

SHORT-TERM TRIP FAQs

HOW DO I APPLY FOR A TRIP?

All applications for MBC short-term trips are submitted through a trip management system called Go Method.

- To apply through Go Method, look at available trips that are [currently open for applications](#)
- Click the blue button “Learn More” on the trip you are interested in
- Once on that trip page, to apply to that trip, scroll down, and click “APPLY TODAY”. You will be taken to a Go Method log in page.
- [How to Apply for a Mission Trip](#)
- [How to Apply for a trip with multiple family members](#)
- How to reset/request your GO Method [New Password](#)

WHO CAN JOIN A TRIP?

We invite all current members of our MBC family who have a committed relationship with Jesus Christ to consider applying to serve on a team! If you are not yet an MBC member, you are not eligible to apply for short-term trips and we encourage you to first pursue MBC Membership.

CAN I APPLY FOR A TRIP IF I DON'T ATTEND MCLEAN BIBLE CHURCH?

Applicants for MBC short-term trips should be MBC members in good standing. If you have not yet pursued membership at MBC, please visit your MBC location's website for a list of upcoming membership orientation dates and information about the membership process.

WHAT ARE THE GOALS OF MBC SHORT-TERM TRIPS?

MBC sends our members on short-term trips around the world to effectively advance the goals of our long-term partners in places where the gospel is both inaccessible and accessible. The aim of short-term trips is to support partners as they work to establish churches where none exist and to strengthen existing local churches.

MBC short-term trips fall into three categories:

- Encouragement: The primary focus of the trip is to serve current MBC missionaries and committed partners.

- Exploratory: The primary focus of the trip is to visit a new church partner to understand their context of ministry, assess needs, and explore future opportunities to partner.
- Engagement: The primary focus of the trip is to further the goals of the worker(s) on the ground by engaging with their community in evangelism or church in discipleship.

WHAT HAPPENS ON A TRIP?

The trip preparation process starts about 4-6 months before the actual departure date, through the application and acceptance process and the individual/team preparation process (focus on personal spiritual development and team training). Once in country, each trip's project or mission will vary depending on the needs of the local church/partner ministry. Some types of ministry through the local church partner or organization could include evangelism and discipleship, refugee ministry, children/youth ministry, university student outreach, theological/pastoral training, Bible distribution and much more!

HOW LONG DOES A SHORT-TERM TRIP GENERALLY LAST?

Our short-term trips typically last between six to fourteen days, depending on the destination country and the amount of travel required.

WHAT AGE GROUPS CAN GO ON A TRIP?

Each trip page will indicate if there is a specific group that the trip is suitable for (ex: Young adults, women only, men only, students etc.). There are a variety of trips where older students (grades 6th to 12th) may be welcome to join with a parent/guardian, if the partner-in country and the work the team will be doing is suitable and safe for those ages. Most trips are not suitable for very young children due to the demands of the trip and per the request of the partner. Because of this, MBC generally does not take children younger than 6th grade on short-term trips.

WHAT IS THE APPLICATION PROCESS?

If you are interested in joining a short-term missions trip this year, please see the [list of open trips](#). Applications for trips generally remain open for 6-8 weeks. Once the application period for a trip closes, you will be contacted by the trip leader to schedule an interview.

WHAT HAPPENS ONCE I AM ACCEPTED TO A TRIP?

Once you are interviewed and accepted, you will receive further instructions from your team leader. Additionally, GO Method will send you deadlines and reminders for tasks and

paperwork that need to be completed. Team trainings will cover information such as support raising, cultural training, travel and health updates, and more. Team trainings will be held monthly, if not more frequently, up until departure, and once or twice upon return for debrief and sharing.

ARE THE COUNTRIES WE TRAVEL TO SAFE?

There is always an inherent risk in any type of travel, whether that be national or international. Our intention is to mitigate risk and engage missions with wisdom. Global Outreach and MBC takes the safety and security of our teams seriously. In preparing for any international trip, we continually consult three sources: our ministry partner(s) in-country, The State Department, and our Insurance team. Should a situation arise that potentially compromises the ability for us to travel to a destination, options and alternatives would be considered.

WHAT IS INCLUDED IN THE PER PERSON COST FOR EACH TRIP?

The per person cost for each trip includes trainings/materials prior to departure, the base cost for each person's flights, in-country costs for lodging, transportation, food, insurance, interpreters (if applicable), ministry supplies and projects, plus a Global Outreach Admin fee to cover the cost of printing the pre-trip guide, the in-country guide, and the t-shirt that each team member receives.

