



## Global Connection Trip Process

Thank you for considering joining a Global Connection Trip with Global Outreach at Central Christian Church! We're glad you're here and are excited to be on this journey with you!

This document addresses many of the logistical questions you might have regarding a Global Connection Trip. Please take time to read this document thoroughly.

### What is the Vision behind Global Connection Trips?

Global Connection Trips exist to take participants on a journey of transformation; learning to see God's heart for the nations and to begin identifying what unique part God is calling you to play in Jesus' Great Commission! Below is a list of other goals we have for all of our trips:

- To bring blessing and positive impact to those who travel on the trip, to those who support and send the trip, and to those who receive the trip participants overseas.
- To help create a globally-minded church full of globally-minded believers who understand God's biblical global mandate.
- To raise a passion in the hearts of these globally-minded believers to plug into long-term global work, whether in the United States or abroad.
- To support the long-term global vision at Central Christian Church.

### What are the different types of Global Connection Trips?

#### Discovery Trips

Discovery Trips provide an opportunity to engage with people of different ethnic and faith background while also encouraging our global workers living in these communities. These trips are culturally immersive and groups partner with long-term field workers who are living amongst unreached people groups.

#### Compassion Trips

Compassion Trips offer opportunities to leverage our skills and abilities to serve people abroad with a Kingdom mindset. These trips allow people to be the hands and feet of Jesus and show His love practically and tangibly. While these trips have service component included as part of the trip, there is a strong focus on being intentionally relational.

#### Peacemaking Trips

Peacemaking Trips are primarily to the Holy Land. While there, participants will learn from present day peacemakers who are practicing the Biblical call to reconciliation through loving the 'other' in their community. We hope that biblical understanding of, and practices of everyday peacemaking will transform participants. Trips to the Holy Land also strive to bring your Bible to life, learning in the very places Jesus walked and taught 2000 years ago.



### **What is the ideal flight and hotel experience on a Global Connection Trip?**

The Global Outreach Department strives to ensure that trip participants will have a safe and manageable travel experience. As such, we will make efforts to secure the most inexpensive airfare possible, with reputable airlines, and with the best possible traveling itinerary; in an effort to balance cost with comfort, duration, and reliability. With all of this said, it is very important that both the trip participant and their families understand the need for flexibility. While we will make every effort to secure predictable travel plans, travel can be inherently unpredictable – especially international travel! There might be delays, cancellations, or other travel hiccups that are unavoidable. Global Outreach will do our best to anticipate and plan around identified issues, but we ask that trip participants and their families go into this with a willingness to be flexible and understanding. A friend once told me this helpful Beatitude, *“Blessed are the flexible, for they shall not be broken”*.

Here is a list of ways we strive to have the smoothest possible travel experiences:

- Schedule flights through airports that have decent reviews and on-time/departure rates
- Layovers will be at least two hours; to allow for delays, terminal changes, going through customs or security checks, to grab meals and restroom breaks, etc.
- Schedule flights with larger and more reputable airlines; such as American, United, Delta, British Air, Lufthansa, and their One World Alliance partners
- Depending on trip location, we will stay at 3-star hotels or nicer
  - If you’re traveling on a Discovery trip, you may be staying in local people’s home for a portion of your trip

### **What if there is an emergency on the trip?**

In the unlikely event that an emergency occurs on the trip, there are protocols to keep the trip participants as well-cared for as possible. Please know that the Global Outreach Department and our field partners spend time before the trip departs, assessing the political climate in the country of travel and only launching trips where we feel comfortable about their safety. Once trips are in-country, the Trip Leaders and the field partners have trip participants’ safety as a top priority. Our Field Partners have their networks – both formal and informal – which they use to make sure travel routes and trip itineraries are carried out well. Trips will likely stretch participants outside their comfort zones, but being uncomfortable does not necessarily equate to being unsafe!

In the event of any emergency, the Trip Leader or Field Partner will immediately notify the Trip Coordinator at Global Outreach. The Trip Coordinator will then communicate with the emergency contacts provided by the trip participants in a timely manner.



### **What if there is an emergency at home?**

If there is an emergency at home that requires a trip participant to get home as fast as possible, it will become the responsibility of the trip participant to secure their own travel home, utilizing their own resources and funding. The Trip Coordinator and the Field Partner should be notified by the Trip Leader as soon as possible, before any changes or purchases are made. Whenever possible, the Trip Coordinator will assist the trip participant with the new travel plans.

