6. Take flyfit earplugs with you.
7. Buckle your seat belt over your blanket, so that it is still visible. In case of turbulence, flight attendants will not have to wake you up, to check.
8. Do not leave boarding passes as rubbish in the passenger seat pockets. Criminals can scan the QR code to get your full name and other details and even steal your mileage points.





History of SIAMA

1970-1975

SIAMA was founded in April 1970 in Switzerland by Reverend Fiedler and Mr. Leo Ruygrok 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 interests of active Missionaries in South America)

1975-1980

SIAMAS-SIAMAF-SIAMSA have been merged into one Society:

SIAMA (Society for the interests of active Missionaries Abroad)

1980-1985

SIAMA services are now operated only from the Netherlands and Leo Ruygrok is President of SIAMA. Telex was introduced in 1982.

Until then bookings were made only through mail and personal visits in the field.

Els Langezaal joined SIAMA in March 1983

1985-1990

Our cooperation with several airlines started; Lufthansa, Air France, KLM, United Airlines and British Airways.

First trip field trip for Els with Mr Leo Ruygrok to meet many Missionaries in Kenya, Tanzania and Zimbabwe and after that many more in other countries.

1990-1995

Fax is introduced, a huge blessing to Missionaries. Travelplans could now be made closer to departure. Tickets were safely delivered by DHL. There was a lower demand in air travel worldwide due to the Gulf-war in 1990-1991.

Still many Missionaries travelled to/from their Mission field anyway. Mr. Leo Ruygrok passed away in 1992 and his wife Betty continued as President SIAMA.

1995-2000

The introduction of email is huge break-through in our communications. In 1998 SIAMA expanded to 15 staff members and moved to Pieterskerkhof in Leiden.

2000-2005

The 11th September 2001 was a black day and shocked the whole world. This terrorist action had a severe impact on aviation.

2005-2010

The yearly SIAMA Bulletins are now available digitally on our website.

In 2009 Betty Ruygrok retired but still active with SIAMA Children Namibia, a childrens home in Omaruru. Els continues the services of SIAMA together with other dedicated staff.

2010-2015

Although there are an increasing number of online sources for booking air tickets, SIAMA members continue to book through SIAMA. Especially Star Alliance and British Airways with their Flexible conditions for Missionary tickets have proven to be a good partner of SIAMA.

2015-2020

SIAMA started to work with American Airlines and Iberia. The alliance partner of British Airways (One World). SIAMA moved in 2018 to Kanaalpark 157, 2321JW Leiden.

2020-2025

In April 2020, SIAMA marked its 50th anniversary amid the onset of the Corona pandemic.

We were able to help many missionaries return home safely in March 2020, just before the global lockdowns began. It was a challenging time for everyone worldwide, but SIAMA persevered.

Betty Ruygrok former President of SIAMA passed away in March 2022.

We made a fresh start in 2022 with a new SIAMA logo and computer system and were eager and fully equipped to assist you with your travel plans again!

Due to the pandemic, we couldn't celebrate our 50th anniversary, so now we are giving extra attention to our 55th year anniversary."

2025-2030 – The coming 5 years

It is SIAMA's mission to be your dependable partner during this period, someone you can always rely on.

We are fully committed to planning and organizing your travels seamlessly and with utmost care, ensuring a stress-free experience and your complete satisfaction."



SIAMA

— EST. 1970 —

MISSIONARY TRAVEL

SIAMA

At SIAMA (Society for Active Missionaries Abroad), we're more than just a travel agency. For 55 years, we're your partner in making a difference. Whether you're heading to the mission field, diving into humanitarian work, or contributing to non-profit projects.

Our mission? **We serve those who serve.**

Who are our members?

- Missionaries
- Non-profit development workers
- Humanitarian workers
- (Bible) students travelling abroad for internships/training
- Visitors and speakers for religious conventions
- Direct relatives of SIAMA members visiting you in the field

Travel services

- Individual travel
- Multi stopover (round-the-world travel)
- Group Travel (more than 10 passengers same routing)
- Conferences (From any city in the world to one destination)
- Flexible conditions on change/cancellation and baggage

Connect with SIAMA



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SERVING THOSE
WHO SERVE

