

1) Be **2 Hours Early** to the Airport

2) **Find your passport now.**

3) This is **NOT** an American Express vacation. This is **NOT** a tour. This is a work trip to a developing country. Part of the fun is all the things that go wrong. Expect it. Enjoy it. Be flexible. Practice being “Gumby”.



4) Things to bring:

a) **Your passport.**

b) **Mosquito repellent. Extra mosquito repellent.**

c) **Sun screen.**

d) **A flashlight with extra batteries.**

e) **A personal water bottle.**

f) **Twin sheets, a towel, an airline style blanket/throw, and washcloths. (Sheet and towels and blankets are optional, they are available at the orphanage)**

g) **Foam Ear plugs (The chickens and donkeys and snorers can be loud at night!)**

h) **A camera, extra camera batteries and film or memory cards. Double the film or memory you think you will need.**

i) **Work gloves**

j) **Personal toiletry items, including soap, you may need. Instant hand sanitizer is helpful.**

k) **Just in case—items for stomach issues—Pepto Bismol, immodium, etc.**

l) **An extra pair of glasses or contacts, if you use them.**

m) **A plastic garbage bag to store your dirty clothes for your trip home. OO does not provide them.**

n) **Guys—bring at least one pair of pants for working in the schools. If you plan to go to church, bring long pants and a nice polo or dress shirt.**

o) **Women - The Pentecostal orphanages and professional Dominican women dress very modestly. Wear skirts or pants or capris below the knee. NO shorts, tank tops, or sleeveless dresses. Long shorts can only be worn while running before breakfast, or to wear over your swimsuit if you go to the beach with the kids. A one piece swimsuit always. If you plan to go to church, bring a long dress or skirt and blouse.**

p) **You will receive one OO tee-shirt prior to your trip to wear on your flight, and you'll receive additional OO shirts when you arrive in the D.R.**

q) **If you are under age 18 and not traveling with a parent, complete the Temporary Guardianship Form and give it to your temporary guardian traveling with you.**

5) For those who may need to reach you in case of an emergency, have them leave a message on the Orphanage Outreach machine **(602) 375-2900**. We will check messages daily. It is an Orphanage Outreach requirement that you call someone at home with an “arrived safe” message. Please coordinate this in advance of your trip so your family knows who you are going to call. Please tell people **NOT** to expect a “Got there O.K.” call from you until at least 24 hours after you arrive. Phone calls during the week will be limited to emergency calls only. We find that phone calls during the week can be a significant distraction from your work at the orphanage. If you are staying more than one week, you will be able to call home on the weekend. Phone cards will not work; plan on spending approximately 40 cents per minute to call home. If you bring your own cell phone, you will be asked to put it away after your “Got there O.K. call home. You will have access to a phone if you have an emergency in the Dominican Republic.

6) Your housing, food, ground transportation, and insurance is covered through your donation. The amount of spending money you need will be minimal. You will need \$10 to enter the country and \$10 to exit the country. You will need money to make a phone call home, to buy an occasional soda, buy any miscellaneous personal items you may need, etc. Some volunteers have spent less than \$10 during a week at the orphanage. You will probably not have access to an ATM machine, unless you are at the orphanage for more than a week. Our suggestion is to bring \$100 in cash (not traveler’s checks), and to not change money until you arrive in the Dominican Republic.

7) Most airlines allow you to bring two large (up to 50 pounds each) pieces of luggage to check in; confirm with your airline. Also check to see if there are any special luggage embargoes on your airline, i.e. no checked boxes. We request that you bring all personal essentials and one week of clothing in your carry-on, as it may take a week to return to the airport to pick up lost luggage.

Final Travel Notes

I suggest making two copies of your passport; put one copy in your suitcase separate from your original, and leave one copy at home with a friend or family member. If somehow you were to lose your identification in the D.R., having access to a copy would help the return process greatly. You will be able to put your passport in a safe at the orphanage. If you are under 18 and not traveling with your parents, please complete the Temporary Guardianship Form and give it to the temporary legal guardian traveling with you.

You will receive an Orphanage Outreach shirt prior to your trip. Please wear your Orphanage Outreach tee-shirt to the airport. It will help you identify other volunteers, and help them to identify you. Most of you will be traveling with other volunteers, at least from Miami or JFK. If not, just follow the directions below. You won't have any problems.

When you land in the Dominican Republic, you'll exit the plane. Follow the crowd, and you will get to a big room for immigration where people are standing in line. Look for a desk with a sign that says "Tourist Card". You'll need to purchase a tourist card for \$10 in U.S. funds.

You will then pick up your luggage, go through customs (they might inspect your luggage), and then go outside. Do not wait for a big group to congregate before going through customs; just grab your luggage and head out. We will be waiting outside with the bus ready to go to the orphanage. Note: Please bring only suitcases, not boxes. Customs will often let you through without inspecting your suitcases, boxes are always inspected. If your bags are lost by the airline, give them this address to deliver them to: Hogar la Esperanza de un Nino, Calle Altagracia #80, Monte Cristi. Make sure they write their phone number on the claim slip they give to you.

When you exit the airport terminal, we'll be waiting for you with Orphanage Outreach tee-shirts on. Baggage handlers will be asking to help you with your luggage. They can be quite assertive. I suggest, unless you really need help, to refuse their assistance unless you are willing to pay a tip of \$1-2 per bag. We'll collect in a group until all the volunteers are there. You will have a chance to use the bathroom and, depending on the time of the day, **possibly** change some money, get a soda, and call home. Please bring a water bottle with you, both for the trip and for your use at the orphanage. Also, bring enough snacks to sustain you during your airline trip and bus trip to the orphanage. Please tell your family not to expect a call home until 24 hours after your arrival.

If flights are full and the airlines offers you a travel voucher to take a later flight (even the next day) and you are willing to donate your voucher to Orphanage Outreach, you are encouraged to accept the voucher. Call us, and let us know the new flight you will be arriving into the D.R. We will meet you at the airport on your new flight. Do not accept a flight into any airport other than the Santiago airport. Your travel vouchers are valuable, especially if a group of you gets bumped. Those funds can mean a great deal to the orphanage. If you are not willing to donate your voucher, please do not accept the voucher.

Note: If you miss a flight and are not on the flight you are supposed to be on in getting to the Dominican Republic, please communicate by calling our number in Arizona: (602) 375-2900. Please leave a message, let us know your status, and when you will be arriving into the Dominican Republic (date/airport/flight #/arrival time). We will plan to be at the airport when you arrive. Remember, please call our number in Arizona and leave a message if your travel does not happen as planned.

If the airline loses your luggage, you will need to report it by the luggage area. The airline attendants will speak English. The orphanage address is:

Hogar La Esperanza de un Nino (Hogar para Ninos)
Calle Altagracia #80
Monte Cristi
Phone 829-342-6379

Remember to get a claim slip from them.

Have a great trip!