

ENGAGE Brazil Information & Packing Suggestions



Hi parents and students!

We are now less than 2 months from our date of departure!!

We have met with the students a few times so far and we'll meet with them again before we travel. We are all excited about our upcoming trip! Below you will find information about the boat and a number of different aspects of the trip.

We will also provide a packing check list for the students prior to travel.

The Boat:

- **Staterooms:** There are 9 staterooms for our team. (3 Chaperones, 21 students)
 - **THIS IS NOT A CRUISE BOAT!**
 - 2 or 3 students per room. Each only has 2 beds, a full-size bed to be shared and a single-size bed.
 - Sheets are provided.
 - Students will bring a blanket as the staterooms are air conditioned and can get cool at night. It is recommended that you vacuum pack or roll in a large plastic storage bag to get the air out of the blanket to fit in a small space. It is recommended to buy a cheap blanket that you might consider just leaving in Brazil as a donation or throwing away.
 - Students will bring a pillow. It was suggested this to be a travel pillow if possible but can be a standard sized pillow if needed.
 - Each stateroom has its own SMALL bathroom and shower.
 - Students should bring 2-3 towels. Microfiber towels are recommended as they are much easier to pack and dry.
 - There is limited space for luggage.
 - The boat and the staterooms will be guarded whenever we are off the boat. Our items will not be disturbed.
- **Common Areas:**
 - The boat has common areas on the top level and in the dining area. We will all fit in the dining area, but it can be a little tight.
 - We will be eating together for meals in these locations and not in any staterooms.
- **Meals and Snacks:**
 - Examples of meals:
 - Breakfast: fresh fruit, breads, meats, tapioca, etc. prepared by the staff.
 - Lunch: (the typical big meal for Brazilians): Rice, beans, and salad are typically prepared every day. Other items will be chicken or steak; lasagna; pasta; fried chicken; grilled chicken; fried fish.
 - Dinner: typically a lighter meal in Brazil, but Mr. Ty Harris (Founder & Executive Director of Amazon Hope) said they eat BIG for dinner on the boat too!
 - Snacks are usually available on the boat as well. Fruits and crackers, etc. Students should bring specific snacks if they have dietary restrictions or preferences.
- **Cleaning Responsibilities:**
 - Each student will keep their areas picked up and tidy due to the space available.
 - Our cooking staff begin cooking at 4 am and cook all day for us. We will trade off in teams and help with clean up.

Our Travel, Service Opportunities, and Cultural Experiences

- **Translators:** We will have 4 to 6 translators traveling with us. These are usually high school or college students, but it varies with each trip. They will always be on the boat with us and working with us.
 - We will be in smaller groups for evangelism and service opportunities.
 - Each group will always have a translator.
- **Travel on the River and our Excursions:**
 - Per Mr. Harris, we will be traveling 10 to 12 hours on the Amazon River and one of its tributaries, the Rio Negro. Once on the boat, it does not take long for us to be away from the city.
 - Our excursions and service opportunities are typically in a small local area with a small dock for the boat.
Very rural! Not like cruise boat ports!
 - There are several activities, such as piranha fishing and a dolphin encounter, that will be covered by ENGAGE funds.
- **Restaurant Meals:**
 - Three meals will be at restaurants (2 dinners and 1 lunch). These meals will be covered by the ENGAGE funds.
 - Students will have one meal they will need to pay for when we spend a few hours at a mall to buy souvenirs and eat lunch.
- **Evangelism:**
 - We will be doing some door-to-door evangelism. We will go in small groups with our translators. These will be safe areas already predetermined by our Amazon Hope Team.
 - Amazon Hope uses EvangeCubes to tell the Gospel story. <https://a.co/d/9mdVBtk>
 - We have purchased these for our trip and will be training on how to use them here in the USA and on the boat with the AMAZON HOPE team. Here is a video of how to use these:
https://youtu.be/nA0_JpxJmSI

Clothing (Per Amazon Hope)

