



What is philanthropic travel?

Having been described by *Condé Nast Traveler* as “pioneers in philanthropic travel,” Journeys Within believes not just in empowering local people to better their own lives, but in empowering travelers to help give them that chance.

When Journeys Within Founder and CEO Andrea Ross first came to Cambodia, it was easy to get involved helping the local community. There was no shortage of need, and Andrea immediately started offering the “Give and Take Tour” as a way for guests to visit Cambodia and see the highlights, but also spend a week volunteering at a local school.

The success of this program, along with the requests of a growing number of guests who were looking for ways to help, led to the formation of Journeys Within Our Community (JWOC), a registered 501c3 in California and a registered non-profit in Cambodia, in 2005.

The slogan for JWOC was and remains “See a problem, solve a problem.” The idea was that Andrea and John Walsh (the first JWOC director) were in Cambodia seeing the issues the local communities were facing as well as ways to solve them with the help of outside resources.

Travelers with Journeys Within Tour Company immediately took up the call and started donating water wells, one of the first JWOC projects. A language school followed and then, thanks to Walsh, JWOC’s unique scholarship program was born. The final projects of the Microloan Program and the Village Venture Fund have really rounded out this amazing organization that empowers local people and gives them chances to better their own lives.

With the successes in Cambodia, JWOC is now running projects in Laos and Myanmar and getting guests involved in many ways to help drive the success of the projects.

CURRENT JWOC SIGNATURE PROGRAMS

University Scholarship Program

Truly the driving force behind all the JWOC projects our scholarship program is an incredibly unique way to not just empower individual students, but to really develop huge support for the community projects. The scholarship program gives university scholarships determined by need and aptitude, and in return the students donate five to 10 hours a week to other JWOC projects including scouting for water well locations, collecting the microfinance loans, teaching at the language schools and providing administrative support and advice to the director.



Journeys Within travelers who support the University Scholarship Program can sign up for the “Give As You Go” tour option and meet their scholarship student and go with them to see their school, their homes, discuss with them what their goals are and make a personal connection that alludes many travelers.

Clean Water Project

Donate a well to supply clean drinking water to a village in need. Journeys Within travelers can sign up for the “Give As You Go” tour option and get the chance to visit the well they made possible while in Cambodia.

Community Banking

Microloans that can change lives immediately and for generations to come. Journeys Within travelers can sign up for the “Give As You Go” tour option and Brandon Ross will take them on a project tour to see examples of microloan recipients.

Language Schools

The Cambodian public school system continues to be plagued by poor facilities, uneducated teachers, and corruption, which combined lead to dismal educational opportunities for children who are eager to learn. Travelers can help by donating their time at a local school as part of the Give and Take tour option.

To find out more about Journeys Within Tour Company’s mission of encouraging philanthropic travel, or for volunteer opportunities, contact andrea@journeys-within.com.

About Journeys Within Our Community

Journeys Within Our Community is a Cambodia-based non-profit organization dedicated to developing projects in Southeast Asia that reduce poverty levels, increase educational and economic opportunities, and empower recipients and supporters, inspiring ongoing social change. For more information see JourneysWithinOurCommunity.org.

About Journeys Within Tour Company

Journeys Within is a boutique Southeast Asia tour company dedicated to delivering its guests unforgettable, customized independent trips through Cambodia, Thailand, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam. For more information see Journeys-Within.com or call toll-free (877) 454-3672.