



## Amazon River Church Construction Trip Information

Team: Texas District  
Trip Dates: September 7-14, 2019  
Team Leader: Manny Martinez  
Host Missionary: Mark Lemos  
Trip Coordinator: Betsy Martin, Builders International

### LODGING AND MEALS

1. Lodging in Manaus. The team will stay in a 3-star hotel the first night in Manaus. The hotel amenities include free wifi and internet access, room service and a pool. A breakfast buffet is included the following morning.
2. Lodging on the river. For the remainder of the trip, the team will be staying on an all-inclusive river boat. Most sleeping rooms are double occupancy and contain bunk beds. The rooms are just big enough to hold the bunk beds and have a bit of space for luggage. Approximately 5' x 9'.
3. There will be 3 boat crew and 3 cooks/housekeeping staff onboard to take care of the team.
4. Each sleeping room has a window A/C unit.
5. Bathrooms. There are four bathrooms and they are about the size of a phone booth. The shower does not have hot water.
6. Laundry service will be provided by the boat. There is no charge for this service, however, plan on providing a tip for the housekeeping staff.
7. There is no wifi or internet access on the riverboat.
8. There is 110 voltage electricity on the boat. The hotel has 220.
9. All meals while staying along the river will be cooked on the boat by the staff. Meals may consist of rice, beans, noodles, fish, and beef. Plenty of bottled water and soda will also be provided.
10. The team will get to enjoy an authentic Brazilian steak dinner in Manaus on the last evening.

### MINISTRY

The team will be building a church for the local community. The work will take place in one of the many communities that are located right along the Amazon River. The work will include putting up columns, trusses, roofing, and laying block walls.

Additional ministry opportunities:

There will be opportunities to interact with the local people during the trip. Team members who aren't actively engaged with the church construction can minister to children, help paint the local pastor's house, or teach any skill that can be taught in 3 days. One example is a team that built pews for the church. Providing water filters to families in the community is another option.



## **FREE TIME**

There will be time each day for rest and relaxation, as well as lots of time to fellowship with the people in the community. Free time activities could include swimming with dolphins, fishing, swimming in the Amazon, exploring the jungle and riverbanks, and just relaxing in one of the hammocks on the boat. If you want to fish, you will need to pack your own fishing gear.

## **VACCINATIONS**

***HIGHLY RECOMMENDED: Yellow Fever.*** *At this time, the vaccine is only available at a few clinics throughout the state. Please schedule your vaccine soon.* If you will be traveling outside the country after being in Brazil, you will be REQUIRED to have get the vaccine.

### ***Important!***

***Yellow Fever Update: While CDC recommends yellow fever vaccination for travel to some areas of Brazil (<https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices/alert/yellow-fever-brazil>), U.S. Travelers coming to Brazil are not required to have yellow fever vaccination. U.S. travelers coming to Brazil only, and returning to the U.S. are not required to present documentation of yellow fever vaccination upon return to the U.S.***

***However, if you are transiting through Brazil, or stopping in Brazil then travelling on to another country, you might need documentation of a yellow fever vaccination. Please check the appropriate onward country for current guidance.***

***Recommended: Malaria and Tetanus. Please visit the Centers for Disease Control for more health information for travelers to Brazil at: <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/brazil>.***

## **PASSPORT**

Team members are required to have a U.S. Passport to travel outside of the United States. Please apply for or renew your passport if:

1. You do not have a passport
2. Your passport will expire on or before March 14, 2020
3. You do not have any blank visa pages left (a partial page WILL NOT work)

**All team members MUST have a valid passport by July 1, 2019.**



## **TOURIST VISA**

A Tourist Visa is required to enter Brazil and must be applied for in advance of the trip. This process is completed online. *The Builders International Trip Coordinator will provide assistance with the application process.*

Visa Requirements:

1. Valid U.S. passport.
2. Professional color passport-style photo, taken within the last 6 months.

**All team members MUST have all visa requirements ready for submission by July 1, 2019.**

## **MONEY**

U.S. currency can be used. Bring some cash to pay tips and offerings. If you use a debit card, you will get a better rate than using a credit card. All major credit cards are accepted. Be sure and notify your banking institution that you will be in Manaus, Brazil, using your bank cards. Credit cards can be used at the places where the team goes for some shopping.

## **PACKING LIST**

Twin Sheet and pillow case. Anyone wanting to sleep in a hammock will also need to bring a pillow.

Towel and washcloth. PLEASE NOTE: The shower area is a wet room. You will need to bring something to keep your clean clothes and towel dry while showering. Amazon sells waterproof "dry bags" in a variety of sizes. Flips flops for the shower are also suggested.

Light weight clothes: T-shirts (no inappropriate graphics)

Shorts (not too short)

Jeans

Pants

Skirts (not too short)

Swimsuit

Rain gear

Ballcap, hat

Study, closed toed shoes for the job site.

Light weight jacket or sweatshirt (evenings can get cool on the water)

Evening wear – lounge clothes to change into after work, before dinner

Daily laundry service will be provided. Clothes will be line dried.

Small flashlight



Earplugs. No one will have a private room. There will be A/C window units and generators running through the night.

Sunscreen and insect repellent. Insect repellent with Deet is highly recommended.

Personal toiletry items.

Personal medications. Suggested meds are Imodium, pain relievers, Tums, sunburn relief, eye drops. Prescription medications should be carried in the bottle they come in.

First aid kit. – Will be provided and have basic items in it.

Personal water bottle. Use to refill at the job site. Small packets of Gatorade or Propel are suggested.

Bible

Gloves – sturdy work gloves