



Introducing the Universal Village Program

The Universal Village Program is an opportunity for people all over the world to experience life in rural Cambodia.

The Universal Village Program is part of the work of the non-government rights-based empowerment organisation, Life With Dignity (LWD).

LWD is an autonomous Cambodian NGO localized from the Lutheran World Federation (LWF). LWF came into Cambodia in 1979 and it was localized to be LWD in January 2011.

LWD works with poor and vulnerable people in rural communities to improve their lives and the lives of families and communities.

The Universal Village Program (UVP) is a recent undertaking by Life With Dignity staff to provide an opportunity for people from all over the world to experience the rural areas of Cambodia.

Universal Village Program (UVP)

The UVP enables visitors to participate in the rural development activities within LWD target areas through hands-on activities and learning about development practices. Participants will see the impact of the LWD operation in target rural areas.

It is aimed that participants will:

- Learn about development practices and the changes that long-term development initiatives encourage
- Meet villagers in their community and hear their stories
- Learn how we can help set people free from poverty and oppression
- Experience the Cambodian culture and customs
- Come face to face with the joys and challenges of development
- Be equipped and inspired to lead their community in real action
- Meet the poor, including those who have experienced hunger and homelessness.

Focus of the Universal Village Program will be the development work of **Life With Dignity** in rural Cambodia; and the life, culture and difficulties and joys faced by the people of Cambodia. There will be opportunity to learn, to participate in hands-on activities and a chance to spend time with 'real' Cambodian people.

The UVP is usually one week in the rural area (negotiable).

Staff:

- Your Universal Village Program tour will be coordinated by Ieng Kimsrien (LWD Cambodia). Kimsrien has had much experience with leading groups from around the world.
- Kimsrien is accompanied and supported by LWD staff in all the provinces and the staff in Phnom Penh.

Your Universal Village Program Stay includes:

- 6 nights of accommodation (Two nights in Phnom Penh in a quality and preselected guesthouse or hotel and four nights in the village – one in a family home in a village and three in LWD area Compounds)
- Breakfast in Phnom Penh (following from the night accommodation)
- All food in the villages
- All transport
- All activities and cultural opportunities in the villages
- Contact person who is always on hand
- English translators
- Amazing opportunities to live, learn and contribute to village life in rural Cambodia
- LWD T-Shirt

You will need to organise:

- Passports
- Flights
- Immunisations
- Visas
- Travel Insurance
- The rest of your stay in Cambodia (as you desire). LWD staff can help and offer any suggestions.

Cost:

The cost of the UVP for five days in the field and six nights' accommodation and all-inclusive of food, transport, translators (and much more!) is \$500US.

This should be paid to LWD 6 weeks before your tour.

Group travel:

If you are travelling as a group, it is important that you contact Ieng Kimsrien as soon as possible to lock in dates uvp@lwd.org.kh

LWD cater for student groups right through to groups of retirees.

If you are wanting to bring students under 18 years, LWD suggest 1 teacher for 8 students.

A group must consist of 5 people as a minimum.

The maximum number for a group is negotiable, though 24 is a guide as a total maximum, depending on the age of students, staff, area being visited and so on.

As group leader, you (or someone you designate) will be responsible for first aid for the group. LWD will provide a list of suggested medical items to bring.

Procedures:

Life With Dignity is a child safe organisation operating out of their head-office in Phnom Penh and regional headquarters in rural areas.

To this end, all participants must sign the LWD Child Protection Code of Conduct.

All participants over 18 must provide a current Criminal Check document from their home country.

There will be legal and medical forms to complete.

If you would like to register your interest to join a UVP, please complete the Expression of Interest Form and someone will contact you as soon as possible.