



Balloon Circus
ANNUAL REPORT

2024



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Unforgettable play days and workshops



About Balloon Circus

Balloon Circus delivers balloon and circus workshops to children worldwide.

Our aim is to provide each child with the opportunity to play in a creative environment increasing essential, social and emotional development.

Our mission is to bring back joy and laughter for every child we teach, to ensure that the memory of fun, excitement and challenge stays with them as they grow.

Balloon Circus awakens the inner performer, inspiring smiles and laughter through unforgettable play days.

For the last 10 years Balloon Circus has been working directly with children at a grassroots level. We reach as many children as possible to provide them with something that can be forgotten in the face of adversity – a child's right to play.

We work alongside other charities, complementing the amazing work already taking place.

As always, a big thank you to our generous sponsors, donors, friends and family





Director's report

2023-2024 proved another great year for us at Balloon Circus

Thanks for all your support to help us reach the 10th year of Balloon Circus!

Our primary focus is on promoting good health and wellbeing, in line with Sustainable Development Goal 3. We also aim to teach critical thinking skills, and provide alternative play to their normal activities.

For vulnerable young people, especially those who have experienced conflict or trauma, circus workshops can be a form of escape, overcoming hardship, where they share their experiences and express their emotions.

Circus skills can be used to teach life skills, including perseverance, teamwork, trust and positive risk-taking.

Young people can apply these life skills outside of the circus, which can help make them more employable and taking part in workshops can give a sense of self-worth while boosting their confidence. In turn they can continue making a positive difference in the world.



During our tour, we engaged the children in various activities that included circus workshops and balloon modelling. We spent time teaching them different skills and sharing our experiences, with the aim of increasing their confidence levels.

We held ten workshops teaching over 700 children. We drove over 2000km to reach them all and the whole tour cost £3166.



We have created memories that will last a lifetime, and all for less than the cost of one Chanel handbag!

โรงเรียนบวรชน วัฒนวิทยานุกูลวิทยานุกูล มอ.อุบลราชธานี
ตามหลักปรัชญาของเศรษฐกิจพอเพียง

การอบรมกิจกรรมพัฒนาครูและบุคลากรทางการศึกษา
เกี่ยวกับการรักษาพยาบาลเบื้องต้น (CPR)
โดย งานอนามัยโรงเรียน กลุ่มบริหารงานกิจการนักเรียน
ณ โรงเรียนเขาวงกต





Southern Thai Tour 2024

We decided it was an opportune time to revisit some of the places from our original tour in Thailand.

After two days of organising we had provisional bookings for 12 workshops around the south. This year we also hired a car, and what a difference it made. No lugging all the equipment on buses, Tuk Tuks and bikes and no long waits to get to out of the way destinations (all the children's homes are always very far out from major towns and cities).

Our first week was spent on the west coast travelling between Phuket and Khao Lak. We started up at Ban Tham Nam Chai in the north where one of the original kids we taught, is now Head of Activities; he was so excited to have us back. Then on to Home and Life, down to Sunshine Village and SOS in Phuket and back up to Yaowawit in the lush jungle hills of Kapong.

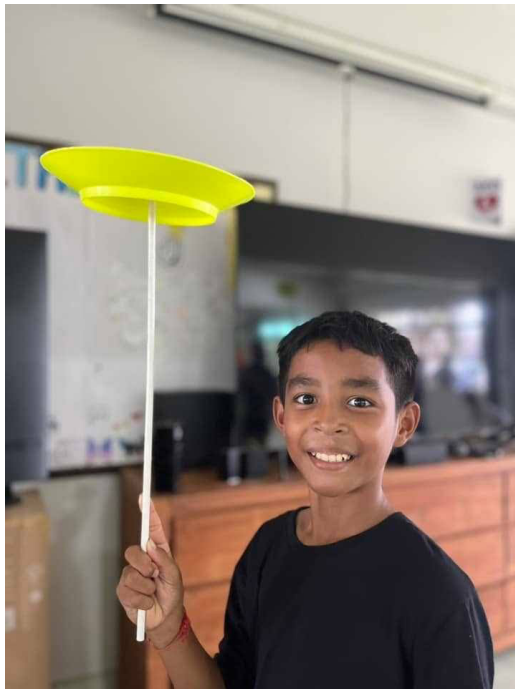
We performed a show and taught a workshop each day.