HOW MUCH DO TRIPS COST, AND WHO PAYS FOR IT?

The tax-deductible cost of each trip varies depending on the partner and the location. Most trip costs range from \$1,500-\$3,500 per person. The per person trip cost covers expenses such as: trainings and supplies for pre-trip preparation, flights, in-country costs associated with food, lodging, transportation, visas, insurance, interpreters, ministry supplies and projects, plus a Global Outreach admin fee to cover the cost of print materials, t-shirts etc. Even if financially able, individuals should not default to paying the full trip cost themselves, but rather are encouraged to first engage in "support raising." We understand that raising support and asking others for donations can be intimidating and uncomfortable, but there are many benefits. Support raising allows God to meet your needs through the faithfulness of others, involves your community in your experience through prayer and awareness, and much more!

It is the expectation of MBC and Global Outreach that each trip participant fully raises their personal support. Each trip participant should create a plan to personally contribute any funds that they fail to raise through donations from donors so that their trip is fully funded before departure.

ARE TRIP DONATIONS TAX-DEDUCTIBLE?

Yes. All contributions for Global Outreach short-term mission teams are tax deductible (to the extent allowed by law) and therefore nonrefundable. You (the donor) are acknowledging that you are releasing control of how this contribution will be utilized for the team. However, if the team is successful in raising their financial goal, all excess funds will be applied to either the needs directly related to the ministry of this trip or to fund additional mission needs within the Global Outreach ministry. In the unlikely event that a trip is cancelled, funds raised by the team will help cover any cancellation costs for the trip. Any remaining funds will be donated to efforts in the country with the partnering ministry and/or help to fund additional needs within the Global Outreach ministry. Funds raised for one trip cannot be used for a subsequent trip (Donors give to the original trip).

Also, any money applied towards a mission trip that is received in exchange for a service or product (i.e., selling baked goods, teaching music lessons, babysitting, auction, etc.) is not a donation. The person who receives your goods or services will not be given a tax-deductible receipt. **You must make this clear when receiving money from these types of interactions, and these funds cannot be given through your online Go Method account.**

IS A DEPOSIT REQUIRED FOR EACH TRIP?

No. But each trip has an initial \$125 contribution soon after applications close. This initial \$125 “support milestone” accomplishes a few things; it shows that each person is serious about the trip process and the need to raise individual support and, if anything unforeseen happens (canceled trip, canceled flight etc.), it helps cover the costs for those changes so as not to hurt the overall support goals of the larger team.

IF I DECIDE NOT TO PARTICIPATE IN A TRIP I HAVE RAISED FUNDS FOR, WHAT HAPPENS?

Once a donation is given, it is non-refundable, for any reason. In this case, any donations raised for you towards a trip you are no longer able to participate in will go towards the overall team goal for that trip.

CAN DONORS SPECIFY WHAT THEY WANT THEIR DONATIONS TO BE USED FOR?

No. Donations to a short-term trip are only “designated” for the trip itself. When giving, the donor acknowledges that they are releasing control of how their contribution will be utilized

for the team. Practically speaking, they cannot specify/designate “how” the donation will be used (i.e. they cannot say “use this to buy food, socks, diapers” etc.).

WHAT IMMUNIZATIONS DO I NEED?

First, check with your primary doctor to make sure that all routine vaccinations are up to date. Depending on what country you are traveling to, other immunizations may be recommended. Check the CDC website for the [country recommendations for travelers](#) to the location you will be going and discuss with your doctor what you may need. During team trainings, we will also review specific recommendations.

IS THE COST OF IMMUNIZATIONS/VACCINES INCLUDED IN THE FUNDS I RAISE?

No. Any cost associated with regular vaccines, travel vaccines, or the COVID-19 vaccine is the responsibility of the trip participant and is not included in funds raised for the trip.

WHAT IF I NEED TO APPLY FOR A PASSPORT OR RENEW A PASSPORT?

The State Department usually lists the processing time for passport applications anywhere between 8-16 weeks. Please review the State Department Passport information [HERE](#). Additionally, passports should have at least six months of validity when traveling internationally. Most countries will not permit a traveler to enter their country unless the passport is set to expire at least six months after the final day of travel.

WHAT IF I DON'T SPEAK THE LANGUAGE WHERE WE ARE GOING?

