



CHANGING LIVES, CONNECTING CULTURES

**Application Packet**  
**VIA 2016 Myanmar Study Tour**  
**September 29 - October 16, 2016**  
**Another "No-Whiners" Tour from VIA**

VIA's fifth study tour to Myanmar departs 29 September 2016, for a bigger, an expanded and more intensive visit to Myanmar (also known as Burma) than you'll find anywhere else. Led by former VIA executive director Tim Clark and his wife Mia, our visit falls at an important juncture in Myanmar's history. The country's recent elections set the impoverished nation, rich in resources, on a promising path toward democracy. You will meet the people behind this national drama and witness firsthand what the political jockeying means for Myanmar.

This trip will be limited to 20 participants.

**Application Deadline:** August 1, 2016, although the program may fill up before that date.

**Last Day to obtain group air fare of \$1,135:** June 24, 2016 through Avia Travel ([www.aviatravel.com](http://www.aviatravel.com)).

**Estimated Cost:** \$4,800 plus airfare (group airfare is \$1,135). This package includes a non-refundable, tax-deductible \$1,000 donation to VIA to be submitted with your application. The \$3,800 program fee covers local transportation, lodging, virtually all meals in Myanmar, guide services and most entry fees. A one-time supplement of \$460 will obtain single rooms for the entire trip; otherwise rooms are twin bed, double occupancy. Trip cost is subject to change because hotels and airlines within Myanmar and in Chiang Mai, Thailand, where we conclude our trip, may change their rates.

**Items Excluded:** Trans-Pacific airfare, passport, Myanmar visa, and travel/medical insurance (highly recommended).

**Air Travel:** The estimated cost does not include travel from the U.S. to Yangon. Travelers may make their air reservations with our travel agency:

Sue Lai at Avia Travel

[sue@aviatravel.com](mailto:sue@aviatravel.com)

Tel: (510) 558.2150 or (800) 950.2842

Sue has arranged a very favorable group fare of \$1,135 round-trip on Cathay Pacific; that fare could rise depending on fuel costs. We need a minimum of 10 traveling together to qualify for this group fare. (San Francisco-Yangon on September 29 and Chiang Mai-San Francisco on October 15, 2016).

**VIA (Volunteers in Asia) 870 Market Street #656, San Francisco, CA 94102 USA**  
**Phone: (415) 904-8033 Fax: (415) 618-0509**

The group fare may not allow for changes in the timing or itinerary. If your travel plans do not suit the group fare, Sue can help make reservations for alternate bookings.

**To Apply:** Complete the paper OR online application and release form (one for each participant) and send them to VIA Myanmar Study Program 2016 at VIA, 870 Market Street #656, San Francisco, CA 94102 USA. A non-refundable, tax-deductible contribution of \$1,000 made by check to VIA should accompany each application. If you wish to donate online by credit card, go to <https://www.givedirectcharity.org/donate/?cid=1615>. You then may scan and email your application to [melissa@viaprograms.org](mailto:melissa@viaprograms.org) or fax it to (415) 618-0509.

**Final Payment:** The final Myanmar Study Program payment for arrangements in Myanmar (estimated \$3,800 per person) is due to VIA by check before August 1, 2016. You will make and pay for your air travel arrangements through Avia Travel, PO BOX 8432 Berkeley, CA 94707, USA.

**Air fare:** Avia Travel will advise travelers when payment is due for air travel. For credit card payments of airfare, an additional 3% service fee may be charged, although Cathay Pacific may waive that fee.

**Cost summary:** Estimated total costs for the trip are:

- \$1,000 (Non-refundable donation to VIA with application)
- \$1,135 (estimated airfare on Cathay Pacific)
- \$3,800 (Program fee)
- \$5,935 TOTAL** (estimate)

**Refund Policy:** Payments, excluding the \$1,000 donation to VIA and a \$250-per-person cancellation fee, are refundable until 60 days before departure. After August 1, 2016, refunds can be made only if the program is sold out and your place(s) can be resold. If spots cannot be resold, a \$1,000-per-person cancellation fee will apply.

**Travel Insurance:** We strongly urge every participant to arrange for travel insurance, particularly for medical emergencies. You also should consider purchasing insurance coverage for lost baggage and trip cancellation. You can find choices available from Avia Travel at <http://aviatravel.com/travel-insurance.html>. *Sue Lai of Avia recommends the Gold Policy. Important note: For details and further assistance, contact Sue at 510-558-2150 or 800-950-2842 or [sue@aviatravel.com](mailto:sue@aviatravel.com).*

**Questions?** Tim Clark, a former VIA executive director, will be the principal VIA contact for the trip. You can reach Tim at [tclark@factpoint.com](mailto:tclark@factpoint.com) **650-233-1748**.

