

So you're thinking of adopting internationally

We know international adoption may be overwhelming and confusing at times, but ultimately a rewarding experience. The Cradle will assist you in your adoption journey, but first you need to decide on your destination.

Choosing the country from which you wish to adopt is sometimes challenging. Most importantly, you have to discern which culture(s) you can imagine embracing and incorporating into your family for the rest of your lives. You then need to determine if there are children placed for adoption from those countries and if so, are they a good fit with your family. Your age and health, as well as the child's age and potential health risks, are factors to consider.

One of the best resources you should access is the United States Department of State at <http://adoption.state.gov> as it provides extensive information on the processes as well as profiles on each country. The numbers of annual adoptions from each country are posted as well. The adoption process is dependent on whether or not the country in which you are interested is a party to the Hague Adoption Convention, an international treaty. The State Department website identifies Convention Countries (for example, China, Colombia, Haiti); those not listed (for example, Ethiopia, Korea) are not yet Convention Countries.

The Cradle can provide home studies and post-placement/post-adoption services for any country that allows international adoption, working in partnership with a placement agency that has a program in that country. The Cradle is Hague accredited to provide adoption services in connection with adoptions from Convention countries, and we have signed agreements on file with several placement agencies that confirm we can work together on behalf of mutual clients. Some of the agencies with which we have worked are:

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| Americans for International Aid and Adoption | www.aiaaadopt.org |
| CCAI Adoption Services | www.ccaifamily.org |
| Children's House International | www.childrenshouseinternational.com |
| Family and Children's Agency | www.familyandchildrensagency.org |
| Wide Horizons for Children | www.whfc.org |

These agencies have programs in a variety of countries, and you can learn more about wait times, program requirements, and fees on their websites or by phoning them. If you choose to use a different agency, you would need to advise your counselor as soon as possible so that we may determine if we are able to work with that agency. There may be a delay in getting started due to paperwork requirements between our two agencies.

The Cradle counselor who works with you will help you decide which country is the best fit for your family.

