



Welcome!

Thank you for your interest in one of our Go Experience Trips. We are so excited to have you serve with us! There are many challenges and problems in our world today, but the greatest problem in the world is lostness. The only solution for the world's greatest problem is the Gospel! At the International Mission Board, we believe that missionary presence cultivates gospel access, gospel belief, multiplying disciples, and church planting. God has made our purposes clear. TOGETHER, we seek to take the gospel to every nation, all tribes, peoples, and languages. God's mission has been given to the church, and IMB exists to serve Southern Baptists in carrying out the Great Commission to make disciples.

Go Experience is an IMB pathway for Southern Baptist churches to send short-term teams through IMB. This is an opportunity to join in the work and strategy of *your* IMB missionaries! These trips provide opportunities for your church to GO, SEE, and DO. You will learn all about the missionary task, as you participate in what God is doing among our IMB field teams, all with the hopes of future partnership with IMB missionaries.

Go Experience offers...

- **A packaged approach.** Each trip will provide your church with a prepackaged missions experience.
- **A connection with IMB missionaries:** We have some of the greatest missions practitioners in the world. Come learn from them, see their strategy, and labor alongside them as you explore a deeper partnership with IMB.
- **Commitment to evangelism, discipleship, and church planting:** Our vision to reach the nations is clear, and we believe that sharing the gospel, multiplying disciples, and planting healthy churches is how we get there. Let's do it together!
- **Trip Training:** Your team will receive practical training and resources to ensure they are equipped and prepared for the trip.
- **Church-empowerment:** Our hope is that this trip leads your church to a lifetime of serving among the nations with IMB. We want to coach you through this process using tools and resources to help you become self-reliant when planning international trips.

Join us for a Go Impact Trip!

ADOPT A GO EXPERIENCE TRIP: You will "adopt" a trip by reserving seats and paying the deposit for each seat.

CONNECT WITH YOUR MISSIONARY HOST: Begin hearing their heart for the people you will be engaging, learn about their strategy, and start planning together.

RECRUIT, ASSESS, AND REGISTER PARTICIPANTS: This includes building your team and getting them registered to go on the trip.

LOGISTICS AND PLANNING: There are many logistics that go into international travel. We will help you as you plan the details.

PREPARE YOUR TEAM: We will provide helpful support to you as you lead your team to serve on this trip.

GO: It is time to go, serve, be stretched, and see how God moves!

FOLLOW UP & NEXT STEPS: Coach your team in next steps as you return.



The Go Experience Group Leader Agreement

As a group leader, we ask that you agree to the following:

1. I agree to recruit, assess, and register trip participants as guided by the IMB.
2. I agree to pay the trip costs. A few quick highlights about payment.
 - a. Non-refundable and non-transferable deposits are required to secure your team's spot on the trip.
 - b. The balance is due for the group no later than 60 days before the project.
 - c. Trip cost does NOT include airfare, passports, emergency insurance, or visas (if visas are required).
3. I agree to the process for the arrangement of travel through an approved travel agent or directly with the airline. All itineraries must be approved by our field host BEFORE booking. *Note: Travel cannot be booked through a third-party system such as Expedia, Google Flights, Kayak, etc.*
4. I agree to purchase IMB-approved emergency trip insurance.
5. I agree to lead each participant on my team to complete all pre- and post-approval checklist items in the Go Method.
6. I agree to prep my team for the trip. This includes ensuring each team member completes the Go Experience Pathwright course.

STEP 1: ADOPT A GO IMPACT TRIP ---

We are excited you are ready to adopt a specific trip! If you're still discerning which option is the best fit, our **How to Choose a Trip guide** can help you take this next step with confidence.

Once you've submitted your interest form through the "Inquire Now" button on our website, our team will be in touch to walk you through the process of applying for a trip. Group leaders will pay a non-refundable, non-transferable deposit to reserve spots for your team. We will help you, as the Group Leader, get registered in the IMB's volunteer management system, Go Method (required for ALL volunteers serving with the IMB). As you recruit your team, Group Leaders will be instructed on how to register each team member in Go Method using your prepaid deposit. Email us at trips@imb.org with any questions you may have about reserving seats or registering team members.

STEP 2: CONNECT WITH YOUR MISSIONARY HOST ---

Go Impact Trips offers the opportunity to work directly with IMB missionaries. Our hope is that these are conversation starters toward a deeper connection with the IMB. You may leave with the passion to partner directly with that field team again, or to find other ways to partner with the organization. Your church may also consider how to continue supporting the work of the local field team. For many students, this is when God calls them to missions. We pray this is true for many of your students. Connection to missionaries helps facilitate these conversations!

Once you reserve spots and start recruiting your team, we will introduce you to your missionary host. They will follow up with you by email, phone, or video meeting to get the conversation started. For more, check out our **Connecting Well with Your Missionary Host** guide.

