

# Q & A

❖ **Can I travel on my own and not use GFB's Travel Agent?**

No. The liability and responsibility is too great for GFB to assume.

❖ **What if I have frequent flyer miles, an airline "Buddy Pass" or are authorized to use an Airline Employee Discount?**

You will not be able to use them for this trip. Because of the arrangements we have to make and the logistics involved, it simply isn't an option.

❖ **Can I have a single room on the trip?**

No. Roommates are an important part of the trip and we don't want you to miss out on that fellowship.

❖ **Can I leave for the trip early or stay later than the rest of the team?**

No. The only exception to this is if you are involved in ministry that will dictate you arriving or staying apart from the team (typically as an intern or as an itinerate missionary or representative). You will be completely on your own.

❖ **Can we sign up as a group for the trip?**

GFB welcomes groups on its international trips, whether they are organized by a church, some other ministry, or it is simply a group of friends. Give your group a name and put this group name on each application or correspondence you submit to our office. We ask that all payments to our office be done individually. If the church or ministry is making a payment toward one or more individuals, be sure that it is clear exactly how much each person's account should be credited.

❖ **Is there any training I must take?**

Yes. There will be several small, mandatory books to be read, several audio lessons to listen to and a video to watch before going. There will be 1 or 2 mandatory group sessions that will take place prior to the actual trip. The first days on the field will also be spent in hands-on training. There will be Portuguese phrase sheets and accompanying audio that you will be expected to be familiar with before leaving the U.S.

❖ **Do I need immunizations?**

No.

❖ **Do I need a passport? A visa?**

You must have a current passport, valid at least six months beyond the dates of travel. If you do not have a passport, or if your passport will soon expire, you need to apply for a new passport (allow up to 12 weeks). If you do not have a passport, begin the process now. The cost involved for a passport is \$100.

U.S. citizens need a visa to enter Brazil. You must apply two to three months before departure, after booking your travel. The cost of the visa will be in addition to your Ubaúna Team Fee, and is considered an Out-of-Pocket Expense.

The type of visa you must have is a tourist visa (VITUR); cost at the time of this writing is \$140 + 2 US Postal Service Express Mail envelopes (\$17 each). We will provide you the information you need to know to fill out the online application.

❖ **What ministry materials should I bring?**

Ministry materials you will need are primarily your Bible, notebook or journal and pens. Other materials (e.g., craft materials, VBS lesson materials, videos, cds, etc.) related to the activities we will be doing will be provided.

❖ **Do I need a Travel Authorization Form?**

Travel Authorization Forms are required by the Brazilian government if you are under 18 years of age. It must be signed by BOTH parents, notarized, AND legalized.

❖ **Can I bring electronics?**

You may bring a MP3 player or iPod for the time on the plane and at nights. Laptops and GameBoys are not allowed. Your cell phone will not work in Brazil OR you will pay very high per minute fees by your U.S. carrier (\$2-3 per minute). If you have an international plan, your PDA, Blackberry or iPhone will generally work for emails and texting.

**ON-field questions:**

❖ **What food will I eat during the program?**

All of your meals will be provided during the trip and in-country. It is suggested that you bring some nonperishable snacks with you.

❖ **Where will I sleep?**

You will be sleeping in hammocks while in Ubaúna and in beds in Fortaleza and Tianguá. While in Ubaúna you will also be using a mosquito net. You will need to bring an additional \$30 to purchase a hammock and mosquito net.

❖ **What clothing do I need to wear?**

Summer-type clothing. All clothing must be modest and “God-pleasing” as defined by our local host receiving culture. We will have further orientation concerning clothing before leaving.

❖ **Bathing?**

Bring a towel, washcloth (or nylon “scrunchy” or loofah/sponge), and personal hygiene items such as soap, toothpaste, and deodorant. Flipflops are strongly recommended for showering. Be prepared for a variety of possibilities. You will be in a more “primitive” environment.

❖ **Team Members Dismissed from the team?**

In rare cases, a team member(s) can be dismissed from the team before leaving the U.S. All funds expended at that point would be forfeited. The team leader’s decision is final.

❖ **What will our daily schedule be?**

Be ready! Most schedules are tentatively set ahead of time. Teams are expected to come prepared to rise early and go to bed late. Long days of ministry and construction require adequate sleep.

Be flexible with changes to the schedule, because there will be some.

❖ **What about on-Field Donations?**

If you discern a specific need, consult the Team Leader before trying to meet it. This includes handing out money, clothes, or even candy. It’s important to avoid creating dependency on Americans to provide for ongoing needs.

❖ **Correspondence?**

You will have the opportunity to send emails upon arrival in Fortaleza at the hotel. You can also purchase a phone calling card before leaving the U.S. that will work in Brazil or when you arrive. You will be able to call from Fortaleza but do not plan on having access while in the interior. In case of an emergency, in-country contact information will be provided before leaving the U.S. You must inform your family that this contact information is for emergency use only.