

MISSION AWARENESS TRIPS

trip information

The following information is for **2013** trips. The dates and trips to specific countries change from year to year depending on interest, the political situation within the countries and the ability of CFCA projects to host a mission awareness trip. A detailed schedule and additional information will be sent one to two weeks prior to departure in the pre-departure packet.

PHILIPPINES

Trip dates: Jan. 24 - Feb. 4, 2013

Trip Cost

\$800 (Includes food, lodging and in-country transportation. Airfare is **not** included.)

Minimum group size: 12

On your trip to the Philippines you may do some or all of the following activities:

- Meet your friend and possibly the family
- Be welcomed into the homes of CFCA families
- Travel to subprojects and learn about the reality and potential of CFCA families
- Learn about the realities that CFCA families, staff and communities face
- Learn about the diverse experiences and unique
- Observe the beauty that the country and people of the Philippines have to offer
- Visit Manila, Antipolo and Quezon
- Visit the beach at Legazpi
- The group will not travel to Zamboanga. Zamboanga sponsored friends will travel to Manila and visit with their sponsors there.



Entry and Exit Requirements

A **passport valid for at least six months beyond the end of your intended stay is required to enter the Philippines.** Upon arrival, immigration authorities will annotate the U.S. passport with an entry visa valid for 21 days. There is a **Passenger Service Charge, currently 750 pesos (about \$20)**, to be paid in Philippine pesos when departing the country from international airports. *All fees are subject to change.* While in the Philippines, participants should carry a passport or a photocopy at all times. Participants who will be traveling with a minor should contact the CFCA mission awareness trip coordinator for additional information. Special requirements exist for the entry of minors unaccompanied by a parent or guardian.

Airport and Arrival Arrangements

Applicants should await receipt of the confirmation letter before making airline reservations. In the meantime, we strongly encourage you to research airfares with a travel agent, the airlines or via the Internet. Vista Travel, (800) 537-5066, may also be contacted regarding airfare. The agency is familiar with our programs and schedules.

Trip participants will arrive to and depart from **Ninoy Aquino International Airport in Manila (MNL).** Participants traveling from the U.S. should expect to arrive in Manila one to two days after departure due to overnight travel and crossing many time zones. Participants should arrive in Manila between 5 a.m. and 5 p.m. on January 26. The limitation in arrival hours is for safety reasons. **CFCA staff will meet all travelers at the airport who arrive on the scheduled arrival day within the stated hours.**

Airport and Arrival Arrangements (Cont'd.)

Do not accept any offers of transportation from anyone other than the CFCA team. Activities will begin midday on January 27.

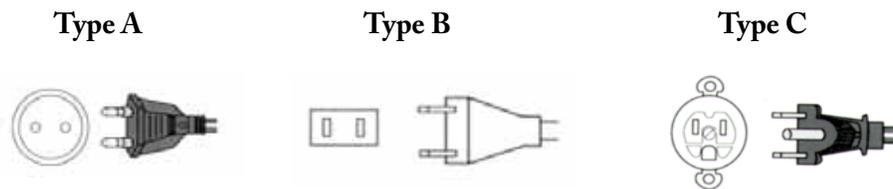
The last activity will occur the morning of February 3. Return travel should be scheduled so that participants depart Manila after 2 p.m. on February 3. Participants returning to the U.S. will arrive in the U.S. on February 4.

Accommodations and Food

All trip participants will stay in simple accommodations in Manila, usually in some type of retreat center or hotel. Private rooms for married couples and families are available. Individuals will be assigned a roommate. Running water for showers is readily available, though hot water is not. **Tap water is unsafe for drinking.** Instead, the project will provide bottled or purified water. Alcoholic beverages are not included in the trip cost.

Participants will eat simple, nutritious meals. You will have the privilege of trying a variety of foods. Typically, a selection of food is available at each meal. All food is prepared with purified water. All meals will be eaten with the group. Do not purchase food from street vendors. Meals are often served at a later hour than most Americans are accustomed to eating. We recommend bringing snacks such as dried fruit and nut mixes, raisins, granola bars, etc., as you may want something to eat between scheduled meals.

Bring an electrical converter and adapter if you wish to use personal electrical appliances. The **electrical current** in the Philippines is 220V. The diagrams below illustrate the types of plugs found in the Philippines.



Illustrations courtesy of www.escapeartist.com, a website for overseas job seekers

Climate

The climate in the Philippines is very warm year-round. Participants should be prepared for high humidity and very warm temperatures. Average highs during January and February are in the upper 80s with lows in the mid 70s.

Health/Medical Preparations

Contact your medical doctor or local health department for immunization recommendations based on your health history. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website at www.cdc.gov/travel has country specific recommendations regarding immunizations. CFCA staff members are not qualified to offer advice on immunizations. You may also contact them by phone at 800-CDC-INFO (800-232-4636).

You should also consult with your medical insurance company prior to traveling to confirm whether your policy applies in a foreign country. **If your policy does not cover emergency expenses such as medical evacuation, we urge you to consider the purchase of temporary travel insurance.** You may find further information on travel insurance through a travel agent or through research on the Internet.

Travelers with asthma or other respiratory illnesses should be aware that the urban air pollution in the Philippines has been known to exacerbate symptoms.

Currency Exchange and Handling

The local currency is the Philippine **peso** (PHP). Your lodging, food and in-country transportation are included in the trip cost. You should bring additional money for the purchase of snacks and souvenirs, and to cover entry/exit fees. You should not carry bills in denominations greater than \$20 because they may be difficult for local banks or vendors to exchange. Do not bring torn or severely worn currency. You can bring U.S. dollars into the country. You will be provided with an opportunity to exchange money upon arrival either at the airport, at the lodging, or another method. Traveler's checks are not recommended, and ATMs are not readily available.