

Visit Overview

What is a Visit?

A **Visit** is one of Compassion's planned Field Experiences and is an amazing opportunity for you to meet with your sponsored children in their country! It is a Compassion-designed, **one-day experience** for you to spend time with up to three of your sponsored children in their country.

Visits are designed for Supporters who are already traveling independently to a country for vacation, work or another reason. Very few sponsored children get the chance to meet their sponsors, so if this is a possibility for you, we want to help you make it happen. Please see the [Visit Terms & Conditions](#) for further details and pricing.

What is the value in meeting my sponsored child?

A personal meeting is a deeply significant event. A child in poverty struggles with a deep-seated belief that he or she is insignificant, powerless, and hopeless – a belief that perpetuates a poverty of spirit. Nothing says “You are special, valued, significant, and powerful” like a visit from a child's sponsor; it is a life-changing event! The surprise is that the sponsor often feels the same message from his or her sponsored child. This interaction is nothing short of a truly sacred encounter.

When should I apply for a Visit?

To be considered, applications must be submitted at least 3 months in advance and no more than 8 months before the requested Visit date. At this time, Supporters are permitted to schedule 1 Visit every 6 months.

Why do you require advance notice?

Our local staff are responsible for coordinating and hosting all Field Experiences for Compassion's global constituency. This includes not only Compassion USA, but all our partner countries. The advance notice provides Compassion's National Office staff time to balance incoming requests with previously scheduled Field Experiences and helps them avoid burnout and overwork. Visits can require considerable coordination between your sponsored child's family, local Compassion staff, the National Office, our USA office, and you; so, the more notice we have, the better the experience will be for all involved.

What is the Visit process?

- Submit your Visit application
- Initial review by the Field Experience team
- Submit registration and \$100 deposit
- National Office review
- Budget and Itinerary planning and final coordination

How likely is my Visit to be approved?

Approval depends on factors such as staff availability, scheduling, security conditions, and your sponsored child's availability. Applying early increases your chances of approval.

Registration and Costs

Why is registration and a deposit required earlier in the planning process?

Requiring registration and a deposit earlier allows our team to begin coordinating your Visit sooner and ensures we are prioritizing requests from those who are ready to move forward. As visit coordination involves multiple teams and locations, this helps us manage capacity more effectively and create a smoother experience for everyone involved.

Is the \$100 deposit refundable?

The \$100 deposit is refunded only if the National Office is unable to officially approve the Visit.

What does the \$100 deposit cover?

The deposit contributes to administrative costs such as:

- Application review, coordination with National Offices, and visit planning
- Background checks

It is applied toward your total administrative fees.

How much does a Visit cost?

Visit expenses vary by region and requirements. Visitors must also agree to cover any costs incurred in-country, including transportation, host/translation services, meals, and lodging.

Typically, these costs can range from \$500 to \$800, but they can vary based on location and any necessary travel for your sponsored child and supporting staff. Once your application is approved, the National Office will provide an expense estimate for you to review and approve. Because there are so many variables, we cannot provide a specific estimate before you apply.

Separate administrative fees apply to cover background checks and visit support: \$250 for the main Supporter, \$75 for each additional adult guest, and \$25 for each minor guest. If two or more Supporters attend a visit together and are visiting their own Participant(s), each Supporter must pay the full \$250 administrative fee.

Are Visit payments tax-deductible?

Compassion Standard Visit payments are not tax-deductible contributions according to IRS guidelines. Traveler payments apply directly to the visit costs, which is not considered a charitable activity.

Planning and Approval

What happens after I apply for a Visit?

Your application will be reviewed by the Field Experience team. If your request is moving forward, you will be invited to register and submit a \$100 non-refundable deposit.

Once registered, your Visit is submitted to the National Office for review. This may take a few weeks. If approved, we will contact you with next steps. If declined, we will provide an explanation and refund your deposit.

If you're ready to apply for your Visit, [click here!](#)

What happens once my Visit is approved by the National Office?

