

HOPE '24 TOGO

October 5 - 13, 2024

COST: $2,000 + Airfare

VAPOR MINISTRIES

INFORMATION VAPOR MINISTRIES

Trips with Vapor Ministries offer a one-of-a-kind experience designed to connect you more deeply with God, His heart for those in poverty, and Vapor Ministries' role in sacrificially serving others in His name.

Your trip begins with an important time of training and orientation at Vapor Ministries' headquarters in the beautiful countryside of Alabama. After learning about cross-cultural service, you'll embark on a life-changing adventure to our centers in Togo.

You will see firsthand the realities of the third world and be able to take part in a relevant & and effective solution to a worldwide crisis as you participate in the vision of Vapor Ministries. You will powerfully connect with two different communities in Togo and experience life there in unforgettable ways.

Vapor Ministries establishes sustainable centers for alleviating poverty and multiplying disciples in third-world environments.

DEADLINES

May 1, 2024	$200 Deposit
July 1, 2024	$1,800 Trip Cost
September 1, 2024	Airfare

* Airfare costs will be quoted no later than 6 months before your trip. Cost does not include transportation from your hometown to Vapor Ministries' headquarters in Alabama. All lodging, food, and other costs for the trip are included in the cost above. Vapor Ministries does everything in its power to responsibly steward God's resources.

COME LEARN!
COME SEE!



Trip participants come from a wide variety of backgrounds. Some people come with little international travel experience, while others may consider themselves "mission trip junkies." We thank God for all who seek to participate in His global agenda more actively. There are many amazing, Kingdom-minded entities serving the nations in various ways and with various methods for how their specific entity's trips are carried out. At Vapor Ministries, we have a very focused mission. In light of our commitment to pursue solely this mission, we feel that it is important to share with you who we are and how that affects Vapor Ministries' trips.

Vapor Ministries establishes sustainable centers for alleviating poverty and multiplying disciples in third-world environments.

You may notice the absence of the word "trips" in the above statement. So... then why do we take trips? Great question!

We take people on trips with Vapor Ministries because, when carried out well, trips can greatly impact people's lives and ultimately serve to support our overall mission.

In order to stay missionally focused, while providing a powerful international experience, we have identified four major aspects that drive how we conduct our trips:

4 TRIP DRIVERS

1. Spiritual & Personal Development

Vapor Ministries trips can be life-transforming for each participant. We equip each guest with a booklet full of personal and spiritual growth material. A Vapor Ministries leader helps unpack Biblical teachings each morning of the trip. Each afternoon, your leader facilitates community-debriefing times where participants can work through their experiences. Each evening, trip participants are encouraged to personally capture what is happening in their hearts using their Vapor Ministries journal. We have found that a "trip done well" can catalyze spiritual growth long after a trip participant's return.

2. Awareness & Advocacy Experience

Vapor Ministries trips can help individuals connect their voice with the billions of under-heard people living in poverty, who often lack adequate representation. Our trips provide an opportunity to experience a small taste of how life is in third-world environments. We create space to build understanding and form relationships with amazing men, women and children living in some of the poorest places on earth. Our hope is that in the process, statistics actually become names, faces and relationships. We pray that when participants return, advocacy becomes a natural byproduct of the time spent with those we serve.



4 TRIP DRIVERS



3. Mission & Vision Participation

Vapor Ministries trips provide service opportunities. We invite individuals and families to be participants in our ongoing mission. Whether someone is traveling to one of our operating centers or a center still in its implementing phase, there is always a "doing" portion of a trip. We plug guests into service roles under the guidance of our indigenous leaders in a way that lifts our international staff. Though this portion of a trip does not control the calendar, it is integral. Whether trip participants find themselves primarily sharing the gospel, helping teach a lesson, or laying a little brick, all service given at centers (in a culturally sensitive and wise manner) will outlive a trip participant's time spent serving.

4. Cross-Cultural Encounter

Vapor Ministries trips provide rich cultural experiences, where participants can absorb life done a little differently in another part of the world. Participants have unique opportunities to participate in customs common to the areas in which we serve. From bargaining in local markets, to tasting local cuisine, to viewing local scenery and praising our Maker in native tongues, trip participants learn about another culture firsthand. We ensure that there is a healthy mix of familiar and foreign aspects to the trip. We hope that the cultural aspects of our trips help participants better embrace how Christ is uniquely working in all nations.

VAPOR MINISTRIES TRIPS

Simply put, Vapor Ministries' very focused mission is to establish self-sustaining centers for alleviating poverty and multiplying disciples in third-world environments. Trips are not our main goal or focus. Yet they are very important to Vapor Ministries.

It is our desire and intention to protect our centers' regular activities and outreach with as minimal interruption as possible. We aim to lift and encourage our international staff and, as a team, will defer to Vapor Ministries leadership and guidance when decisions need to be made.

As you will see in your cross-cultural training, the American way of life is different from where we serve. We will leave our "normal" behind and enjoy a new point of view where every moment is not clock-driven or agenda-dictated.

It is not about "us" and "them." Instead, it's all about "HIM." Remember that we always represent Christ and His love in every circumstance.

Space has been created to build an understanding of the devastating, abject poverty many people experience daily. We hope that statistics become names and faces in the process. We pray that advocacy will be a natural byproduct of the time spent with those we serve this week when you return from your trip.

Whatever part you play in the work at the center on your trip, you can know that your service will outlive your time there. This short-term trip will have a long-term impact that you may never even know this side of Heaven.

MEET NEEDS. FEED SOULS. ELEVATE GOD.

TRIP CANCELATION

Guest Initiated Cancelation

If a confirmed guest decides not to go on their trip, regardless of the reason, he or she is not guaranteed any refund. However, Vapor Ministries will do our best to refund whatever portion has yet to be passed on to the various service providers we use. That guest will be responsible for paying all non-refundable deposits and their share of any pre-arranged group activities such as humanitarian aid items, work projects, group tours, etc.

