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2015

Bulgaria

Summer

camp



Who, What, Why?



About an hour's drive from the Bulgarian capital, Sofia, is an orphanage and school called Lipnitsa, which **The Trussell Trust** works closely with. The children at the school all come from severely deprived backgrounds, either from local Roma gypsy communities or the streets.

The school provides a bed, running water and guaranteed meals, whilst friends and teachers form a semblance of family for the children. However, this is only during term time. When the holidays arrive the school closes and the children must return to the unstable backgrounds they came from. These are often fraught with danger, with child prostitution, drugs and violence a daily reality.

The **Summer Camp** offers some of the children a break from this, so they can enjoy being children in a safe and loving environment. This is an opportunity to show them they have worth and introduce them to the unconditional love of Jesus.

'My time in Bulgaria was amazing and truly life changing! I met some inspirational children, and it was a privilege to share God's love with them and to see how much the smallest things meant to them.' Molly, 2014



'Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue, but with actions and in truth.' 1 John 3:18

So what actually happens?

The UK team, along with translators, some school staff and about 40 children, travel to a small town called Kranevo by the Black Sea for 10 days of fun in August, staying in a basic hotel a short walk from the beach.



A Day in the Life of a Summer Camper...

(exact times not used as they vary, activities also vary)

Morning: We start the day with prayer with the youth and translator teams, bringing the children, the team and whatever we have planned to God. We might throw a bible study in there too. After breakfast we head to the beach with the kids for games, burying people and swimming!

Afternoon: After lunch we have a planning session for the evening's teaching, followed by some free time to have a rest. The rest of the afternoon is filled with more beach-related fun or crafts with the kids.

Evening: We join the kids once more to give a Christian teaching session. This is an important opportunity to spiritually encourage the children. We try to deliver the message of God's love in a way that is engaging and accessible, it can involve many things such as short sketches, songs, prayers, crafts and games. The rest of the evening is free to go and explore the town, stock up on souvenirs, or just relax!

'The trip was such a great experience, it was really eye opening and made me realise how lucky we are. I loved being able to share God's love through our actions. I know I'll treasure the memories forever.' Bridie, 2014





There may be an opportunity during the trip to visit a House of Opportunity, one of our small group houses which provide residential training programmes for orphanage leavers, helping them avoid a life of crime and poverty. This will give you a real insight into the issues affecting vulnerable young people in this deeply divided society.

Why Should I Go?

'I had such a great time getting to know all the kids and the team. It was an experience I'll never forget and I hope we made an impact on the lives of the kids.'

Finn, 2014



Not only is the **Summer Camp** full of benefits for the children, it is an incredibly impacting experience for all involved.

It is a great opportunity to practically put your faith into action, living out the teachings of Jesus. You'll be able to show the children their worth by loving them and spending time with them, witnessing how this can bring change in the children just in those few days.

You will be inspired by the love and joy the children possess despite their upbringings. On top of this you'll have fun, make new friends, and explore a new culture. You might even get a tan!





The Money Bit

Cost:

£695 (if booked before 31st January 2015)

£745 (if booked after January 2015)

N.B. The price of £745 is only guaranteed until 31st March 2015. Plane ticket prices may rise after this - so may the trip cost if you book after this date.

Camp will run within last 3 weeks of August. Dates TBC.

'I didn't expect to connect with the kids and the team as much as I did! It was one of the best times I've had. We genuinely impacted their lives; they were so grateful and sad to see us leave.'



Amy, 2014

This money covers the cost of flights, transport (excluding travel to and from UK airports), food and accommodation. It's advisable to bring some extra money for souvenirs and snacks. Flights and insurance will be booked by **The Trussell Trust**.

All team members are expected to raise the funds needed for the programme. This will need to be paid to The Trussell Trust prior to the summer camp trip. Successful applicants will receive a pack with further information including fundraising ideas.

'I loved it because I got to spend my time in the summer with very special children who changed my life.'

Shaun, 2009



'Learn to do good. Seek justice. Help the oppressed. Defend the cause of orphans. Fight for the rights of widows.'

Isaiah 1:17



Is It For Me?

Previous youth team members have found the Summer Camp to be an incredibly rewarding experience, coming away touched by the love and joy the children have to give and providing lasting memories.

Are you:

- 17-21 years old (this can be flexible)?
- Prepared to share the vision and values of The Trussell Trust (you can find these on the website)? The core of this is practically showing God's love. Applicants should therefore have a personal relationship with Jesus or be actively seeking to develop this.
- Willing to challenge yourself by experiencing a new culture, trying things outside your comfort zone and being patient and responsive to the children's needs (due to their upbringing the children can be very demanding of your attention)?

Upon receiving applications we will arrange an interview with you; this is a good time to ask questions you may have. It is also an opportunity for us to get to know you more and find out what you could contribute to the trip.

If you have any questions please contact Rich Parsons (Bulgaria Operations Manager - UK), contact details on the last page.



If you want to join our Summer Camp team this year:

- 1 Download application and reference forms from the **website**. Complete and return your application form with a passport size photo by end of April 2015. Remember if you book before Jan 31st you will save £50!
- 2 Contact your church leader/youth worker/other referee and ask him/her to complete the appropriate reference form and send it to us.
- 3 Upon receiving your application we will arrange an interview.
- 4 Following the interview we will contact you regarding a place on the programme as soon as possible.
- 5 We will send on an information pack telling you all you need to know to get ready to go, including the necessary admin forms and fundraising ideas.
- 6 You will need to confirm your place by sending a deposit of £50 (cheques made payable to 'The Trussell Trust').
- 7 Attend a briefing day with other members of the team.
- 8 Fundraise.
- 9 Final payments to be made by July 17th 2015.
- 10 Go to Bulgaria and change lives!

NB Your flights and insurance will be booked by The Trussell Trust.

Contact Details

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The Trussell Trust

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The Small Print

By applying to join the Summer Camp programme your acceptance of The Trussell Trust's policies and procedures is implied. The Trussell Trust's partners will take all reasonable steps to provide protection for participants but all parties recognise that there are inherent risks in working/volunteering outside the UK. Neither The Trussell Trust nor its partners will be required to do more than is reasonably necessary and possible in the circumstances of this voluntary work to provide a safe and proper system of work. While The Trussell Trust will take all reasonable steps to assist participants in any emergency, there will be no legal liability on The Trussell Trust or its agents or its employees for the consequences of events outside their control from their headquarters in the UK. Deposits are non-returnable. Trips may be cancelled or postponed due to security issues.

Reg. Charity in England & Wales (1110522) and Scotland (SC044246).

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