



SIAMA Travel guide 2019

mis*sion*ary {noun} a person who dedicates his or her life to helping others by directing them to the path of righteousness.





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Rembrandt van Rijn 1606 - 1669

We choose Rembrandt van Rijn as our theme in the SIAMA travelguide.
2019 is a special year in the Netherlands as it is 350 years ago he passed away.
All the museums have special days and memorials in light of Rembrandt.
SIAMA is situated in Leiden and he was born there also.
By coincidence, the pilgrim fathers walked around in Leiden at the same time as Rembrandt.

Rembrandt was the greatest Dutch painter of his age and is one of the most important figures in European art. The many self-portraits he painted throughout his life provide us with a visual autobiography.

Rembrandt van Rijn was born on 15 July 1606 in Leiden, the son of a mill owner.

Rembrandt settled permanently in Amsterdam in 1631 and set up as a portrait painter. In 1634, he married the well-connected Saskia van Uylenburgh. Rembrandt prospered, painting mythological and religious works as well as portraits, and the couple lived well.

One of Rembrandt's most well-known paintings, 'The Night Watch', a group portrait of one of Amsterdam's militia companies, was completed in 1642. Saskia died in the same year, which coincided with difficulties in Rembrandt's business. This, coupled with his extravagance, resulted in him being declared bankrupt in 1656. His house and possessions were sold, including his own large collection of works of art.

Rembrandt continued to receive commissions and some of the great paintings from this period are 'The Syndics of the Clothmakers Guild' (1662) and 'The Jewish Bride' (c. 1666). Throughout his career, he attracted pupils who also served as his assistants. Their work can sometimes be hard to distinguish from Rembrandt's own.
Rembrandt died on 4 October 1669.



Welcome



Dear Missionary, dear Friend,

A warm welcome to the new 2019 edition of the SIAMA travel guide!

For those of you who are not yet familiar with our services, SIAMA, a small Dutch Christian Mission travel organisation, stands for: the **S**ociety in the **I**nterest of **A**ctive **M**issionaries **A**board.

We exist for 49 years now and since 1970 we have assisted over 300.000 Missionaries with their travel arrangements!

We will celebrate our 50th anniversary on April 1st 2020, which is a true milestone for us.

We are determined to continue Serving those who Serve with your help for many more years to come! You will read more about our future policy plans, so that we are able to better our services in assisting you in your future travel. We believe we can still advance our services for you in the years to come and together with you, we would like to explore feasible possibilities on this!

I joined SIAMA in 1983 and am the successor of Mrs. Betty Ruygrok, as of her retirement in 2009, exactly 10 years ago. She enjoys her retirement and is still active with an orphanage she started in Namibia called: SIAMA Children Namibia. Many SIAMA members, who she met years ago in Japan, Philippines, Taiwan and other countries, are still booking their flights with SIAMA today!

We notice many SIAMA Members and Missionaries pass on our contact information to their families and friends. We truly appreciate this. We perceive this as a huge compliment and we hope we can be as good of service to your acquaintances as we are or have been to you!

Especially in the world of today, where there are so many options to arrange travel online, we believe SIAMA still makes a difference with our engaged and expert staff. On page 10 you will see some reviews we have received from our members and I feel honestly very proud and blessed our SIAMA Team has been able to assist so many of you! We are thankful for doing such fulfilling and worthwhile work every day.

With all the travel providers today and possibilities online, we know we cannot always beat the prices you may have found elsewhere, but we can assure you of our genuine, true-hearted and professional advice in finding the best way for you to travel. Whether you choose for us, we are happy with every chance you give us to be one of your travel partners. If not booked today, maybe tomorrow!

I hope you will enjoy reading the SIAMA travel guide and get to know more about what SIAMA stands for and more importantly, what SIAMA could mean to you!

With your choice to use SIAMA for your travel arrangements, you choose for:
Reliability, Quality, Personal engagement, Specialisation with one purpose and Dedication.

