



PI Trip Goers Guide

Partnership International exists to get you involved in short-term missions by connecting you to opportunities in the United States and around the world. We have developed a network of missionaries, organizations, and churches in order to strategically create life-changing experiences.

We believe that short-term missions will deepen your faith, develop your identity, and provide a great discipleship tool for your life.

PASSPORTS

Every person going on a trip to another country is required to have a passport. The state department's web site, *travel.state.gov*, can provide you with additional passport information and walk you through the process. Passport applications can be obtained on-line, and at some local post offices. The website may help you find other locations where you can pick up an application. It may take ten or more weeks to receive your passport after the you send in the application, so start the process as quickly as possible.

If you have never had a passport before, expect it to cost around \$150.00. If you are a minor or are renewing a passport, the cost is less than that. Any passport expenses are not included in the cost of your trip. A color copy of your passport must be sent to PI 30 days before the start date of your trip. ***If you already have a passport, it must not expire for six months after the end of the trip date.***

Make sure you take a color copy of your passport with you on your trip.

EMERGENCIES

You will be given contact information before you leave so that your family can reach you in case of an emergency. If a trip goer feels he or she must return home early for a non-emergency reason, the trip goer will cover any extra expenses. The return will be dependent upon the situation. If the trip goer is under 18 years old, written and signed permission must be obtained from the parent or guardian.

SHOTS

Partnership International would like each trip goer on every trip to have a current tetanus shot as a minimum, whether it's a stateside or international trip. If you are traveling outside the country we encourage you to investigate what vaccinations are recommended. In a few rare cases shots are required to enter certain countries, but beyond that it is up to the individual if he or she wants to get the vaccinations that are suggested.

Each country has its own guidelines. Your doctor or your local county health department may be able to give you that information and the vaccinations. Someone familiar with travel vaccinations is usually your best resource. Shot recommendations may vary even in different regions of a country or during different seasons of the year. Some vaccinations may require a series of shots so you should visit your provider at least 60 days before the trip. There is a charge for the vaccinations, and amounts vary by provider, so you may want to shop around. This charge is not included in the cost of the trip. More information can be obtained from the CDC web site at cdc.gov.

HEALTH AND INSURANCE

If you have a medical condition it's always a good idea to talk to your doctor about the trip you're planning to go on. If you have a medical emergency while on the trip, you should first utilize your personal health insurance. Be prepared to pay for the expenses out of your own pocket. You will then need to file a claim with your insurance company to get reimbursed.

PI provides trip insurance for all of our international teams. This is secondary insurance so if you already have health insurance you must utilize it first. We can file a claim if there are expenses your personal insurance did not cover.

MISCELLANEOUS HELPFUL STUFF

Be at all the pre-trip and post trip meetings. Do some research on the place you are going to before you leave, like its history, culture, religion, current events, what God is doing there, etc. The state department website has some good information. Also check out the CIA website, click on world fact book.

If you're going someplace that speaks another language, try to learn at least a few words or phrases. Language is frequently the greatest barrier to ministry. Just a few words in their language are usually well received and can help break the ice . . . they even may want to practice their English on you.

CONDUCT ON THE TRIP

- **Attitude**

Be forgiving / Don't be easily offended / Be patient. / Don't criticize / No matter what happens we are to be a reflection of Christ and His love / The people we are serving will be observing us / Remember the big picture and why you are there / This is about giving up your rights

- **Servanthood**

We're here to serve the people, the missionaries, pastors and each other / Put away pride / Do anything you are asked to do with joy / Put everyone else ahead of yourself / Submit to the leadership

- **Sacrifice**

Growth is usually uncomfortable / The accommodations and food may not be what you're used to / God wants to do something new in you / It's not meant to be a vacation

- **Cultural Sensitivity**

Try to always put yourself in the shoes of the people you are serving - *How would you feel?* Be open / Be flexible / Things may be done differently and on a different time schedule than you are used to / Be teachable / Avoid criticism / Wear modest clothing / Things that are acceptable to us may be offensive to them - We want their eyes on Jesus, not us / Music should be Christian

- **Words**

Be careful of your words. Some people will not be good at speaking English so they may not try it, but they may be able to understand it / Words can make or break a trip / Complaining and a bad attitude can infect the entire team and ruin the experience for everyone involved. / Sarcasm is not very helpful / The opposite can be true, too. A few people with good attitudes and positive words can make it a great trip / Trips usually require patience and flexibility from everyone / Don't forget to laugh at yourself and the situation sometimes / If things are bugging you, pray about it before you talk about it

- **Relationships**

This isn't really the time for developing romantic relationships / Stay focused on the mission / Don't let distractions rob you / This trip is a unique time for God to work in you and through you / Many personalities make up a team, so be tolerant / Some who have never been on a trip may be struggling / Unity on the team is very important / Build each other up / Take advantage of this opportunity to build relationships with those you are serving / The jobs you will be given to do are important, but ultimately it's the eternal things that really matter the most

PACKING

Two medium suitcases are recommended; one for personal items and clothing, the other for ministry items. Depending on the type of trip, you may want to bring inexpensive toys for kids, school supplies, face painting supplies, Bibles, medicine, tools, or whatever may be needed. More information on your particular trip will be made available to your team leader. Remember you may have to carry them yourself so try to pack light. These will both be checked if you are flying. Check with your carrier on restrictions and extra fees, especially overseas.

In addition, a small backpack is also a good idea for packing extras and for excursions away from your lodging after you arrive. If you are flying, it's handy as a carry on for personal items like medications, glasses/contacts, snacks, and a change of clothes in case your luggage is lost. Check with your carrier on restrictions for carry-ons, too. Liquids are restricted.

Here is a list of generally recommended items for all trips. This may vary somewhat depending on the location, season, and the culture if it's a trip out of the country:

- Bible, journal, and pen
- Sunscreen and bug spray
- Prescription medications in original containers (*should have some extra just in case there is an unexpected delay returning home*)
- Over the counter meds for upset stomach, headache, etc.
- Personal hygiene stuff
- A light jacket, even in hotter climates it can come in handy in the evenings

- A small, inexpensive flashlight
- Money
- Swimsuit, modest for everyone
- Modest clothing for work and outreach, plus some sleepwear (*pack light; you may need to wear the same thing more than once*)
- Church clothes, skirt/dress for women, collared shirt & slacks for men, (*shorts can be worn during free time & nicer dress clothes for church services*)
- Picture ID and a copy
- Health insurance card and a copy
- Boarding passes
- Inexpensive camera
- Flip flops
- Comfortable, closed-toe shoes required for walking, work, and ministry
- Hat
- Ear plugs
- Bandanas are good for lots of things

IN ADDITION FOR INTERNATIONAL TRIPS

- Passport and a color copy
- Copy of immunizations
- For minors only: consent form to travel internationally without both parents
- Money belts are not a bad idea in foreign countries; it's a good place to keep important documents as well as money
- Don't bring expensive stuff
- We will let you know for your particular trip if you need to bring towels, sleeping bags, pillows, sheets or other specific items.
- Some cultures don't allow women to wear pants, shorts, or sleeveless tops in public or men to wear shorts. You will be advised on any restrictions like this if they apply to your situation.