

Frequently Asked Questions

Transforming Lives on Two Continents

Our passion is for...

"The villages of the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the Amazon." – *Habakkuk 2:14 (AO Paraphrase)*

The Amazon River Basin is home to over 30,000 villages, yet only 20% have an evangelical presence. These humble Ribeirinhos (River People) often call themselves "The Forgotten People," living in deep material and spiritual poverty.

Despite these challenges, God is moving. According to the *Wall Street Journal*, the Amazon region now leads Brazil in conversions to Christ. **Amazon Outreach** is a bridge for this movement, mobilizing the American church to meet physical, relational, and spiritual needs. In 26 years, we have sent 9,000 volunteers, served 300,000 villagers, and drilled 260 water wells.

"People will not believe the words of your mouth until they feel the touch of your hands." – *Dr. Richard Walker, Missionary to Brazil*

WHAT WE DO

Amazon Outreach mobilizes short-term mission teams to support Brazilian churches in making disciples by sharing Jesus' love throughout the Amazon River Basin. We follow Jesus' holistic approach, addressing physical, relational, and spiritual needs at the same time. We meet physical needs through medical, dental, vision, and clean water ministries. We also address relational needs through ministries focused on men, women, children, and sports. By meeting physical and relational needs, we create a powerful bridge for the gospel.

WHY WE GO

The people of the Amazon call themselves "The Forgotten People." These humble Ribeirinhos (River People) live in deep material and spiritual poverty. Many villages are closed to local missionaries, but are very receptive to American teams offering medical, dental, and water services—local missionaries often call us "The Crow Bar Ministry."

Unfortunately, the vast majority of the population lacks access to the gospel. Villagers often hold a syncretized religion of diluted Christianity, Spiritism, and Macumba (voodoo), making them open to the gospel of Jesus Christ. The fields are ripe for harvest.

The Amazon River is vast, and its levels fluctuate by 40 feet each year, making the villages difficult to reach and navigate. Many villages are inaccessible by road, and few organizations, such as Amazon Outreach, serve these communities.

IS IT SAFE

All international travel carries inherent risks. However, over the past 26 years, we have successfully mobilized more than 9,000 people, and everyone has returned safely. Our experienced Brazilian staff, including naval-certified captains, sailors, and cooks, ensures the safety of each trip. For the latest travel advisories, please refer to the State Department's Brazil International Travel Information.

[Brazil International Travel Information](#)

WHAT VACCINATIONS/PRESCRIPTIONS ARE RECOMMENDED

No vaccinations are required to enter Brazil, but the CDC recommends several. <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/brazil>.

WHAT IS THE COST

The trip costs \$1,850, plus airfare and any selected extras (hotel and restaurants). Your trip leader will provide your price. This will cover airfare, food, lodging, transportation, medical/life travel insurance, and laundry services. However, it does not include personal items such as passports, visas, vaccines, airport meals, or gratuities. We also provide fundraising training and a personal fundraising link for tax-deductible online donations.

DO I NEED A PASSPORT

YES.

If you have a passport, make sure it has two blank pages and that the expiration date is at least 6 months beyond your return date. Example: If you arrive on July 1, 2026, your passport should not expire before January 1, 2027.

ARE VISAS REQUIRED

eVisas are required to enter Brazil. They are valid for 10 years and cost approximately \$80. For more details, please visit our website's resources page and click on the "eVisa" tab.

WHAT IS THE AO REFUND POLICY

Amazon Outreach (AO) is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt nonprofit organization. Tax-deductible donations made to support a trip fee are non-refundable and are not contingent upon a team member's participation in the trip. If a team member needs to withdraw or if a trip is canceled, donations towards their trip will be retained as a trip credit (minus any potential airline penalties and credits) for no less than one year after the original trip date. Expired AO trip credits will be used by AO to further its charitable purposes.

WHAT IS THE AIRLINE'S CANCELED TICKET POLICY

If an airline ticket has been purchased, AO will deduct the original ticket value from the team member's AO trip credit. The airline will retain ownership of the credit (not AO), and it must be redeemed through the HighPoint Travel agency for any flight within one year of the original

purchase date (not the original travel date). Please note that airline credits may be less than the original ticket value due to cancellation penalties. Occasionally, AO can utilize team members' airline credits with an additional name change fee. If AO can redeem a team member's airline credit, the value (minus any name change fees) will be applied to the team member's AO trip credit, extending the timeframe to redeem the airline credit by an additional year.

WHERE WILL WE GO

We will fly into Manaus, Brazil, where a commercial bus will transport the team from the airport to the mission boat (approximately a 30-minute journey). The team will spend the night aboard the boat as it travels toward our first village. Our Brazilian church partners will select the villages we serve.

WHO WILL WE SERVE

We primarily serve the local pastors and missionaries working in the Amazon River Basin. In partnership with them, we also support the Ribeirinhos (river people) and Indigenous tribes along the Amazon River.

WHAT WILL WE DO

Each trip is tailored based on the team's skills and abilities. Activities may include medical, dental, and eyeglass services, as well as Vacation Bible School (VBS), youth ministry, evangelism, water well drilling, and construction projects. We often play soccer to build connections and also creatively use other skills such as hair cutting, nail polishing, hair braiding, photography, and journalism. Our final day typically includes time for tourism and souvenir shopping.

HOW MANY PEOPLE CAN GO

Each trip requires a minimum of 20 participants and can accommodate up to 32 per boat. This includes everyone from middle schoolers to senior adults. Additionally, 20 to 30 Brazilians will join the team, including missionaries, pastors, translators, sailors, cooks, and laundry staff.

WHERE WILL WE EAT, SLEEP, ETC?

Our beautiful triple-decker mission boats serve as transportation, accommodations, dining areas, and mission bases. Team members sleep in open-air hammocks, but we also have a few air-conditioned cabins designated as sick bays.

WHAT DOES A TYPICAL WEEK ON THE RIVER LOOK LIKE

- Day 1: Arrival & Departure – You will fly into Manaus and board the mission boat, where you'll set up your hammock for the night as the vessel begins its journey.
- Day 2: River Transit – Spend the day traveling deeper into the Amazon River Basin toward the first village.
- Days 3–7: Village Ministry – These days are dedicated to hands-on service, including medical care, clean water projects, and sharing the gospel.
- Day 8: Reflections in Manaus – The boat returns to Manaus, allowing time for local exploration and souvenir shopping.

- Day 9: Journey Home – The team departs Brazil and arrives back home.

INTERESTED IN WHAT A TYPICAL DAY IN A VILLAGE LOOKS LIKE

(View our [AO YouTube Channel](#))

A typical day in a village looks like this:

- 06:00 AM: Sunrise & Personal Devotions
- 08:00 AM: Team Assignments & Prayer
- 09:00 AM: Village Ministry (Medical, Dental, Water, VBS)
- 12:00 PM: Lunch & Rest
- 02:00 PM: Specialized Ministries (Men's, Women's, and Youth)
- 04:00 PM: Worship Service & Soccer
- 06:00 PM: Dinner & Sunset
- 07:00 PM: Debriefing & Community Worship

LASTING IMPACT

We don't just leave when the boat sails away. One of our five Brazilian church partners will continue work with disciple-making, leadership training, and church planting. We invite churches to "adopt a tributary" for long-term development.

CONNECT WITH US

- **Website:** <https://amazonoutreach.org/>
- **YouTube:** https://www.youtube.com/@amazon_outreach/playlists
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