Ideally, if there is an emergency at home, the family of the participant should contact the Trip Coordinator and the Trip Coordinator will contact the Trip Leader. The Trip Coordinator must always know the situation and the plan for getting home. Emergencies requiring a trip participant to come home include examples such as:

- Serious health issues, including hospitalization or death, of a family member
- Mental health emergency of a loved one requiring hospitalization
  - Please know that travel insurance does not cover mental health medical issues or hospitalization, as it does physical health issues

### **What does the travel insurance include?**

Trip insurance is included in the cost of your trip. The trip insurance we use is through a company called Trip Armor. This trip insurance is effective the moment you leave Phoenix on your flight until the moment you get home. The trip insurance is not effective before or after your trip. If you were to need to utilize the trip insurance, it operates on a reimbursement basis and the trip participant is required to complete the claim and track the claim process. To see what is covered and what is not covered, please go to the Trip Armor website at:

<https://triparmor.missiontripinsurance.com/benefits/>

### **What does it mean to register with the State Department?**

The Global Outreach department registers every trip participant with the State Department before their trip departs the United States. Being registered with the State Department ensures that the United States Government is aware that there are American citizens travelling abroad in the case of an emergency, so that they can provide information and safety concerns to travelers. For more information about registering with the State Department, please visit the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program site: <https://step.state.gov/step/>

### **Why do we have partner organizations on every trip?**

It is important to have a reliable and trustworthy Field Partner organization. This partner organization works to create the itinerary for the trip, ensure the safety of the trip participants, and create a smooth trip experience by taking care of all on-ground trip logistics. The partner organizations Global Outreach utilizes are well-vetted and deeply-trusted. For more information about specific partner organizations depending on the country you're traveling to, please contact the Trip Coordinator at: [trips@centralaz.com](mailto:trips@centralaz.com)



### **Is the water and food safe to drink?**

With all of the countries we travel to, we highly recommend that no one drinks tap water. The Trip Leader and the Field Partner will always have plenty of bottled water for trip participants. In regards to food, as much as possible, we intend to eat what is offered to us. However, if you have diet restrictions, be sure to inform the Trip Coordinator by noting the restriction in Managed Missions and reminding your Trip Leader and Field Partner sometime before your trip. Diet preferences may also be noted, but may not be met, though the Trip Leader and Field Partner will try. On a Global Connection Trip, you may have food prepared for you by local hosts. Be prepared to try their food so as to not offend the hosts (though diet restrictions and most diet preferences will not result in an offended host). Most team members find the food to be delicious and unobjectionable.

### **Do I need to have certain shots to go on a Global Connection Trip?**

Central Christian Church does not require that anyone have immunizations. Rather, we refer to the Center for Disease Control's (CDC) recommendations per location. Should the CDC *require* an immunization (for example, Yellow Fever shot if going to Mauritania), then Global Outreach will also require it. To see the immunization recommendations, please see:

<https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel>

### **Why is it important to have a support team?**

The roles of your at-home support team are to regularly pray for trip participants as well as to provide financial assistance. Global Outreach recognizes the power of prayer and believes it is incredibly important to have a team of people praying for each participant throughout the duration of the trip.

### **Why are there mandatory meetings?**

Although you may be traveling away from home for just a week, we believe that Global Connection Trips are a journey of many months. The time leading up to the trip, as well as the time dedicated after the trip, are important seasons in your journey of discovering what God has to teach you and where He wants to involve you. And so there are several pre-trip and post-trip meetings for every Global Connection Trip.

These meetings are mandatory because it is critical that the group of people traveling together begins to bond, that each person understands trip logistics, and that each person is prepared for a complex cross-cultural experience. Typically, there are six total meetings mandatory for each trip. There may also be a mosque experience or dinner with a local Muslim family that could be added to these trainings. The pre-trip meetings are geared to prepare trip participants well, while the post-trip meetings are meant to provide guided facilitation and processing after the Global Connection Trip. Some of the trip training subjects include discussing culture, understanding the basics of Islam or Judaism, packing tips, key language terms, team-building activities, and many more!



### **Do I need a passport or visas?**

Yes, you will need a valid passport. Please note that your passport should have an expiration date at least six months after your trip dates. There are several places around the Valley to apply for or renew a passport.

