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*Please feel free to edit these mission trip FAQs as needed and distribute to potential team members.*

*To let your team, including parents & spouses, have 24/7 access to FAQs, trip details funding updates and more all in one place, please visit www.MissionMinder.com and sign-up for a free online account.*

*Thank you!*

Church or Organization

Mission Trip FAQs

Trip Name & Dates

**Do I need a valid U.S. passport?**

Yes. Please note your passport must be valid for at least 6 months following the trip return date. If you don’t already have a current U.S. passport, you may obtain one by picking up the forms at certain branches of the U.S. Post Office or go online to <http://travel.state.gov/passport>. Passports typically take six weeks to process. If you need to get one quicker, consider paying for a service like <http://www.rushmypassport.com>. Photocopy all your important documents and keep them in a hidden place separate from the originals. Leave another copy at home with someone you can easily get in contact with while you are abroad.

**What does the cost of the trip include?**

The cost of the trip includes accommodations, airfare, ground transportation and meals during the trip. Funds for personal expenses are not included.

**Where will we stay?**

We will be staying in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Where will we eat?**

Meals will typically include breakfast at your hotel. Lunch and dinner will be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Please let your team leader know if you have certain dietary restrictions and verify that appropriate accommodations can be made.

**What kind of transportation is provided?**

While at our destination, we will be using \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**What should I pack?**

We strongly suggest packing one carry-on bag plus one small tote bag/back pack to avoid any delays at the airports. Please make sure to follow the zip lock bag rules for liquids. Please do not plan to check luggage.

**What kind of clothing should I bring?**

Out of respect for the local culture, we dress modestly on our trips. Shorts and sleeve-less tops (tank tops) are not allowed.

**What about physicals, prescriptions and vaccinations?**

Please consult with your doctor or go to the website for the Center for Disease Control and Prevention www.cdc.gov to get advice on what (if any) vaccinations are needed while abroad. If you have glasses or contact lenses, bring along an extra pair. If you have prescription medication, make sure you bring enough to last during your time abroad. Make sure to carry the correctly labeled containers so it won’t be mistaken for illegal drugs.

**How much money to bring?**

You should plan to bring $ \_\_\_\_\_. United States currency is acceptable at most tourist shops, hotels and airports.. You should also bring some cash in small denominations, for any local tipping or small purchases. If you pay in cash, you will probably receive change in the local currency.

**Are there emergency contact numbers?**

Yes, emergency contact numbers are as follows \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**What is a visa and will I need one?**

A visa is an entry requirement required by a foreign government in addition to your passport. Not all foreign governments require a visa. A visa may be stamped on your passport, or a paper visa may be affixed to your passport. If a visa is required, we’ll provide the appropriate visa application forms for you to complete. Most visa applications require 2-3 passport-size photos as well. The visa fees for each team member are included in the team budget.

**What about travel insurance?**

Basic emergency medical evacuation/transportation; trip cancellation; lost baggage, and accidental death & dismemberment coverage is is not included in the team budget. For anything outside of this list, you will need to purchase your own overseas medical insurance or check your current insurance to find out if you are covered. Several insurance companies specialize in short-term missions travel coverage at inexpensive rates. Contact your team leader for details.

**If I decide to cancel my involvement in the trip or the trip itself is canceled, can I get my money back?**

If you cancel participation in the trip, you will be expected to cover all of the fees, penalties, and losses incurred to that point.

**What if more money comes in for me than what I need?**

Any monies given beyond what you need will go to support other team members who are struggling with their funds and/or support other ministries of the church or its missions program. We cannot return payments or donations after they have been received and processed.

**What if less money comes in for me?**

If you are short of funds before you leave for the trip, and any excess has already been applied to those who are low on support, then you will have to personally make up the difference before departure.

**Is it possible for individuals to arrange separate itineraries to visit friends, participate in other ministries, sightsee before or after the project, or to use personal frequent flyer miles?**

Travel arrangements go much more smoothly if everyone is on the same itinerary. Having separate itineraries not only makes it more complicated for the team leaders and travel agents, but also makes it difficult to arrange for group discounts and to maintain quality travel and housing arrangements. Separate itineraries also tend to disrupt team bonding and unity, especially when there is a canceled or delayed flight. For these reasons, separate itineraries are discouraged.

**Is it possible to find out who has given and how much they have given toward my support?**

You can log into your MissionMinder account and visit your “My Funding” page to obtain an up-to-date list of donations and donors.

**Do you have tools I can use to help raise support?**

Yes. Please log into your MissionMinder account and visit your “My Funding” page. The steps listed under “Start Raising Funds” are designed to help you communicate your trip to friends, family and potential donors. Steps 1 – 5 will help you create an online, interactive Personal Fundraising page that is easy to share with friends and family over email and Facebook. Step # 6 is designed to help you create a hard-copy personal support letter you can send via regular mail.

**Are there are any meetings before the mission trip?**

Yes, there will be a number of team meetings before our trip. These meetings are mandatory and dates are posted on the MissionMinder team website.

**What about travel insurance?**

Basic emergency medical evacuation/transportation; trip cancellation; lost baggage, accidental death and dismemberment coverage is is not included in the team budget.

**Can I get credit for my frequent flyer miles?** Yes, please give your appropriate frequent flyer number to the agent at the ticket counter before your outbound departure.

**Do I need to take any food/snacks?**  This is a personal preference but most people take along various snack bars or candy just in case.

**Is it safe to eat the local food, water?**

**Will my cell phone coverage or Internet access?**

**What kind of clothes should I bring?**

**What do I need to take on this trip?**

**Is this trip safe?**

Obviously, there are inherent dangers involved in any mission trip. We cannot guarantee anyone’s absolute safety. Together we will cover this trip in prayer and trust the Lord.