Each place had about five children that remembered us from our first visit. They loved seeing their old photos of the last time we taught them when they were little.

Then we drove across the country to the east coast, up to Lamae where Baan Eurphon looked after us and had a singalong with the children at night before bedtime. Down to Baan Felix in Surat Thani where they had a surprise as they had no idea they were having after-school fun.

Unfortunately, Duang Prateep and Baan Si Thammarat cancelled as they had prior activities and we had already booked the weekend in Pattani and SOS Hat Yai, which was lucky as that was our longest drive yet and took a whole day.

After nine shows we were lucky enough to find a new place Baan Santhiwit in Chana, Hat Yai. They are looking after 150 children and are desperate for volunteers so if you know anyone interested, please get in touch.



Impact

We monitored our progress by asking simple questions, then ask the kids to draw their experiences with us. We are proud to report that our outcomes were excellent, with a significant percentage of children showing an increase in their confidence levels. The children had fun and made lasting memories, while also learning new skills that they can use in their everyday lives.

In conclusion, we are delighted with the outcome of our tour, and we are confident that we made a positive impact on the lives of these children.

We thank you for your support, which made this tour possible.



8% of children and carers had seen us before

22% of children didn't want to show on stage before the workshop

100% participants got up to show new skills on stage after the workshop

100% participants learnt a new skill

Balloon Circus Director

Jenny Alexander

Members of the board

Michelle Harrison

Neil Harrison

Kate Walmsley

Miranda Wilkinson

Chris Wright

Workshop leader

Somsak Thongrot

Find out more on the [Balloon Circus website](#)

Why circus skills?

"Try things you never imagined trying, achieve things you didn't expect to achieve, and learn things that you will never forget."

Taking part in circus activities is a highly enjoyable way to develop important skills that apply to all walks of life, in an atmosphere of fun.

Circus talent requires concentration and confidence. The workshops offer genuine learning experiences that really help to develop individuals.

The benefits of the workshops

- Circus skills build confidence and self-esteem and are inclusive of all abilities.
- Circus skills develop teamwork.
- Circus skills involve both the left and right side of the body and the brain to greatly improve learning abilities.
- Circus skills help people to deal with fear, react to the unexpected and plunge into the next challenge with confidence.

Short term objectives

- Bring the children together through circus.
- To bring laughter and joy to the children.
- Provide an opportunity for children to work with and learn from an international performer.

Long term objectives

- Extend workshops to other areas.
- Develop a sustainable circus/physical theatre culture.
- Play a role in promoting the value of alternative entertainment in the community.

