

International Partnership Trips

Short-Term Trip Information for Uganda, Africa

Several times each year, teams of people from flatirons travel to Iganga, Uganda to work with our International Partner there, Musana Children's Home. Our teams often have a specific purpose or project, but most importantly we go to encourage the staff and continue building relationships in the community. Whether we are working alongside local construction workers, coaching teams, leading Bible classes or working with the teachers at the school, our goal is to build relationships. Our goal is to develop a deep, working relationship with the community that makes up Musana Children's Home. We want Flatirons people to be considered friends and each team that visits is anticipated and welcomed. We send teams because we believe that over time, through relationships, the light and love we have to share shines brighter and brighter.

The trip dates are posted to the website and we ask that you carefully consider the mandatory meeting dates for the team before you make the decision to apply for that team. You will be interviewed by the team leaders, who will then decide on the team and all applicants will be notified of their decision. Our short-term teams spend up to three months preparing, both individually and as a team to experience another culture and learn how to act and communicate effectively within that culture.

General Requirements and Information:

- **Age** | 18 years of age or older. There may be some exceptions for younger people accompanied by a parent.
- **Passport** | a valid passport with the expiration date at least 6 months past the return date of your trip
- **Visa** | will be purchased upon arrival in Uganda
- **Travel Considerations**
 - Air travel between Denver and Entebbe, Uganda is generally 20 hours. It is then a 3 hour drive to Iganga, where Musana is located.
 - Ground transportation is arranged by our hosts.
- **Health and Medical** | consider your own health in light of the limited scope of medical treatments available
 - medical emergencies in Uganda would be treated at one of the local hospitals or clinics
 - the weather is dry and warm during the dry season and wet and muddy during the rainy season
 - consult with your doctor or a travel clinic to determine needed immunizations. Complete information about recommended vaccinations can be found on the website of the Centers for Disease Control – www.cdc.gov. The cost of immunizations can be significant, and are each individual's personal responsibility outside of fundraising for the trip.
 - find a travel clinic at www.istm.org
- **Financial**
 - You are required to cover the published cost of the trip which includes air and car travel, housing, food etc. Additional expenses including passport services (new, renew, name change, add pages), immunizations, souvenirs and snacks are not included in the trip cost.
 - A non-refundable \$150 contribution is required at the first team meeting with the balance of the trip cost due one week prior to departure.
 - Once you have been accepted to a team, you will be provided with information about ways to raise financial support; however, if full support is not raised, the balance is your responsibility. Do not begin to raise funds until you are notified of acceptance to the team.
 - Monies put towards trips are considered contributions. If the trip is cancelled for any reason or you withdraw from the trip, contributions will be used for missions at flatirons.
 - If your fundraising efforts result in raising funds in addition to the expected trip costs, additional funds will be used first for any unexpected costs for the trip you're a part of. Beyond that, additional funds will be used for missions at flatirons.

- **Social/emotional requirements:**
 - You will be part of a team and be expected to participate in team activities or assignments.
 - It is important to follow the instructions of our hosts, primarily to avoid unintentional insults.
 - You must be flexible; plans are subject to change due to all sorts of reasons.
 - You will be working with people from a different culture. You need to be comfortable with their culture and respectful of their ways.
 - Short-term trips can be rewarding and life-changing; however, they can also be stressful. Please consider factors in your personal life at this time that may distract and prohibit you from fully committing to the trip and adapting to unusual conditions. A short-term trip should not be viewed as a form of therapy.
- **Clothing** | we honor our hosts by paying attention to the cultural differences
 - We will talk about what to wear at team training but generally, plan for warm weather and to dress modestly. Women wear skirts or capri pants; men wear long pants or long shorts for sports.
- **Language** | the language in Iganga is Lusoga
- **Accommodations** | our teams stay at a guesthouse in Musana
 - the guesthouse is very basic and is a residential home in Iganga
 - internet access is not available at the guesthouse, though there is an Internet café in Iganga
 - power strips to recharge cameras, laptops, etc. are provided
 - meals are provided either at the guesthouse, the children's home, Musana's Sol Café or another local restaurant
 - the meal schedule may be irregular, bringing snacks is encouraged
- **Security** | While security is generally good, it is best to walk in larger groups at night. During the day, walking in the community should also be done in groups.
- Read the **daily updates** from the previous teams at www.flatironschurch.com/international
- **Suggested Reading**
 - *When Helping Hurts* by Corbett & Fikkert