For the Missionaries

Through the Missionaries * SIAMA World Mission Travel

By the Missionaries



Els Langezaal





Perspective for the future

On the 30th of April 2020 SIAMA will exist for **50 years!** Although this is something to celebrate for us, it also means time to move on and make steps towards another approach to continue to provide you with the best mission travel services possible! We are eager to be more at your service and to be more in touch with you. With all the means of communication today, this is not only feasible, but very joyful and meaningful!

Together with you, we want to make sure SIAMA will continue to exist for the next 50 years! We would like to have frequent, in-depth and honest conversations with you, so we learn from you, from your wishes and travel requirements. By extending our dialogue we can amend SIAMA policies and services in accordance to your needs in mission travel.

This way we will be more capable to provide an adequate answer to your demands and give more meaning to the SIAMA membership for you, missionaries and humanitarian aid workers. In the near future, we like to invite you to take part in our organisation and make, together with us, our policies to assist you.

We operate non profit and transparent. Our main objective is to provide you with carefree travel, before, during and after your trip, but, on top of that we would like to be more involved in your Mission work and projects!

We enjoy helping you, and all missionaries, volunteer workers and other SIAMA friends around the world. As a mission travel agency we are more than capable to contribute to your efforts to spread Christianity. We are very interested in your fulfilments as they are part or an extension of what we want to achieve worldwide. We would love to hear and share your adventures, anecdotes and aspirations on our website and facebook for your fellow Missionaries to read.

When we receive extra funds from the airlines, we give this back to our members through "bonus points" or other discount specials. Furthermore, we support the orphanage SIAMA Children Namibia in Umaruru, Namibia. If God is willing to allow us, we like to continue this path and support more projects in the future.

In addition, we would like to extent our services to you in accordance to your wishes and requirements for mission travel. For example, when you are organizing a group travel and you lack participants, we can assist you in finding the last few participants you need. There are of course more possibilities to explore and we hope to do this with your help! In any case, you should know we are committed to you and the missionaries worldwide in any mission travel request you acquire.

We admire your work and dedication and we are glad to be a small part of your world. It is the duty of mankind to help people who are in need and give them faith and hope. As a Christian travel organisation we wish to make a difference to you. We want to be your partner and save you money and time, so that you can spend this to your valuable work and projects.

We will make progress to more inclusive SIAMA policies in the near future and we will keep you updated on the process through our regular mailings, updates on facebook and on our website!



Membership advantages

As a member of SIAMA you benefit from various advantages

- Tailor-made travel proposals
- Extra good deals on oneway travel, complicated routings and last minute travel.
- Tickets with flexible conditions on date change and cancellation
- Tickets with extra baggage allowance
- Validity of tickets up to one year.
- Efficient and quick replies
- Easy to contact
- Helpful experienced travel advisors
- Your interest at heart, non profit
- Christian, personal and dedicated staff
- Reliable service
- Free loyalty bonus points for discount in the future or to give away. ¹
- Flexible payment conditions, depending on the itinerary/airline you can make reservations at an early time and pay closer to departure. This way you can block flights at cheaper price early and wait for your visa or money of sponsors to come in later.
- Possibility to buy gift certificates for air tickets for Benefit dinners and/or auctions.
- For large organizations one contact person to handle all the travel of your Mission.
- For conferences, 2% extra discount for more than 20 passengers and free group membership
- Save you the time and hassle to browse for hours on flight booking websites
- Your direct relatives can also make use of our services
- SIAMA online booking system to search for SIAMA fares yourself.

Second Opinion service

When you have chosen your final schedule with another provider, we would like to give you the opportunity to double-check with SIAMA one last time if the schedule you want to book is the best and cheapest available. Give us the price and schedule (airline), you have found and we can do one final check for you if we can equal or better the offer. It may save you money to do this final check before you book. If not, this check will confirm that you have chosen the best schedule/price possible.

¹ These points can be used for a reduction on future tickets, or payment for ancillary services like seat reservations and additional luggage. Once you have saved EUR 50 or more you can also choose to donate your points to your organization.



