

MAXIMUM IMPACT FACTS

At Maximum Impact Travel, we place a heavy emphasis on preparing our groups for the cultural differences they might encounter so that their trip will be most enjoyable.

Do I need travel insurance? Travel insurance is highly recommended. Life is unexpected. Things happen and sometimes trips must be cancelled or rescheduled. If you become ill or get hurt on a trip, your medical insurance may not cover international medical care. Some countries require payment for medical services before being released. If someone back home gets sick and you need to get home, having travel insurance helps to protect you from any losses you might incur. All payments are non-refundable. In some situations, for example, a pre-existing medical condition, you must buy travel insurance within a certain amount of time after purchasing your trip. We do not sell travel insurance. [Travel Guard](#) and [InsureMyTrip](#) offers travel insurance.

How can I obtain a US Passport? U.S. citizens traveling to any destination outside of the United States are required to present a valid U.S. passport for six months past the return date. Some countries require a visa for transit or entry. Passengers are responsible to ensure that they have all the proper documents for entry. All names on documents must match the legal name on your photo identification and travel document information must match tickets. Check the State Department [website](#) for further information. Immunizations may be required. Failure to comply with regulations may result in denied boarding, denied entry, and/or government imposed fines. If you are a citizen of another country, there may be additional requirements. Check with the nearest consulate or embassy of the destination you are traveling to and find out the entry requirements for non-U.S. citizens. The United States Postal Service can assist with obtaining a passport. [Passport Health](#) is a recommended service provider.

Must I get vaccinated? The country you're traveling to may require proof of vaccinations. Without proper vaccinations, you may be denied entry. To find information on health notices and recommended/required vaccinations for the countries you'll be visiting, go to the CDC Traveler's Health [website](#).

How do I find out about visa requirements?

Must obtain a VISA

Ghana
Togo
Benin
Tanzania
Ethiopia

US Passport

- Dubai (If traveling from a different country, refer to the Dubai embassy to find out if your country requires a visa to enter Dubai.)
- Brazil (If traveling from a different country, refer to the Brazilian embassy to find out if your country requires a visa to enter Brazil)

What are they recommended travel items?

Travel adapter
Travel belt (passport and money storage)
Cleansing wipes
Hand sanitizer
Portable external USB charger
Insect repellent (40% Deet)
Pain reliever
Nausea medicine
Diarrhea medicine
Gas medicine

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Can I use points to purchase my airfare? If you would like to use points for your airfare, you are advised to handle this directly with the airline or the points issuing company.

Can children travel to Africa? Absolutely. We encourage youth to visit Africa. For children traveling with one parent, someone who is not a parent/legal guardian, or in a group: Foreign border officials may require custody documents or written consent from the other parent/both parents. Requirements may vary by country.

Can I use American currency in the countries featured on the tours? Some places will accept the U.S. dollar or other foreign currencies, while others prefer the local currency. Be prepared to exchange currency to the local currency.

How much spending money should I bring? This is up to each guest. We suggest no less than \$300 USD

How much should I tip? Tipping is strongly encouraged. Many of the people that are serving us rely on tips to supplement their income. It is customary to give 15% as a standard tipping amount.

What should I wear? Comfortable summer clothing is advised for our sub-Saharan African, South American and Dubai tours. Wearing flashy jewelry, expensive clothing, and accessories is not advised.

Is the water safe to drink? Our base accommodations are three and four star hotels. Our platinum tours have 5-star hotel options. They all have potable water to bathe and brush teeth. We do not advise drinking non-bottled water from restaurants outside of the hotels. Additionally, we do not recommend eating fresh fruits from street vendors.

How large are the tour groups? Tour sizes vary and can range from two people to 40 people. Our maximum tour size for a non-custom tour is 40 people.

What are other recommended items to bring?

- Travel iron
- Hand fan
- Handkerchief
- Extra wash cloths
- Bathing soaps and lotions
- Swimsuit

CULTURAL DIFFERENCES

What does “Leave America In America” mean? For those who are new to international travel, visiting new cultures can be a “culture shock” if not prepared for the differences. It will be different in any foreign country and measuring next to America could lead to disappointment.

Does the food taste the same as American food? Some food items taste the same while other food items taste distinctive. Experiencing other cuisines is a part of international travel.

What is the time difference? From U.S. east coast time, there is a five hour time difference in Ghana, a seven hour time difference in East Africa, and a three hour time difference in Salvador, Brazil. Dubai can be either an eight or nine hour time difference based in the time of year. We encourage getting adequate rest prior to the trip. We do not recommend depriving yourself of rest because you may not be able to make it up during the flight.

How long is the wait time for food to be served? Food is oftentimes made to order. Guests are advised to “pack their patience” as many of these countries are not microwave societies. You can expect to wait 30 to 45 minutes for food at most non-buffet style restaurants.

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What is the traffic like? Traffic can be heavy at times and more intense than some of the worst traffic in America. This is a part of the daily routine for many countries outside of America. “Pack your patience” and enjoy observing the culture. The roads are bumpy in some places. Some countries are working to improve infrastructure.

Will I have internet service? For the most part, WiFi and 3G service is good. Be prepared for the occasional lapses in service during travel from one location to another. The WiFi does not work properly in some hotels. To avoid unwanted roaming fees, do not turn off your cellular service.

What is available in the hotel? Be prepared for a very firm mattress at some hotels. Irons and ironing boards are not standard with each room but are available upon request from the front desk at most hotels.

How can I pay for a car service? Uber and Taxi (in Ghana only) options are local currency cash-based. You can use your Uber app but will need to switch it to cash mode. Taxi only accepts Ghanaian currency. Use these services at your own risk.

What is the currency exchange? You must convert U.S. dollars to the local currency. Currency exchange kiosks are available. If you are new to currency exchange, prepare for the difference so that you can properly tip. For example, if 1\$ USD = \$5GHC (Ghanaian Cedis), understanding the difference will be key when purchasing and tipping. A \$2.00 USD tip would be \$10 GHC. If a \$2.00 GHC tip is given, that would only amount to .40 cents in USD. Knowing this will help with any sticker shock that might occur should someone ask \$10.00 GHS for a beverage. The actual cost is \$2.00 USD

How do I deal with street vendors? They can be persistent at some of the locations. Simply tell them, “No thank you,” when they ask. They will ask again. Stand firm and say, “No, thank you,” until they stop. They are non-threatening. They are trying to earn a living.

For more information, be sure to attend a [seminar](#).