You do not need to apply for a visa ahead of time for any of the countries we visit on Global Connection Trips. All visas, if necessary, are purchased and issued at the airport of the country you are visiting. Visas are included in the cost of your trip. For more information on how to apply for or renew your passport at post offices around the valley, please go to:

[https://about.usps.com/news/state-releases/az/2018/az\\_2018\\_0309.htm](https://about.usps.com/news/state-releases/az/2018/az_2018_0309.htm)

*\*Note: if you are travelling to Lebanon, you cannot have a stamp from Israel in your passport (Israel has not stamped passports since 2014). If you are travelling to Israel and have a Lebanese stamp, you will be granted entry but you may expect to receive extra questions. Never lie to security, but also be aware of not providing more information than is asked.*

### **What is included in the cost of my trip?**

The cost of your trip includes: airfare, travel insurance, all in-country costs (food, hotel, and entrance fees), Managed Missions fees, a Global Outreach t-shirt, and costs associated with our Field Partners. It does not include: souvenirs, meals while traveling, alcohol with meals in-country, or tobacco. We do not recommend that alcohol or tobacco are purchased on Global Connection Trips, especially in North Africa or the Middle East.

### **How much money should I bring with me on my trip?**

We recommend that you bring no more than \$200 cash, which can be used as souvenir money on your trip. You do not need to exchange this money in the United States. All exchanges will be done in country at the best possible rates. You may also decide to bring a credit card, however Global Outreach cannot guarantee that your card will always be accepted at all locations. You can likely find ATM machines at all the countries our trips go to. Be aware that there may be ATM fees associated with your transaction, both from your home bank and from the local bank. In all cases, it is best practice to contact your bank ahead of time and notify them of your travel dates and travel locations.

### **What is the Financial Agreement?**

The Financial Agreement document states that all funds are required to be paid before a participant can go on the trip. If a person is raising funds, they are still required to pay for the outstanding balance of their trip before departure date. The Financial Agreement is signed digitally, usually before the first trip training.

### **How do I use my cell phone while on my trip?**

One of the great aspects of traveling on a Global Connection Trip is the chance to get away from your day-in and day-out life, to better see God's heart for the nations and wrestle with what He desires for you out of the trip. Cell phones are a great way to stay connected to the



day-in and day-out of your life – and a great way to be distracted from your experience. However, we realize that cell phone are an integral part of life, and provide connections during your overseas travel. Please lean-in to your trip and not let your phone be a distraction.

The best and most recommended way of using your phone to communicate with people at home is through the WiFi at the hotel. All hotels will have WiFi. Global Outreach recommends that the trip participants and loved ones download communication apps that work on WiFi, like WhatsApp, Facebook Messenger, or Google Duo. If a trip participant and their loved ones have iPhones, then apps like iMessage and Facetime will operate on WiFi. If you need international calling minutes, contact your cell phone provider and inquire about available plans and rates.

### **What can I post on social media while on my trip?**

On all Global Connection Trips, we want trip participants to connect with God, with their team, and with the locals they encounter on the trip. Those connections are the priority. Social media can inhibit trip participants from being “in the moment” and may be distracting.

To help people focus on their trip, we encourage all trip participants to avoid social media throughout the day and reserve their time on their phones for when they are on their own in the hotel rooms. Lastly, if a Field Partner requests that specific images not be posted on social media, please respect these requests.

### **What does the deposit cover and are there other financial deadlines?**

Your trip deposit is \$100 + 1.5% of the cost of your trip. This is a nonrefundable deposit to cover reserving airfare. Specific deposit amounts will be shared as you sign up. Deposits are due in cash or check (made out to Central Christian Church) at the first trip training.

At the first trip training we will discuss fundraising techniques. The rest of your trip costs are required to be paid in full by one week prior to your trip (see the section about the Financial Agreement for more information about trip participant’s financial responsibility).

### **What is Managed Missions?**

Global Outreach uses a website called Managed Missions for the logistics of your trip. Once you have been accepted for a trip, you will receive an invitation to the website, and everything you need to know will be there: travel profile, calendar, progress, articles to read or watch, and more. Your financial supporters will also donate to your trip online through Managed Missions. For a brief tutorial of how to use Managed Missions, follow this link: <https://cl.ly/cb2ff26b5ffb>

### **How do I apply for a Global Connection Trip?**

You can apply for a Global Connection Trip by visiting our Trips page at: <http://www.centralaz.com/trips>. On this page, before the list of upcoming trips, there is a hyperlink to the application page. Simply find the trip you are hoping to join on after clicking on the hyperlink. The website (Managed Missions) will prompt you to create a login before applying. After Global Outreach receives the application and reviews it, if you are accepted to go on that trip, you will receive an email notifying you that you have been added to the team.



**Who do I contact if I have questions not answered here?**  
Please email the Trip Coordinator at [trips@centralaz.com](mailto:trips@centralaz.com)