SIAMA : Travel SERVICE Organisation

SIAMA World Mission Travel is a specialist in air travel for Missionary and humanitarian charitable purposes. SIAMA is not a regular travel agency. We are a Christian society and operate non-profit. SIAMA values the shared Christian identity and principles with its members and works exclusively with Missionaries since 1970. SIAMA is a transparent service-oriented organisation as policies are made together with their members.

SIAMA's mission is to provide Missionaries with the best professional, personal and true-hearted advice and service to ensure Missionaries attain the best tickets available for their care-free travel.

We have 7 staff members who are committed to Serve you.



Nicolien: I am working at SIAMA for almost 6 years now.

I still really love the work and to assist you with tickets and everything around that.

Since March 2018 I am a mother of a little boy, named Thom. So when I am free from work I love to spend time with him and my family and friends.

Linda: I have been a Missionary assistant since 2005. In my spare time I like to hike, cycle and I love to travel myself, together with my husband and two children. Very soon there will be an addition to our family: a dog!

Miranda: I am working with much pleasure for over 18 years within the SIAMA team. I always love to read the stories of our members who are doing great work all over the world. At home I have my husband and 2 wonderful sons. I look forward to assist you all on your travels!

Coen: Hello to everyone out there in the fields!

Still 'Serving those who Serve' for 15 years now, which also reminds me how fast time can fly.

As a father of two sons most of the weekends are filled with the one and only thing on their minds: Football. Also living at a 10 minute walk from the beach I can't wait for another long and warm summer.

Mariette: Hello, I am working with SIAMA since 2000. I love the diversity of the work, assisting passengers and groups traveling from and to all corners of the world. It is challenging to find the best options for each trip and every member, and always a pleasure if it works out!

My teenage son just started secondary school this year, so that's challenging too!

Maikel: In 2006 I started at SIAMA as an IT intern. The entire IT system was in need of renewal so I rang the doorbell at the exact right time. During this internship I realised there was room for more development other than server/network maintenance. I started making automated tools for my colleagues, designed a new website and brochure. If I'm not busy with IT related matters, you'll probably find me at home in my oversized music studio. In the past I didn't travel much, but that changed in 2015 when I met my girlfriend Charlotte.

Els: Being with SIAMA since 1983, I cannot really express exactly what it means to me but I can simply say, SIAMA is part of my life (and that of my husband who is also very committed to SIAMA!). I cannot imagine not to be in contact with you and your fellow missionaries every day. I have met many of you in the past in the Mission field, most of the time in African countries and I truly admire your dedication and work. I am married and have one daughter of 26 years and we have a very sweet German Shephard called Athos. My husband and I love to travel. Spain, South Africa and Namibia are our favorite destinations. Most of the time, when we make a visit to these countries, we also take the opportunity to visit the orphanage SIAMA Children Namibia and other projects. In addition, I love to read, make puzzles and swim.



SIAMA : Travel Service Organisation

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Background information on booking Airline fares

Today, there are so many sources to book travel all around the world and we have to be realistic and be clear on this. SIAMA cannot be competitive for every routing in the world. Our one way and multiple stopover fares are very good, but for simple roundtrip tickets airlines regularly stunt with their prices and these cannot always be beaten by us.

If you book relatively close to the departure date (less than 1-2 months before) the SIAMA Missionary fares will usually become more attractive than the average online fares, but still it is a puzzle for the regular passenger when and what to book.

Sometimes fares differ per booking website, travel agency or per country (currency). Fares also depend on space availability and the date of booking is also important. It all can make a difference.

Economy class tickets are usually divided into multiple booking classes. For each booking class the airlines wants to have a certain turnover. However, if the flight does not fill up quickly enough and the occupancy rate of the flight is lower than average, they will revise their fares and booking classes or do some promotion. In that period, if you are lucky you can book cheaper tickets.

All this information is kept secret and you cannot be sure cheaper fares will become available in the future. Airlines make this on purpose hazy.





