

Memorial's Kenya Mission Trip

Frequently Asked Questions & Answers

Who is Buckner?

Buckner is a Christian social service agency with over 100 years of experience in dealing with children and youth in crisis. The missions division, Buckner Orphan Care International, seeks to provide assistance to children and youth who are currently in institutional care around the world. Christian summer camps for orphanages and children's homes are a strategic part of the overall plan to help the orphans of the world have a hope and a future. The humanitarian aid project, Shoes for Orphan Souls, is a vital way Buckner ministers to the precious orphans overseas.

Who will be in charge of the team?

From the time you leave the airport to the time you return, you will be under the supervision of employees of Buckner Orphan Care International.

Will I be safe?

Some amount of risk always exist when you choose to travel overseas. Buckner takes every precaution to ensure the safest trip possible. They consult travel advisories; train the trip participants to be cautious and pray daily.

What will I do?

Relationship building is one of the most important opportunities you will have with the children. Though you are with them for only a short amount of time, bonds will form quickly. They are so open to Christ's love in you! Take every opportunity to pray for each child. Buckner will guide you to the openness in regards to evangelism. Do not miss an opportunity to let the children know why you are there. You will be working with the children in a VBS or camp setting, participating in the medical ministry to the community and possibly distributing humanitarian aid.

How can I make a valuable contribution?

Your role will be a valuable part of a bigger effort to help the orphans, their leaders, and the system of care under which they currently live. You have a great opportunity to care for “the least of these” on a short-term trip that allows long-term ministry to these children to continue year round.

How will I be prepared for the trip?

During the months preceding the trip your team will hold meetings to pray, plan, share information and work together to raise funds.

What if I get sick on this trip?

Upset stomachs are common for those who eat foreign food. Many trip participants also develop cold symptoms. Most of the minor discomforts that occur can be taken care of with over-the-counter medicines. Be sure to take along medications for diarrhea, upset stomach, cough and cold, and pain as well as any prescription medications you take regularly. **It is recommended you carry these items in your carry-on luggage.** Travel insurance is included in the cost of the trip. If a serious illness or accident were to occur, staff would be available to immediately transport you to a safe hospital for quality health care.

How much money should I take?

The cost of the trip is all-inclusive. You should only bring enough money for souvenirs and occasional snacks. Credit cards are accepted in some stores, but don't count on it. You will have a chance to exchange dollars to Kenyan shillings once we arrive in Kenya.

Will my money and other valuables be safe?

Buckner makes every effort to obtain reservations in very secure hotels, but it is always a good idea to take precautions. Never leave money, plane tickets or passports in your room. It is suggested that you purchase a money belt to keep these items on your person at all times. It is also advisable if possible to split your money between you and your traveling companion. Keep a small amount of cash in your purse, wallet or pocket so that you do not have to get it out of your money belt in public. If possible only open your money belt in a private place. It is best to not take other valuables. Leave expensive jewelry at home. Do not take any valuables with you that might attract attention. If you do have other valuables, lock them in your suitcase before you leave the room.

Can I drink the water?

The water in Kenya is NOT drinkable. Buckner staff will purchase bottled water for the team each day. You will also need to brush your teeth with bottled water.

What will we eat?

All of your meals will be in the hotel, camp or restaurant. You may wish to pack a few snack foods such as peanut butter crackers, granola bars, nuts, raisins etc...to eat between meals. Trip participants do say they get plenty of food at the meals.

What do I pack?

A detailed list of suggested items will be provided closer to the trip departure. Because of in country flights on small planes, you will most likely be limited to one suitcase with a weight limit of 50 lbs and one carry-on bag. Luggage with wheels makes a huge difference when traveling. Pack all essentials and your medicines in your carry-on bag along with at least one change of clothing. This will be helpful in case your luggage is delayed reaching Kenya.

Where will I stay?

In Nairobi and Kitale you will be staying in a hotel or guest house. On safari you will be in a cabin or tent. These are not typical tents. They have electricity, concrete floors, beds, and bathrooms. You will stay two in a room unless you request and pay extra for a single room.

Do I need to get shots for the trip?

Check the United States CDC website at <http://wwwn.cdc.gov/travel/default.aspx> for suggested vaccinations for Kenya. You can also consult your doctor regarding shots needed. It is advisable to at least have a current tetanus shot.

What will the weather be like?

The average high temperature in Nairobi in late July, early August is 68 F and the average low is 59 F. In Kitale the average temperature during the same time period is 61 F. Be prepared for any type of weather – sunshine, rain, cool, and warm. Remember you are closer to the equator so your skin will burn faster even though it may not feel hot. Take along sunscreen and a hat. Check out this website for more weather information. www.wunderground.com

What is the time difference?

The time in Kenya is 8 hours ahead of Missouri. Keep this in mind if you make calls to anyone at home.