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# APPLICATION

Full Name (exactly as it appears on your passport):

\_\_\_\_\_  
LAST NAME                      FIRST NAME                      MIDDLE NAME

Date and place of birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Preferred name \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Current Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Passport # \_\_\_\_\_ Date of issue: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of expiry: \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliation with VIA (if any): \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred accommodations: \_\_\_ single \_\_\_ share twin-room with (*name*) \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

## About You:

1. Special interests that you bring to the program:
  
2. Have you traveled previously to Burma? (Please describe.)
  
3. Are there any physical or psychological considerations that might affect your experience in Myanmar (e.g. allergies, medical conditions, medications, dietary restrictions, etc.)?
  
4. Any additional comments or questions?

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## AGREEMENT AND RELEASE OF ALL LIABILITY

*Please initial before each paragraph and sign at the end*

By signing this form, I acknowledge that I willingly choose to participate with Volunteers in Asia's (VIA's) tour program. In doing so, I am fully aware of and understand the risks inherent in such a program including but not limited to risks associated with health, political instability or natural disasters. I understand and voluntarily accept all risk of personal injury and property damage which might arise from my participation in the VIA program. I understand that if VIA decides to alter or cancel the tour program or evacuate me to a safer place and I choose not to leave, I will be independent from the program and VIA will not be responsible for me.

I agree to abide by professional and cultural standards of contact, to obey the laws of the country, to respect standards of dress and personal appearance and conduct. Further, I will take care of personal property. VIA is not responsible for missing or stolen goods.

I understand that the success of a VIA tour program rests in part on the cooperation and goodwill of participants. I therefore fully intend to make all reasonable efforts to follow the instructions and guidance of the VIA Tour Director and to act for the benefit of all involved. I further understand that VIA, at its sole discretion, may remove me from the program at any time and that I may, in such situation, become fully responsible for the costs and consequences of no longer being a part of the program.

I understand that while VIA makes every effort to offer an accurate representation of the tour program, VIA cannot guarantee that any particular aspects of the program will transpire as initially intended. I also understand that VIA bears no responsibility for my health or comfort overseas, nor during my travel to and from the country where the tour program takes place.

I am aware that operating an automobile, motorcycle, motorbike, or motor scooter may subject me to the risk of serious personal injury or death and to the risk of liability for injuries to others. I agree that if I choose to operate a motor vehicle while participating in the VIA program, I release VIA from responsibility for injury, damage, losses or claims arising from this operation. I voluntarily assume full responsibility for any injuries, damages or losses that may be incurred in an accident. I understand further that riding as a passenger on any automobile, motorcycle, motor bike or motor scooter subjects me to the risk of serious injury or death and I, my family and heirs release VIA from responsibility for any injury, damage, loss or claims as a result.

I understand that VIA and its operators act only as agents for the passenger with respect to transportation arrangements and exercise every care possible in doing so. I understand that VIA assumes no liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity in connection with the service of any airplane, automobile, boat, motorcoach, bus, launch or any other conveyance used in carrying out this program or for the acts or defaults of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger or in carrying out the arrangements of the program.

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I am aware that VIA cannot accept any responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, force majeure or other causes beyond VIA's control. I understand that I will bear all such losses or expenses as tour rates provide arrangements only for the time stated. I understand that VIA reserves the right to alter this published itinerary as may be deemed necessary, including, the right to cancel any program prior to departure in which case payments, but not the non-refundable donation to VIA, will be refunded without further obligation on VIA's part. I also understand that VIA reserves the right to decline or retain any person as a member of the program.

I understand that no refund will be made for an unused portion of the tour unless arrangements are made in sufficient time to avoid penalties. I am aware that I carry baggage at my own risk entirely. I understand that the airlines are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time passengers are not on board their plane or conveyance. I am aware that neither VIA nor its operators accept liability for any carrier's cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a non-refundable ticket connected with the tour. I am aware that program price is based on rates in effect at the time the trip brochure is available and is subject to change without notice to reflect fluctuations in exchange rates, tariffs or fuel charges.

Accordingly, by signing below, I release (if I am under 18 years of age, my parents, by signing, also release) Volunteers in Asia (VIA) and its directors, officers, employees, and agents from any and all liability and claims arising from property damage, personal injury (including death), expenses, or other losses that I may suffer or incur as a result of my participation in the program.

I HAVE CAREFULLY READ THIS AGREEMENT. I UNDERSTAND THAT IT IS A COMPLETE RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND CLAIMS AGAINST VOLUNTEERS IN ASIA. I AM AWARE THAT IT IS A CONTRACT BETWEEN MYSELF AND VOLUNTEERS IN ASIA (VIA).

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Applicant's signature

Applicant's name (please print)

Date

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