STEP 3: RECRUIT, ASSESS, AND REGISTER PARTICIPANTS ---

As you are building your team, keep in mind that it is more important to get the right people on the trip than the size of the team. It is important that team members know they are signing up for a trip to share the gospel and serve the local field team's strategy.

Recruiting and Assessment: There are many ways you can recruit for your Go Impact trip. The "how" really depends on the context of your youth or college group. For other ideas on how to recruit and assess participants, check out our **Recruiting and Assessing guide**.

Registration: Once you have recruited your team, you are ready to register them in Go Method as well. Note that all participants must be registered in Go Method within 90 days prior to the trip.

STEP 4: LOGISTICS PLANNING ---

Now that your team is registered, it is time to dive into the details of planning your trip logistics!

1. Start getting passports today!
2. Confirm visa requirements for your destination.
3. Purchase flights through an approved travel agent or directly with the airline. Confirm arrival and departure dates and times with your field host BEFORE purchasing.
4. Purchase IMB-approved emergency insurance.
5. Make final trip payment or arrangements to bring funds to the field.

For additional support, see our **Logistics and Planning Guide**, which includes contact information for the travel agent and for travel emergency insurance.

STEP 5: PREPARE YOUR TEAM ---

In addition to booking flights and securing emergency insurance, there are several important considerations when preparing your group. While you can never fully be prepared for serving overseas, we want your group to feel equipped and ready to serve. Here are a few helpful resources to help you prepare your group for serving with us.

Go Experience Pathwright course

This course covers topics including spiritual preparation, cross-cultural engagement, evangelism, the missionary task, and security issues.

In Person Training Sessions

Group leaders should plan to meet in person as a team to help you prepare and pray together. For suggestions on what to do in these meetings or how to find the Go Experience Pathwright course, see our **Pre-trip Training guide**.

On-Site (during trip) training

The IMB has some of the greatest mission practitioners serving today! Your Go Experience trip will give you an opportunity to learn directly from one of your IMB missionaries. Each trip will provide you with an orientation training, as you go coaching, and a debrief

opportunity. In many cases, you will also be working alongside of local believers who will teach you about their local ministry.

STEP 6: GO! ---

All the recruiting and planning is done, and it is time to GO! Here are three important things to remember as you go...

- **Abide:** God does not need any of us to do His work! The most important thing you can do as a group leader (and your team can do) is to abide in Christ. Be constant in prayer and walking in His Spirit as you embark on this trip. He will guide you, sustain you, and do far more than you can ask or imagine, if you will abide in Him as you go.
- **Be Flexible:** You've planned and prepared, but as with all international mission trips, things happen. Be flexible and see interruptions and challenges as new opportunities the Lord is putting in front of you. As one missionary once said, "Those who are flexible will not be bent out of shape."
- **Look to your field host for direction:** Remember, your field hosts are the experts on where you are serving and the work you will be part of. Come ready to serve and strategically jump in on what their team is doing. They will coach you along the way as things come up.

As you go, know that we are praying for you! We pray that God would work in big ways IN you and THROUGH you as you go! We pray that you would catch a vision for what He is doing among the nations as you join in the missionary task this week. We pray that what your team learns on this trip will change how they engage your community when you get back. We also pray that God will call out those from your team who may come back to serve with us as long-term missionaries.

STEP 7: FOLLOW UP & NEXT STEPS ---

For many people, a short-term mission trip can be an incredible discipleship or spiritual formation opportunity! Many walk away challenged and changed by what they've seen and experienced. The best person to disciple them through this is YOU! We encourage all group leaders to hold a post-trip debrief. For a suggested outline, check out our **Debrief guide** for more information.



Here is a helpful checklist followed by the step-by-step process for Go Impact Group Leaders.

- Find a trip at www.imb.org/opportunityfinder
- Adopt a trip by reserving seats and paying your non-refundable deposit
- Recruit and finalize your team
- Digitally agree to our Go Experience Group Leader Agreement
- Connect with your missionary! Email trips@imb.org for their contact info
- Plan and host your pre-trip training meetings
- Arrange international travel with our approved travel agent
 - We recommend STG Travel (groups@stgtravel.com)
 - Confirm your travel itinerary with your field host BEFORE booking!
- Lead your team to complete the Go Experience Pathwright course
- Purchase required emergency insurance for your team through our approved providers - Gallagher or MTA
- Send rooming assignments to your field host
- Send your confirmed final flight itinerary to your field host
- Ensure each team member has completed all checklist tasks in Go Method
- Make your final trip payment through Go Method or by mailing a check to the IMB.
If your field host has indicated that you bring the money, contact them for further instructions.
- Go!
- Host a post-trip debrief with your team