Vapor Ministries Initiated Cancelation

Lack of Interest

Vapor Ministries secures group rates and plans trips based on a minimum of 12 participants per trip. If a trip reached three months before launch with fewer than 12 guests, we may have to cancel the trip. If Vapor Ministries cancels a trip due to lack of interest, guests will be reassigned to another trip as soon as possible. If guests cannot be reassigned, they will receive a refund for all monies sent to Vapor Ministries for that trip.

Safety & Security

Vapor Ministries does our best to stay on top of world events, weather forecasts, and security concerns in the areas we serve. While each individual on a team is responsible for making his or her own decision about whether their personal security would be at risk, there may be a time when Vapor Ministries feels that the security of our team is at too great a risk to continue with a trip. Criteria for this decision are available upon request. If Vapor Ministries cancels a trip due to safety concerns, guests will be reassigned to another trip as soon as possible. If guests cannot be reassigned, they will receive a refund for all monies sent to Vapor Ministries except any lost deposits or non-refundable pre-paid items.

TO SECURE YOUR SPOT

1

Trip Application

Request an application at VaporMinistries.org/trips or by emailing trips@vaporministries.org

2

Passport copy

Make a color scan or take a clear picture of the information page of your passport and email it to: trips@vaporministries.org

3

$200 Deposit

You can pay online at VaporMinistries.org/trip-payment
or send in a check to:
Vapor Ministries
338 Talladega Springs Rd
Sylacauga, AL 35151



Vapor Ministries handles all trip logistics and guides participants through the application process, ensuring that each Vapor trip goes smoothly and successfully. Please email trips@vaporministries.org if you have any questions, or visit www.vaporministries.org/trips for more trip information. Please note that each trip participant is not considered “confirmed” until we have received a trip application and initial deposit. Vapor Ministries trips can fill up quickly, so please secure your spot early!

FAQ'S

1. What payment and application deadlines do I need to meet to participate in a trip?

Traditionally, a deposit of $200, a completed application, and a color copy of your passport information page will secure your spot on the trip.

2. What do we do on a Vapor Ministries trip?

At Vapor Ministries, we have a very focused mission. We intentionally schedule and plan each trip to maintain this focus while providing a powerful international experience. All Vapor Ministries' trips start with a time of cross-cultural training and orientation at our headquarters in Sylacauga, AL. From there, your team will travel to our center, where you will see and experience Vapor Ministries' work in various ways. As a trip group, you will experience daily operations at the center, youth and staff discipleship, league practice, a small work project, meals in staff homes, community interaction, and immersion in a different culture. Space has been created in schedule to build an understanding of the devastating, abject poverty so many people experience daily. We hope that in this process, statistics become names and faces. We pray that advocacy will be a natural byproduct of the time spent with those we serve this week when you return from your trip.

3. Visas

For most of our trips, your visa can be taken care of once the trip has started. We have built the visa into your trip cost for trips to Haiti and Togo, so you don't have to make any arrangements in advance. For Kenya trips, visas must be applied online, costing $50. We have an information packet for that and will help you walk through the process.

4. Vaccines/Medications

Vapor Ministries does not require trip participants to receive certain vaccinations to participate in Vapor Ministries trips, and we cannot legally make personal recommendations for trip participants. We do, however, recommend that each participant visit the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's Website to learn about which vaccines and/or medications are recommended for travelers who visit the specific country you will be visiting on your Vapor Ministries trip and that you also discuss the best options for you with your family doctor or travel doctor.

5. What if I can't play soccer?

That's okay! Vapor Ministries is much more than sports! You'll have plenty of opportunities to interact with kids in the leagues, encouraging them and getting to know them--and you don't have to be the least bit athletic to do that!

FAQ'S

6. Can I fundraise my trip?

Many people choose to pay for their trip through fundraising efforts. We can provide you with information to help supplement your efforts. Whether you are personally paying for your trip or others are contributing, the same deadlines apply.

7. Can I meet the child I'm sponsoring through Hasmin's Friends?

If you are visiting the center your child attends, we may be able to schedule a meeting with your child, your child's family, and the Education Coordinator at the center. If you would like more information about the Hasmin's Friends program, please email trips@vaporministries.org for more info.

8. What if Vapor Ministries cancels the trip? What if I need to drop out of a trip?

Please see our Trip Cancellation Policy in this trip packet.

9. What is the dress code for Vapor Ministries trips Are women expected to wear skirts in the cultures we are visiting?

We do not have a strict dress code, except for asking guests to refrain from wearing spaghetti strap shirts, very short shorts, or t-shirts with inappropriate messages. In the areas where we work, women are not expected to wear only skirts. Some of our female guests find them more comfortable, while some would rather wear longer shorts or pants. You are welcome to pack as you choose. As you prepare for the trip, please keep in mind that you represent yourself and Vapor Ministries and Christ.

10. I would like to bring some items to leave behind at the center. What items are needed, and what procedure do I need to follow?

If you are interested in doing this, please email trips@vaporministries.org for information on what you can bring. If you would like to pack clothes to wear on the trip and leave them at the center, there will be a time on the last day when you can set aside items (both items you wore and items that you didn't wear).

11. I have traveled a lot - do I really need to come to the Cross-Cultural Training?

Just like two families on the same street can have very different cultures inside their respective houses, the different locations we work in have different cultures. Cross-cultural training is a very intentional and necessary time to get to know your teammates and learn about the culture of the communities you will be visiting and the culture of the Vapor Ministries' centers. This time of cross-cultural training will take place on the first day of your trip at our headquarters in Sylacauga, AL.