



Frequently Asked Questions

Our passion is for...

"The villages (earth) will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the Amazon (sea)" (Hab. 2:14 AOV Paraphrase).

According to the Joshua Project, there is only a 9.8% evangelical presence among the 7 million Ribeirinhos (River People) in the Amazon River Basin. However, God is moving in the state of Amazonas, Brazil. Evangelical Christianity has grown to 17.5% among the state's 7600+ river villages. Even more encouraging is that growth is projected to reach 50% over the next decade.

We're one of the few ministries mobilizing the American church to the Amazon. We've been honored over the past two decades to mobilize over 400 teams with over 8000 volunteers ministering to over 300,000 villagers. However, we've only scratched the surface and invite you to join in this movement of God in the Amazon River Basin.

WHAT WE DO

Amazon Outreach mobilizes short-term mission teams to assist Brazilian churches in making disciples by sharing the love of Jesus in the Amazon River Basin. We use Jesus' holistic approach of simultaneously meeting physical, relational, and spiritual needs. We meet physical needs through medical, dental, and eyeglasses, and provide clean safe drinking water. We meet relational needs through men's, women's, children's, and sports ministries. Meeting physical and relational needs builds a powerful bridge for the gospel.

"People will not believe the words of your mouth until they feel the touch of your hands." Dr. (Richard Walker, missionary to Brazil)

WHY WE GO?

- The people along the Amazon call themselves "The Forgotten People".
- These humble Ribeirinhos (river people) live in deep material and spiritual poverty
- Villages are often closed to local missionaries but are very open to our American teams with medical, dental, and water wells (Missionaries call us "The Crow Bar Ministry")
- Villagers have a syncretized religion of Spiritism, Macumba (voodoo), and a diluted Christianity...they are ripe for the gospel of Jesus Christ!
- The great majority of the population has no access to the gospel
- They also do not have access to medical or dental care
- Most villages do not have access to fresh clean drinking water
- Many children die before the age of five because of water-related illnesses

DILEMMA:

- Because the river is so vast and rises and falls 40 feet each year the villages are hard to reach and navigate
- Many villages are inaccessible by roads
- There are very few organizations like Amazon Outreach ministering to these people groups

IS IT SAFE?

There is an inherent risk with all international travel. However, over the past 25 years, we've mobilized over 8000 people and everyone has safely returned. We have a seasoned Brazilian staff and each trip is navigated by naval-certified captains, sailors, and cooks. For the latest travel advisories check out the State Department at <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/International-Travel-Country-Information-Pages/Brazil.html>

WHAT VACCINATIONS/PRESCRIPTIONS ARE RECOMMENDED?

No vaccinations are required to enter Brazil, but several are recommended by the CDC such as Hep A & B, Tetanus, Yellow Fever, Typhoid, and a Malaria prescription.

<https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/brazil>

WHAT IS THE COST?

Your trip price will vary based on airfare cost. The trip price will be \$1770 +airfare, but capped at \$3570. Your trip leader will have the details for your trip. This price covers airfare, food, lodging, transportation, medical/life travel insurance and laundry. It does not cover personal items such as passports, vaccines, airport meals, or tip. We provide team training and a personal fundraising link for tax-deductible online fundraising.

ARE VISAS REQUIRED?

No, but may be required starting in April, 2025

WHAT IS THE AO REFUND POLICY?

Amazon Outreach (AO) is a 501c3 tax-exempt non-profit organization. Tax-deductible donations given in support of a trip fee is a non-refundable donation to AO, and not contingent on a team member's participation on a trip. In the event that a team member has to drop or a trip is canceled, donations toward their trip will be held as a trip credit (minus potential airline penalties and credits) no less than two years after the original trip date. Expired AO trip credits will be used by AO to further its charitable purposes.

WHAT IS THE AIRLINE'S CANCELED TICKET POLICY?

If an airline ticket has been purchased, the original value of the ticket will be deducted from the team member's AO trip credit. **The airline will own the credit (not AO) and must be redeemed through the HighPoint Travel agency for any flight within a year of the original purchase date (not the original travel date).** Anticipate airline credit will be less than the original ticket value due to airline cancellation penalties. In some instances, team members' airfare credits can be used by AO with an additional name change fee. If AO is able to redeem a team member's airline credit, the value of that credit (minus additional name change fees) will be applied to the team member's AO trip credit. This will allow team members an extra year to redeem the value of the airline credit.

WHERE WILL WE GO?

We fly to Manaus, Brazil where a commercial bus will take the team from the airport to the mission boat (30min). The team will sleep overnight as the boat travels toward our first village. The villages we serve are selected by our Brazilian church partners.

WHO WILL WE SERVE?

We first serve the hard-working indigenous pastors and missionaries serving in the Amazon River Basin. In partnership with them, we then serve the Ribeirinhos (river people) and Indigenous tribes on the Amazon River.