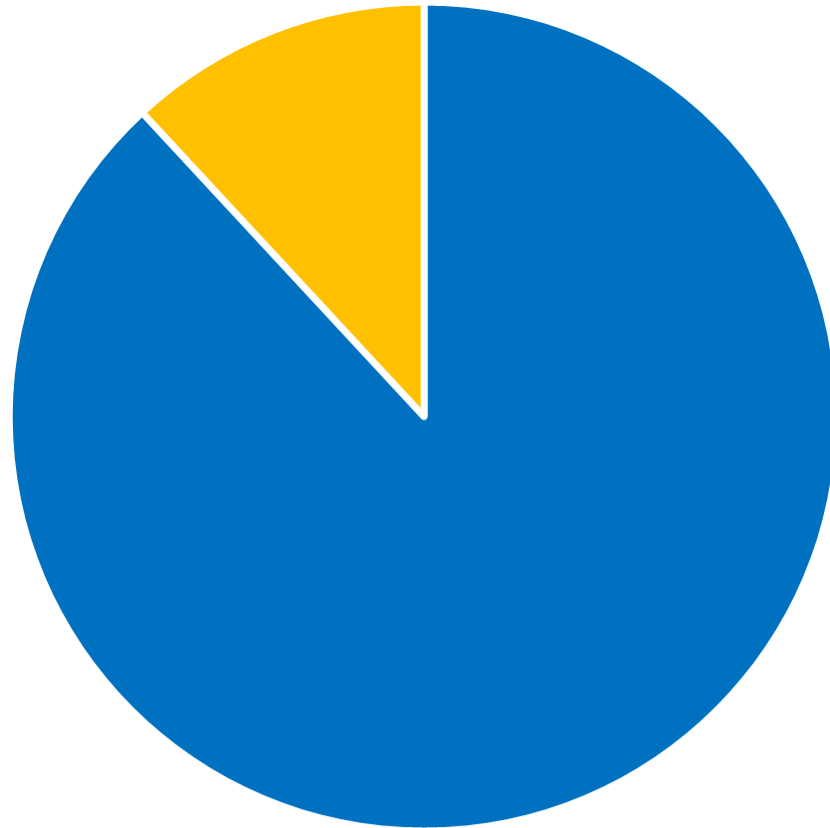
Circus skills workshop

- Balloon modelling
- Diablo
- Hula hoop
- Juggling balls & rings
- Plate Spinning
- Poi spinning
- Flower sticks
- Gymnastic ribbons & scarves



