



### Explore Your Options: Research and Pray!

Choosing an international mission trip is a significant decision. For group leaders, it is an opportunity to steward people well, align with God's global mission, and provide a strategic opportunity that has eternal Kingdom impact. While IMB packaged mission trips simplify logistics, they still require thoughtful discernment, prayer, and preparation.

The first step is to determine **where and when** your team will serve. All Go Experience trips are organized by the International Mission Board and hosted by IMB missionaries actively serving on the field. These trips are designed to help churches come alongside long-term missionary teams and participate meaningfully in the missionary task.

You can explore current Go Experience opportunities at [imb.org/goexperience](http://imb.org/goexperience). Once you identify a potential trip, clicking "Inquire Now" will start a guided process with the IMB team to help you determine next steps and prepare effectively. As you research available trips, prayerfully consider the following questions as a leadership team.

#### Where is God leading us to serve?

Geography matters, but so does purpose. Some churches are drawn to a particular region of the world, while others feel called to engage a specific worldview or people group. For example, a church located in a community with many Hindu neighbors may benefit from serving in a context where Hinduism is the predominant worldview. Consider how the location of the trip may help your church grow in cross-cultural understanding and long-term missions engagement.

#### Do the trip dates align with your church calendar?

Timing can determine who is able to participate. Consider school schedules, major church events, and ministry rhythms as you evaluate potential dates. Choosing dates that allow for broad participation—and adequate preparation—will strengthen both the team and the overall experience.

#### Is church leadership unified and supportive?

While not every leader must attend the trip, leadership buy-in is essential. Support from pastors and ministry leaders lends credibility during recruitment, encourages participation, and ensures the trip aligns with the church's mission and values. A unified leadership voice also helps participants understand that this trip is more than travel—it is ministry.

### **Have we considered the cost?**

Cost should never be the sole deciding factor, but it is a practical consideration. Think about who you hope will attend and how much time participants will have to raise support. Clear communication about costs, deadlines, and expectations helps set teams up for success and reduces stress later in the process.

### **Are we prepared for the investment required?**

Even a packaged trip requires significant time and effort. Planning, training, fundraising, and spiritual preparation all take intentional leadership. Missionary hosts, group leaders, and participants alike will be investing deeply, and church leaders should be ready to shepherd that process with care.

### **Is our group ready to join the missionary task?**

Go Experience trips vary in focus—from prayer walking and gospel conversations to training and discipling national believers. Every trip supports the long-term strategy of the local IMB team. It is vital that participants understand they are joining an existing work, not creating their own agenda. Preparing your team spiritually and practically ensures they can serve humbly, effectively, and in partnership with those already on the field.

Choosing a packaged mission trip is not simply about selecting a destination—it is about discerning where God is inviting your church to participate in His global mission. With prayer, thoughtful evaluation, and trusted partners, church leaders can lead teams into experiences that deepen faith, strengthen the church, and advance the gospel among the nations.