WHAT WILL WE DO?

We tailor the design of each trip based on the abilities of the team. It can include medical, dental, eyeglasses, VBS, youth ministry, evangelism, water well drilling, and construction projects. We often play soccer as a way to connect. We also creatively utilize other skills like hair cutting, fingernail polishing, hair braiding, photography, and journalism. Our last day typically includes some tourism and souvenir shopping.

HOW MANY PEOPLE CAN GO?

Trips require a minimum of 20 people and a maximum of 32 per boat. This can include middle school age to senior adults. There will be 20-30 Brazilians serving alongside the team; missionaries, pastors, translators, sailors, cooks, and laundry.

WHERE WILL WE EAT, SLEEP, ETC...?

The Boat! Our beautiful triple-decker mission boats serve as our transportation, hotel, restaurant, and mission base. We sleep in open-air hammocks but have a few air-conditioned cabins as sick bays. There are plenty of electrical outlets for CPAP machines and charging phones. All meals are served buffet-style on the boat by naval-certified cooks. Our cooks can accommodate most special dietary restrictions or food allergies. The boats have 5 spotless single bathrooms with flushing toilets and 7 individual showers with locking doors. Our daily laundry service allows you to pack lightly. We provide these amenities so the team can focus on the mission work.

WHAT DOES A TYPICAL WEEK ON THE RIVER LOOK LIKE?

Every trip can greatly vary, but most follow a pattern based on a 10-day trip. Day 1 Travel to Manaus and arrive at the boat, set up hammocks, and sleep overnight as the boat travels Day 2: Arrive at the first village and start ministry Day 3-8 Village ministry Day 9 Return to Manaus (souvenir, explore), Day 10 Arrive home

WHAT DOES A TYPICAL DAY IN A VILLAGE LOOK LIKE?

Once again, every trip is different, but here's the most common pattern... 6am Sunrise (personal devotions encouraged) 7am Breakfast, 8am Devotion/Team Assignments, 9am-12 Village Ministry (medical, dental, eyeglass, VBS, door-to-door evangelism), 12-2pm Lunch, 2-4pm Village Ministry (same as morning plus Men's and Women's ministries), 4pm Worship Service, 5pm Soccer, 6pm Dinner (sunset), 7pm Debrief/Worship (sometimes worship service in the village, if not held earlier) 8pm Free, 10pm Lights Out.

WHEN CAN WE GO?

You can join an existing trip, or schedule a trip for any week of the year that our boats are available (20 person min). Check our trip schedule to join a trip <https://amazonoutreach.org/trips/>

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER WE LEAVE?

Our Brazilian church partner will continue to follow up with disciple-making, leadership development, and church planting. Our main partners (Central Presbyterian of Manaus and First Baptist Parintins) have jungle pastor seminars that train lay pastors in theology, hygiene, and other valuable courses. However, we seek churches willing to commit long-term with our Brazilian partner by adopting a tributary and investing in the developing infrastructure. A few examples are yearly trips, participating in jungle seminary training, supporting a river missionary, or building a church in a village.

WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS?

- Pick a date by either joining an open existing trip or creating your own
- Contact AO's Church Relations Director Brenda Holmes to confirm availability: bholmes@amazonoutreach.org or 972-931-5565
- Set an interest meeting at least 6 months prior to departure
- Start promoting the trip and interest meeting 6 weeks prior to the meeting. We have promotional materials available.

RESOURCES

PROMOTIONAL VIDEOS:

(1minute video)A Dream Come True <https://youtu.be/E1Tzz0sQuwU>

(1m) Our Mission <https://youtu.be/cVueZx9C7A4>

(1m) Interest Meeting Promo <https://youtu.be/qPTam3fnvsA?si=dxzf84qFFV9Qf2Qz>

(1m) The Gift of Clean Safe Drinking Water <https://youtu.be/knIL9NiWvUc>

(3m) Amazon Outreach Teams https://youtu.be/yOXtX9Ny0_o

(4m) Why Amazon Outreach <https://youtu.be/oDJQng5wBzw>

(3m) Amazon Outreach Drone View <https://youtu.be/5luExL-nU-Y>

(5m) Until All Have Heard

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oIDvlciANg4&list=PLjPeU-2X8bDqB9d4VWZOjvw-wkYXH-Ux>

(3.5m) Boat Tour <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vlgRTZE3j2Y>

(1m) Why Donate A Water Well <https://youtu.be/knIL9NiWvUc>

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

AO Mission Handbook <https://amazonoutreach.org/mission-handbook>

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/amazonoutreach/>

Website <https://amazonoutreach.org/>

Statement of Faith <http://amazonoutreach.org/mission/>

Trip Schedule <http://amazonoutreach.org/trips/>

Corporate Office: THE HOPE CENTER <https://www.thehopecenter.org/media/stories-of-hope>

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