- Shorts are okay while traveling through airports or on the boat. They must be at least mid-thigh length. Bring at least 3 or 4 pairs of athletic/non-cotton shorts.
- Pants are required for ministry situations and some excursions. Preferably athletic/dry fit pants, not sweatpants.
- For the ladies, a dress or skirt (or nice pants) are necessary for when we are interacting with the river communities and at church services. Low cut, tank tops, tight fitting shirts or shirts with spaghetti straps are not appropriate. Shirts should cover your entire midriff area no matter what position you are in.
 - **NOTE:** All of our Brazilian partners are conservative, some are very conservative. We want to represent Christ well, so attire should be very modest.
- Flip flops are okay for travel and on the boat, but not recommended for ministry times as your team will be walking a lot. Due to the humidity and water, please don't plan to wear Birkenstocks. They potentially will be damaged.
- Two pairs of closed-toe shoes are recommended. The Amazon has water everywhere! Your shoes may get wet at some point, and a second dry pair will come in handy.
- **Five interchangeable pairs of clothes are sufficient.**
 - We have a washing machine and a lady who does laundry on the boat! Turnaround time for laundry is usually 2 days. Preferably dark colored t-shirts (white shirts get stained and dirty easily). Laundry is mixed together, so please bring clothing items you can identify easily when mixed with clothing from other team members.
- **PACK SOME OF YOUR CLOTHES IN YOUR CARRY-ON BAG!** Bags get lost at times at the airport. Plus, floor space in the boat cabins is limited.

- You may pack your blanket (you may want a 2nd one for the airplane), extra shoes, extra materials, donation medicines, etc. in your checked bag. HOWEVER, once on the boat, you will empty your check-in suitcase in your room and the suitcase itself will go into the hull. This is the only way to have space in the staterooms.
- 2 bathing suits. Bathing suits need to be modest. Modest 2-piece bathing suits can be worn if you wear a tank top or t-shirt over it.
- Socks and undergarments for each day.
- Pajamas – it can get cold in the rooms at night if the air conditioning is turned down low.
- Make sure to set aside a clean outfit for the return trip back to Phoenix.

Other Packing Items:

- See above regarding blanket.
- Adapters for electronics. Our boat will have 110 V electricity, but the Brazilian style plug has two round plugs.
 - We will provide each student with ONE of these adaptors, but you may certainly purchase others, if you prefer. Keep in mind, students should not bring many electronic devices.
 - These are the same as the European plugs with 2 round plugs. Here is an example: <https://a.co/d/2aGrx3h>
- Please do not bring any jewelry or valuables. Watches are fine. Air Pods are fine, etc. We just don't want to stand out any more than is necessary.
- Water Bottle (lightweight) – Some students benefited from having a 2nd, smaller water bottle.
- Bug spray, sunscreen, aloe vera
- Small led flashlight
- Small backpack, like a string bag to carry items while we are walking
- Ziplock bags (gallon-sized) to keep things dry will be helpful.
- Personal medications (Travel Sized!) - like Tylenol or Advil, Hydrocortisone (anti-itch cream for mosquito & bug bites), Tums or other stomach meds, sinus/allergy medications, or whatever else you might take on a normal basis. You will be exposed to many new things! Amazon jungle's plants & pollen, new foods, new water, insects, etc. **We will have a First Aid Kit with all these items as well.
- **Optional but helpful:**
 - A waterproof cover/bag for their cell phone would be helpful.
 - A very small travel pack of wet wipes would be helpful. Of course, these will be placed in the trash cans only.
 - A very small cooling neck towel. It will be very humid and hot. We'll be sweating a lot.
 - EXTRA deodorant.
 - Very lightweight jacket for airplane and/or evenings on the boat in the air conditioner.
 - Rain poncho (very thin, disposable type)
 - Hat
 - Deck of cards or other small (pocket-sized) non-electronic things to do
 - Small power strip
 - Shower sandals/flip-flops
 - Electrolyte powder mixes to put in water bottles at the end of the day

Money:

- It is recommended to bring \$200 cash in US Dollars.
 - \$100 cash in US Dollars for the airports.
 - We will change \$100 of that into Real (the Brazilian Currency).
 - The current exchange is USD \$1 = R\$5,00.

- Brazilian money will be spent on various activities (see above), juices or drinks or snacks (off the boat, when available), shopping for souvenirs, etc.
 - Keep in mind: There are no “free” refills on any drinks at any time. Drinks are smaller than in the US and are usually served with only 3-4 pieces of ice.
 - In Brazil, just as in the USA, there may be people who beg or ask for money. We recommend not giving them money of any kind (US Dollars or Brazilian Reais)

Cell Phones:

- It is suggested to get an international plan before you leave. This could be a calling card you can use from your phone or talk to your service provider about your options.
- Roaming charges are VERY Expensive. Please review your plan’s rates!
- Per Dr. Tonkinson, these are the expectations of all ENGAGE trips:
 - Communication Policy
 - Cannot communicate with other trips during the length of the trip
 - Can only communicate with parents based on lead chaperone’s discretion
 - Social Media Policy
 - Cannot post on social media during the length of the trip
 - Cannot make negative posts before, during, after the trip
- Per Amazon Hope, they would love and appreciate being tagged in pictures (AFTER THE TRIP) on social media; however, you may NOT tag them in any pictures with animals of any kind.