Income and spending

Income split

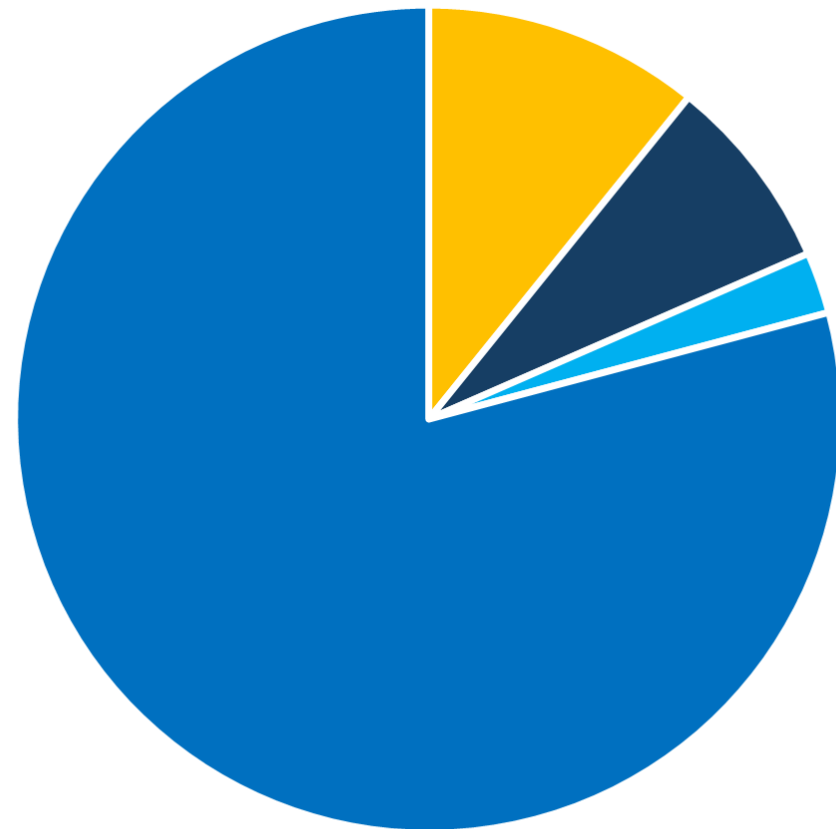


■ Reserves ■ Individual giving

£4,646

£627

Spending split



■ Accommodation ■ Admin ■ Equipment ■ Travel

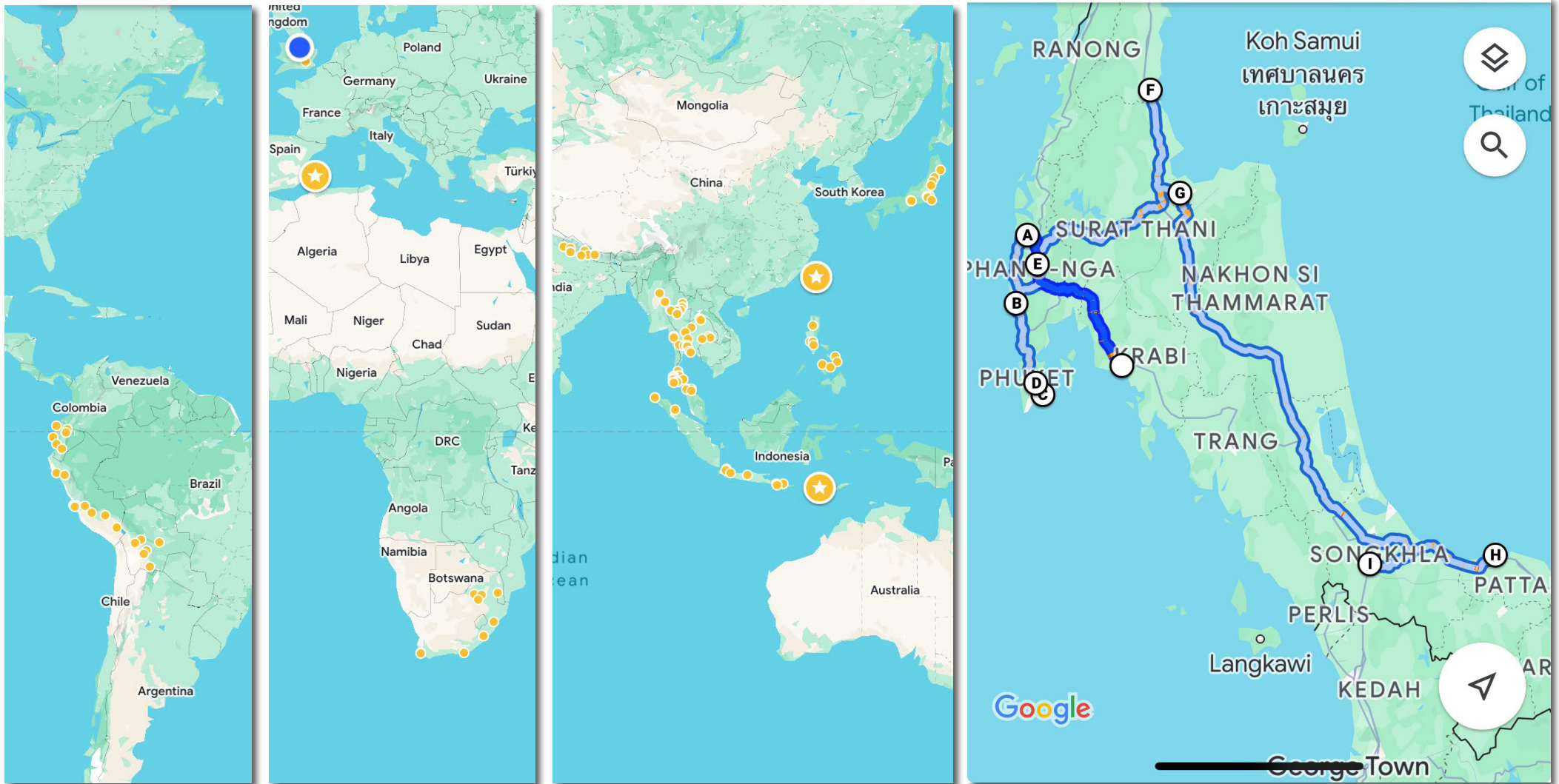
£342

£242

£76

£2,506

Balloon Circus tour map



**171 workshops in 11 countries
teaching around 13,200 children**