

PREPARING FOR YOUR FAMILY MISSION TRIP

A CHECKLIST

PASSPORTS

Sometimes passport locations are booked weeks in advance and you also have to factor in the passport service wait (although expediting the service helps!). If you need a passport or passport renewed, schedule an appointment as soon as possible!

<https://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/passports.html>

VISAS

Check the U.S Department of State website for visa information for the country (or countries) you'll be visiting.

<https://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/country.html>

CREATE AN ITINERARY

Create an itinerary including both planned mission activities and more relaxing, family-focused break times to help your children recharge.

AIRLINE TICKETS

Volunteers are responsible for their own travel arrangements. For a list of travel agents experienced in working with IMB volunteers, call toll-free (877) 462-4721 or contact them [here](#).

BUYING TICKETS

Check discount travel sites for cheaper deals on airline tickets.

Consider:

- Cost
- The number of connections as well as the length of layovers
- Amenities: Do they have extra leg room for your teenage boy or kicking toddler? Are there seats available with access to bassinets (in the bulkhead)?
- Do they offer special services for small kids? For example, Gulf Air offers "Sky Nannies" with flight attendants who check in regularly to see if you need additional help and provide special welcome bags/activities for kids.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

IMB policy requires all volunteers involved in an IMB project to purchase insurance for their protection. Gallagher Charitable International Insurance (formerly Adams & Associates) has been used by most IMB volunteer teams and provides medical, accidental death, medical evacuation, disability, and many other benefits. The volunteer or sponsor is responsible for the cost of this coverage.

Check this article out for more: <https://www.imb.org/for-churches/mission-trip-prep/>



HOTEL ROOMS/PLAN LODGING

Consider options with needed amenities or geographical convenience for your family.



IMMUNIZATIONS

Check the Center for Disease Control site to access the latest immunization information, as well as helpful packing and travel tips. Then visit your doctor or perhaps a travel clinic to schedule your shots and request travel medications.



GET SUGGESTIONS FROM THE LOCALS

Contact missionaries or your mission organization to get travel suggestions. If you're speaking to a missionary directly, ask if they need you to bring them something they don't have access to (even if it's Lucky Charms to bless their kids!).



RESEARCH

If you have older kids, include them in the trip research. Your kids feed off your passion for missions, so talk about your findings as a family to build excitement before the trip. Look up details about culture, beliefs, language, dress, weather, good foods to eat, how to say some local words, and where to find medical care. Buy a travel guide, language book or download a translation app on your phone.



REGISTER WITH THE GOVERNMENT

Register with the State Department to receive official travel bulletins.



DOWNLOAD SKYPE

Download Skype to make calls back to the States.



INFORM YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY

E-mail your family and emergency contacts your itinerary, travel and lodging details, and travel contact information.