Our partner organizations provide wonderful interpreters to help our teams communicate. During the months of travel preparation, it is wise and considerate to learn some phrases in the target language. There are many free apps available, such as [Duolingo](#) that can help!

DO MBC SHORT-TERM TRIPS REQUIRE A BACKGROUND CHECK?

Yes. MBC has set up certain volunteer guidelines for all people serving either here (USA) or abroad. This is done to ensure the protection and safety for all participating in an event or those we are serving. MBC requires a background check (federal, state, county). Additionally, we require a comprehensive background check to include fingerprinting. If you have recently served at MBC you may already have these on file. If not, after you apply and are accepted to a trip, instructions will be sent to you about how to complete any missing checks.

CAN I EXTEND MY STAY IN-COUNTRY OR TRAVEL ELSEWHERE BEFORE/AFTER MY TEAM ARRIVES/LEAVES?

For mission trip donations to be considered tax-deductible, a participant's trip cannot include elements of personal pleasure, recreation, or vacation. Because of this, Global Outreach trip participants are unable to extend their trips in country or to another country in transit, either before or after the mission, for personal pleasure, recreation, or vacation (ex: Safaris, city tours, personal visits to family or friends etc.). Allowing that would mean tax-deductible funds from donors are being used to finance personal pleasure, something that MBC is unable to permit. In rare cases, Global Outreach may allow a team member to arrive early/leave late if they are considering serving long-term abroad and are doing extra mission work in tandem with the arrival/departure of the larger trip.

WHAT KIND OF LODGING AND FOOD IS TO BE EXPECTED?

In locations where we have successfully sent previous trips, we will most likely stay at hotels where we already know the standard of food, care, and security that is offered. In new locations, the in-country ministry partner associated with the trip will work to secure lodging. Be assured, we will seek appropriate accommodations to ensure the safety and health for all trips.

Spouses will most always room together, unless there is a situation where rooming must be based on gender. Single men and women should expect to room with at least one other team member of the same gender.

CAN DIETARY RESTRICTIONS/ALLERGIES BE ACCOMMODATED ON TRIPS?

If you have a *medical* dietary restriction (due to allergy or illness), we will do our best to accommodate as able. This may not always be the case and depends on the country of travel. Please note: If you have a dietary "preference" (not medically necessary), due to the nature of these short-term trips, you must be willing to put aside personal preferences in order to grow spiritually and serve most effectively.

DOES MBC HAVE TRAVEL INSURANCE?

Yes, MBC currently uses a well-regarded travel risk, crisis management and response service organization to advise us in our security and emergency preparedness for all international trips. They provide travel medical insurance/medical and emergency evacuation coverage (and more) should any emergencies occur when we travel.

AM I QUALIFIED TO LEAD A TRIP?

We are always looking to recruit trip leaders. If you a MBC member, have prior experience with international travel, and would like more information, please fill out the Global Outreach volunteer form and indicate your interest in leading trips on the form.

HOW CAN I DONATE TO A TEAM OR TRIP PARTICIPANT?

To make a financial contribution, please visit the trip link for one of the teams in the open trips above.

HOW CAN I BE ADDED TO THE GLOBAL OUTREACH MONTHLY NEWSLETTER?

Sign up for our monthly newsletter on the right hand side of mcleanbible.org/globaloutreach.

REMINDERS

There is risk in life and risk in following Jesus. Even though we will always work to minimize unnecessary risk, we cannot avoid all risks when we travel. Also, we cannot avoid risk by not traveling. The decision of acceptable risk is ultimately a matter between each individual and the Lord. Should a brother or sister decide to forego participation in a trip, that decision will be respected and honored. We remain confident that the Lord is our shepherd (Psalm 23) and that in uncertain times we can rest in his Sovereignty. 1 Peter 4:19 says, "Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good." In both serving and suffering, God is faithful in His care for us. We also recognize that the greatest risk for many people in the world today is that they may never hear the gospel. Our trips are designed to help people hear the gospel and encourage ministers of the gospel where they live, which is often in difficult places. The decision to travel or not is personal, and should be decided wisely through prayer, consideration with family, and consultations with your doctor as needed.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [State Department](#)
- [Center for Disease Control and Prevention](#)
- [World Health Organization; Coronavirus Updates](#)

MORE QUESTIONS?

Email jimmy.roh@mcleanbible.org, Director of Global Outreach