



Holt International Children's Services **THAILAND FAMILY TOUR 2011**



Holt International
FINDING FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

Holt International Thailand Family Tour Participants:

Thank you for your interest in participating in the 2011 Holt Thailand Family Tour. We have a wonderful schedule of events planned for this tour. Tour families in the past have enjoyed learning about the history and culture of Thailand, as well as having the opportunity to share this journey of discovery together. Every year, the strength of the bonds that form between families, and the new friends they make during the tour, amaze us. We know that this will be a memorable experience for those of you who choose to join us, as we share the sights, sounds and tastes, of the rich culture of Thailand.

We design the Holt Family Tour for adoptees, parents, siblings and spouses, who would like to learn more about Thailand, its history, customs, and what modern-day life is like. This will be a multi-faceted tour with great excitement and discovery, yet there will also likely be very emotional moments for adoptees and their families as they encounter new experiences. A highlight for many tour participants is to meet a foster family member, visit their former orphanage or to spend time with a staff person who knew them as a child in Thailand. Each adoptee will learn things about their time in Thailand.

The first half of the trip will be spent in Bangkok, seeing local and regional sights such as the Grand Palace and the Rose Garden, taking a canal tour, and enjoying the local entertainment. We will then travel south to the province of Nakhon Si Thammarat to experience the natural beauty, historic sites, unique cultures and customs in this part of the country. One of the special highlights of this tour is the visit to the village of Baan Praeg Klang where the group will learn about HSF's community based child and family welfare program. At the end of our trip, if you would like to extend your stay beyond the tour itinerary, our staff in Thailand can help arrange transportation to Phuket or Koh Samui.

The 2011 Holt Thailand Family Tour is scheduled for **July 4 – 12, 2011**. The cost range at this time is \$800 – \$1,000 per person. When we have a list of committed travelers and a complete itinerary, we will be able to identify the final cost. This cost estimate includes transportation within Thailand, group meals, admission to tour sites, local guides, and other associated tour fees. **Families are responsible for booking their own international airline tickets, some meals, all personal expenses** (including but not exclusive to: shopping, telephone charges, side trips, etc.). We will reserve all hotel rooms for you so that you receive the discounted group rates. **Please note that the cost of lodging is not built into the tour price.** You will need to pay for your room(s) upon checking out of each hotel. Past tour groups have appreciated the ability to pay the hotel directly using cash or their credit card.

Every tour participant, regardless of age, must have a current United States passport, with an expiration date **valid at least six months** beyond our entry date into Thailand (contact your local post office for passport application/renewal information). It is also a good time to check with your physician regarding health risks and immunizations. We suggest that you consider these issues early as passport processing may take 6 weeks or more, and some immunizations, if required, must be given months ahead of time.

To apply, please return the forms listed below to Holt International's office in Eugene, Oregon no later than **March 1, 2011**. Typically the tours fill up very quickly and this tour can accommodate up to only **thirty-five** people, and we expect it to fill very quickly. We encourage prospective tour members to decide as soon as

possible in order to insure that your family will be able to participate. A **\$500 deposit per family** must accompany your registration forms. We will let you know as soon as possible if your family has been approved to participate. At that time, we will forward more information.

Please note the following enclosures in this packet:

1. **Family Contact Information** – one per family
2. **Participant Application** – To be filled out by each individual applicant
3. **Thai Adoptee Information** – To be filled out by each individual Thai adoptee, in addition to the Participant Application
4. **Liability Release** – one per adult applicant
5. **Code of Conduct** – one per applicant
6. **Publication Release Form** – one per applicant

If you have any additional questions regarding this letter, the application documents, or for more information please contact **Lindsey Lange**, International Programs Assistant (541-687-2202 x 249, lindsey@holtinternational.org). As this process continues, we will attempt to keep you well informed about our itinerary, and all items necessary for this international adventure. Most importantly, we hope you will contact us with your questions or concerns. This experience will deeply impact your life, and we want to do all we can to help you prepare for this journey.

Sincerely,



Lisa Vertulfo
Vice President Adoption Services

