



Top 10 Ways to RUIN Short Term Mission Trips

Mission trips should be extra ordinary, life changing experiences both for the "missionary" and for indigenous people. A lot of this has to do with the preparation before GOING as well as the attitude in our hearts while we are there. Below is our top 10 list on how to ruin your mission trip.

Here's a checklist of what NOT TO DO:

- 1) Keep narrowly focused on spiritual activities.** You want to win people to Christ. So, focus on your loftiest expectations. Don't lower yourself to help around the mission house cleaning and doing "menial tasks".
- 2) To tighten up your schedule, eliminate personal prayer and Bible study.** You will be so rushed that you won't have time. Besides, you should be able to get all your "spiritual food" from the church services you are involved in and in group devotions.
- 3) Keep things organized. Set detailed goals and schedules before you go and refuse to deviate from them.** Don't accept delays, last-minute changes, and impromptu visits and invitations. Those things will just keep you from getting things done for God.
- 4) Help the missionaries by pointing out their mistakes.** Bring them up to date on what you've heard are the latest missions trends. Some missionaries are stubborn. So, you may need to enlist some support among the nationals for your views about how things should be run.
- 5) Get involved romantically with someone.** Being away from family and friends makes this the perfect time to get involved romantically. While it may distract you slightly from the work, you will be able to expose national Christians to America's progressive dating customs.
- 6) Don't embarrass yourself by trying to pick up the local language.** People are always saying that English is spoken all over the world. So, insist that those people use it with you.
- 7) Immediately begin pointing out your team members' faults.** Time is short. It will be difficult for people to make the needed changes if you don't help them from the start. Focus your helpful criticisms on team leaders.
- 8) Make hygiene a top priority and don't eat any of the local food, just bring power bars to eat the whole week.** To be sure, you may miss some friendly opportunities with "the natives," but you'll avoid all those awful germs!
- 9) Keep your distance from team members who couldn't raise their full support.** They may try to mooch off you. Don't give in. Sweating over finances will help them build their faith.
- 10) When you return home, scold your home church and friends for their lack of commitment, for their weak prayers, and for their inadequate giving to missions.** This may be one of the few times you will have their deferential respect. Make the most of it.