Once your Visit is approved, a Field Experience planner will then start the arrangements between you and the National Office to craft an itinerary that suits all the participants. You will receive the itinerary and budget for your approval, followed by a payment request for any expenses that need to be covered prior to your departure. After you submit your pre-visit expense payment, you'll receive a confirmation email. A separate email including contact details for your in-country Compassion Visit Day Host will be sent approximately one week before your visit date.

What happens if my Visit is not approved by the National Office?

Occasionally, a face-to-face Visit is not possible due to office closures, holidays, security threats, or other extenuating circumstances. Even if your visit date is not approved this time around, you may still be able to drop off a gift at the National Office to be delivered on your behalf. While a gift certainly doesn't replace time together, it will still have a big impact.

Are Visit dates flexible after I apply?

Visit dates are often not flexible once submitted. Our in-country teams coordinate many logistics including staff availability, transportation, school, and Compassion Center schedules, so flexibility after submission may not be possible.

What if I need to cancel my Visit?

We ask that Supporters carefully consider any decision to cancel a visit, as your sponsored child may already be aware of the visit plans and will be extremely disappointed if a visit is canceled.

However, we know there are circumstances where it becomes necessary for you to cancel your visit. In that case, please contact us immediately so that we may communicate with the National Office. In the event of a cancellation, Supporters are responsible for paying administrative fees as well as any expenses that the National Office has already incurred to arrange the visit.

What happens if Compassion needs to cancel or change my Visit?

While we make every effort to carry out Visits as planned, there are times when Compassion may need to cancel, adjust, or modify a Visit due to local safety concerns, family availability, or other unforeseen circumstances.

Our priority is always the safety and well-being of everyone involved. If changes are necessary, we will communicate with you as soon as possible and provide guidance on next steps.

During your Visit

What do I do when I arrive in-country?

Please contact your Visit Host via WhatsApp when you arrive in-country. We will provide his or her contact information approximately one week before your visit date. It is important to let them know you have made it to your destination safely and that the Visit can proceed as planned.

What does a typical Visit day look like?

Itineraries vary depending on the individual circumstances, but typically your host will pick you up from wherever you are staying and take you to your sponsored child. Alternatively, the host may bring the child and his or her caretaker(s) to you if you are staying at a hotel or meeting at a public location. Every child will be accompanied by a parent or guardian as well as a staff member from their Child Development Center.

If you Visit your sponsored child's home and center, you will see where he or she attends his or her Compassion program and learn about his or her day-to-day life. If you have your Visit in another location, you will share an activity together. In both instances, you will typically have time to get to know your child, ask questions, exchange gifts and sometimes share a meal.

Please note that every visit is unique. While these are common experiences, your visit itinerary may vary depending on local factors and availability.

How long will the Visit last?

- Visit takes place on one day
- 2–6 hours
- Weekdays only, during business and daylight hours
- No evening Visits

Supporters desiring a Visit with multiple children may be allowed to add 1 extra day (up to 3 children per day) and all the above criteria applies.

What activities will a Visit itinerary include?

The National Office may suggest local activities for your Visit, including activities such as a Visit to a park, beach, zoo, mall, etc. If you have any specific requests or preferences, please include those in your application. We'll explore what's possible based on local factors and availability.

Can I meet my sponsored child's family?

Your sponsored child will be accompanied by a parent or guardian during the Visit no matter where it takes place. If your Visit Itinerary includes a visit to your Sponsored Child's home, you may be able to meet additional family members, though this is not guaranteed as they may be working or otherwise unavailable. If your Visit Itinerary includes having a Visit in a different location and you would like other family members to join, please let us know when you apply. We will check with the family to see if that can be arranged.

Do I need to travel to my sponsored child's area, or can he/she be brought to my location?

Transportation options vary based on the security of your sponsored child's area and the time required for travel. If you have the chance to Visit your sponsored child's home context, it is an incredibly powerful experience. However, if there are security concerns or you have limited travel time, our staff can arrange for your sponsored child to be brought to your location for a Visit. Please share your preference when you apply and our team will do their best to honor it. However, the final decision will be made by local staff to ensure the safety and feasibility of each Visit.