SIAMA : Travel SERVICE Organisation

(continued)

Now comes the tricky part: It is possible to make reservations about 11 months prior to departure. If you think that if you book well ahead of time you will still get the lowest possible booking class, you are mistaken.

Some Airlines have the strategy to block the cheapest economy class seats until closer to departure. If flights are already fully booked at a certain time, they will not offer the cheapest economy class anymore and only the next one, which will be more expensive.

In the end, it is still the passenger who decides when to book. We understand it is sometimes hard to understand why one time you have a better fare for this and later on it seems to be totally different again. Also it is hard to understand that the passengers sitting next to you in the plane has maybe paid USD 200 more or less than you did, but it happens!

Sometimes it is wise to book well ahead of time and the other time you may be lucky with booking a last minute ticket at a really cheap fare. On the other hand if you wait too long, you can end up with paying much more. It is difficult and at one time you have to decide and book what is best for you and be happy with that.

We honestly like to help you to make the best decision and choose the itinerary and fare that works best for you. If that means you will end up not booking with SIAMA we are more than willing to assist you on your next trip.

Please always remember SIAMA as a true-hearted professional and helpful source to check for air tickets. We are dedicated to you and to what you represent. We admire what you do and are thankful to do our part to help you, save you time and money for care-free travel to your Mission-field and this way we hope your funds can be used for other worthwhile matters in your Missionary/humanitarian work.

You make a difference to the world with your Christian dedication and helpfulness to mankind. We like to make a difference to you as we think it is important to Serve you!

We are thankful if you make use of the services of SIAMA, as one of your travel providers, and offer us the opportunity to assist you and book the best possible fares for you.

This way, we can continue to exist and negotiate for better fares/conditions in the future with the Airlines. The benefit of that is going straight back to the Missionary community!



SIAMA Guarantees

A tailor-made trip

Today, there are more travel choices and online vendors than ever before. To find the best itinerary and fares for your travel is like looking for a needle in a haystack. We can help you find the perfect solution for your travel needs.

Value for money

We have access to special fares that are not available for consumers booking directly online. We can offer special missionary fares, group fares and other discounted options. If you already found a good schedule, let us check for a second opinion, to see if we can get your itinerary for a lower fare.

We always strive to offer a highly competitive price. Though we can never guarantee to be the cheapest but we can strive to be the best.

In experts hands

Due to 49 years of experience we can offer you a wealth of information on air travel. We can offer advice on travelling with children and infants, how to get the most out of your baggage allowance, meals and other ancillary services, travelling with pets and so on.

Personal and flexible

We are very approachable and will always reply to your price request within 24 hours.

Our travel proposals give you an idea of your options. If you are looking for something a little different just give us some hints and we will do our best to find it. We really love the challenge to help you find what is to your liking!

If you need changeable or refundable tickets, due to personal circumstances, we can offer you flexible conditions. Just let us know what's important for you!

We care

SIAMA is a non-profit Christian Society and we care for, and are proud of our members. You can read (and share your own!) stories of the beautiful work that our members do on our website. We know the field, we understand the challenges that you face and we are happy and thankful to be able to assist you in our own little way.

SIAMA has a Christian identity and knowledge of the Mission work and projects, which give us solid information and understanding on your needs for travel in general.

SIAMA always searches for the cheapest possibilities, whether Missionary or restricted tickets, whereas online ticket providers provide tickets with strict conditions only.

We are dedicated to provide you the best possible prices and travel arrangements so that your funds can be saved as much as possible for other worthwhile Matters in your Mission-Development-Charity work

Major difference of booking online or with SIAMA:

Booking online

- Immediate decision and payment
- Changes are usually a hassle and costly
- Most of the time no refund in case of cancellation
- No assistance in finding your best options

Booking with SIAMA

- Tickets with flexible conditions
- Possibility to book and not pay immediately
- Changes can easily be accomplished
- Refunds will be taken care of.
- Personal and professional advice
- Saves you time and hassle by not searching all kinds of websites
- 100% reliable and committed to assist you
- Assistance with any unforeseen circumstance before or during your trip.