Vaccinations and Travel Medications:

- VCS and Amazon Hope are advising you to talk to your doctor about their recommendations for your child.
 - Historically, some Amazon Hope travelers usually get a prescription for malaria medication, but no other immunizations. Again, please talk to your doctor. We are not providing any medical advice of any kind.
 - **Please make sure the student’s tetanus shots are up to date.
 - COVID vaccination cards or a negative COVID-19 Test is not required to enter Brazil.

Ministry Opportunities:

- Reading glass clinics and medical clinics are two of our main ministry events. We will need people to help with eye charts and with medicine distribution, as well as sharing the gospel. Children’s events are also a regular opportunity. We will need individuals to lead teaching sessions, crafts, drama, sharing the gospel, etc.
- Door-to-door evangelism is one of the best opportunities that you will have to share the gospel. Your team leader and your translator will help you in these situations, but be prepared to listen, learn, and share! These visits will also hopefully lead to follow-up opportunities for your team.
- Church services and movie nights are common as well. If you play an instrument or sing, this is a great opportunity to use your gifts.
- **EVERYONE should be prepared to share a short (5 minute) testimony.** There will also be opportunities for our team to share the gospel as well. So be prepared!

Preparing Physically:

- Physically, spend some time walking in the weeks ahead of your trip.
 - The temperature is in the 90’s and very humid.
- DRINK WATER and a lot of it while you are there.
 - Starting to hydrate on your trip through the airports is a great idea.

Preparing Spiritually:

- **Spiritually, pray and pray often!**
- We can do nothing apart from God working in and through us! Get some prayer partners who will pray for you while you are gone.
- Also, begin thinking through how to present the gospel.
 - Be prepared to quote and use scripture as you share.
 - We use the Evangecube (see below) in many situations. Bring an EvangeCube and use the guides available online to begin to prepare.

Additional Donation Opportunities:

- The clinics that we visit are always desperately in need of common medications! Ty stated that these literally can be life changing for the Amazonians. Pregnant mothers who can take vitamins of any kind improve the health of themselves and the baby. Remember, prenatal care and normal over-the-counter medications are not common in the areas we will visit due to poverty and access issues on the river.
- Often people will travel an hour or more to come to a clinic just to be able to get vitamins for their family!
- Please engage your families and friends to donate the following for you to bring:
 - Adult vitamins (any kind) – no gummies
 - Children’s vitamins – no gummies
 - Adult and Children’s Tylenol (generic brand and purchase in bulk)
 - Adult and Children’s Advil (generic brand and purchase in bulk)
 - Hydrocortisone Cream
 - Triple Antibiotic Ointment








Amazon Hope’s Information regarding the Brazil Immigration Control:

- When arriving and departing Brazil, you may be asked your reason for travel. Amazon Hope is registered as an eco-tourism group. We will do several eco-tourism activities. Please tell the agent you are there for ECO-TOURISM with Amazon Hope.
- If they ask about accommodations, tell them that you will be staying on Amazon Hope’s boat, the Paul Marin.
- **Kindness goes a long way with people.** Please remember to be kind when talking to airport personnel whether in Brazil or in the USA. These people have authority over us as we travel through airports, and they can make your travel much more difficult. So be nice!

Evangecube:



EVANGECUBE

PICTURE	WORD	SENTENCE	VERSE
	GOD	GOD loves you!	1 John 4:8, 16
	ALL	ALL are sinners.	Romans 3:23
	JESUS	JESUS died for your sins.	Romans 5:8
	BURIED	Jesus was BURIED.	1 Cor 15:4
	RAISED	God RAISED Jesus!	1 Cor 15:4
	(One) WAY	Jesus is the only WAY to God.	John 14:6
	FAITH	You must put your FAITH in Jesus.	Eph. 2:8-9

PRAYER: Romans 10:9