What members say about SIAMA in 2018

The SIAMA team feels blessed to assist our members in the best possible way and are honored and touched by the many nice true-hearted compliments we received in 2018.

A compilation of what members have said about SIAMA in the past year:

"SIAMA is an agency that emerges from a commitment to Vision in the development of world missionary work. This makes it an exclusive agency with a profile of quality services by promoting the transportation of people ministering around the world and carrying a message of life change. It is an agency with unique character and great value in the search to facilitate flights around the world at economic prices. Therefore, it is important that each member of SIAMA encourage the development of the same, supporting it in the face of the challenge of maintaining and continue in the face of global competition in the field of travel agencies. God bless you"

"Just to let you know we have arrived back safely in CNX, had a very pleasant flight, were able to check-in online, had good seats, no problem with connections or otherwise. Thanks again for your hard work to help make this happen. When we took a colleague to the Airport in the end of October, I was pleasantly surprised to see she had a SIAMA ticket, too! You are a real blessing, and all around the world, too!"

"Its really good to see standing with missionaries . Thank you so much for your all hard work and love for God."

"Thank you very much for making this change. We are very grateful for your super prompt action. We indeed appreciate the excellent service provided by SIAMA."

"The work you guys do at Siam makes our work in the field so much easier. It's a privilege being associated with you."

"We informed all our missionaries about the possibilities to travel with you. Some have already booked with you in the past and told their satisfaction!"

"Thank you very much for making this change. We are very grateful for your super prompt action. We indeed appreciate the excellent service provided by SIAMA."

"Thank you SIAMA, you really do a fantastic job at serving the missionary community. We've really appreciated your assistance in getting us the best deals when we've travelled. Blessings to you all."

"I just wanted to say that you are amazing!"

"We had a great trip from Portugal to Canada! We are so thankful for the hard work that SIAMA put into helping us arrange our flight. We were very pleased with the price, as it was cheaper than anything we could find. They were always ready to answer any questions that we had. We are church planters and have been in Portugal for three years. Thank you SIAMA for all your hard work! We have already recommended you to our friends! Thank you so much!! This trip was a bit more complicated to arrange and you folks at Siam took all the pressure off!"

"Liebes SIAMA-Team, ich möchte mich bei Ihnen ganz herzlich bedanken. Ich hatte einen wunderbaren Flug. Alles klappte sehr gut. Gerne fliege ich wieder mit Ihnen!"

"Perfect! Thank you so much. God bless you as you continue to seek and serve Him! Every blessing,"

"Thank you for being so available and quick with your response. I appreciate your efforts on our behalf."

"Thank you very much for your attention, very friendly, responsible and competent!"



Who can make use of SIAMA services?



- Individual Missionaries
- couples and families
- non profit humanitarian workers
- volunteers travelling to the Mission field, project and v.v.
- Retired Missionaries going back to their previous work projects
- Missionaries taking a break, a Holiday from their Missionfield or during their leaf.
- Bible School student, Missionary kids, travelling for an internship, schoolyear or graduation
- Teachers of Bible schools and conference speakers for Christian events.
- Non-profit humanitarian workers/volunteers
- Group travel for 10 passengers or more travelling the same itinerary for example international sports outreach, Christian youth camps, development projects like building schools and or Hospitals etc.
- Conference travel for 10 passengers or more travelling from different countries to one destination.
- Invitees, speakers at Religious conventions.
- Sponsors and supporters of Missionaries/humanitarian workers visiting them in the field.
- Direct relatives of Missionaries visiting them in the Mission-field



Contact

SIAMA office

SIAMA World Mission Travel
Kanaalpark 157
2321 JW LEIDEN
The Netherlands

Opening Hours (Local Time):
Monday - Thursday: 09.00h - 17.00h
Friday: 09.00h - 16.00h

T: +31 (0)71 516 35 35
Email: membersupport@siama.nl
Websites: <https://www.siama.nl>
<https://www.siamagrouptravel.com>
Facebook: [SIAMATravel](https://www.facebook.com/SIAMATravel)

