



LA CASA DE CRISTO

LUTHERAN CHURCH

SOUTH AFRICA MISSION TRIP 2027



Welcome to La Casa de Cristo's mission trip to South Africa! Working together, we will continue to build on our great relationship with Orchard: Africa & our partner churches in the NW region of South Africa! We will work, play, and worship together alongside our brothers and sisters in Christ! We will be the family of God together!

LA CASA DE CRISTO'S RELATIONSHIP WITH ORCHARD: AFRICA

La Casa de Cristo has been a partner with Orchard: Africa for more than two decades, serving children and their families in three different communities in the Northwest Region of South Africa.



OUR MISSION

This trip is all about relationships. The first most important relationship is our relationship with God. This trip will help us all grow in our life of faith with our Savior. We will pray, worship, and praise God in all that we do. The second most important relationship is the one that we will build with each other and with our Christian brothers and sisters in the NW region of South Africa. We will be celebrating that we are truly one family of God. Our mission is to strengthen the bond between all of our churches and thus strengthen the bond of the entire Christian Church on earth.

DATES

This year's trip is **July 15-26, 2027.**

COST

The price of the trip includes airfare, all ground transportation in South Africa, lodging at the mission house/impact center, all meals at the mission site, safe purified drinking water, and most importantly, mission support for the local church/village in the NW region of South Africa/Mareestane.

Price: \$3800.

**Youth scholarships are available*

PASSPORTS AND VISAS

You need a valid passport that allows you to travel into South Africa from the United States of America and also return back out of South Africa and back into the United States of America. A visa is not required for visits under 90 days in South Africa. Upon arrival into Johannesburg, we will go through customs and immigration. Make sure your passport has 2 consecutive blank pages upon entry. We will be traveling as a group through this process so you have nothing to worry about.

ENGLISH

At all times we will be accompanied by local Orchard: Africa staff, both at the Impact Center and in the village/church. They speak English and will assist in translating with the children and other adults.

VACCINATIONS AND HEALTH

No specific vaccinations are recommended for South Africa outside of what your doctor already recommends for you. We do recommend that your tetanus shot is up to date. If you have any questions about vaccinations or health-related inquiries please speak with your doctor. Please make Pastor Garman and the group aware of any health issues that may potentially effect the trip. Label clearly any doctor-prescribed medications that you are bringing with you.

TEAM MEETINGS

Preparation meetings are an important part of the mission. We will be preparing ourselves as a team and planning our mission projects together. All registered participants will receive notifications of the meetings.

MEALS

All meals, while we are at the Impact Center/Mission House in South Africa, are included. If you have special dietary needs please share them with Pastor Garman at registration.

Food that is safely prepared and safe for consumption will be shared on the trip. Meals in airports, in transit, or at restaurants not at the mission site are not included. There will be opportunities for snacks as we travel.

SCHEDULE

The exact itinerary can change based on needs that come up or weather circumstances, but a general outline of our week may look like this:

Friday - Arrive into Johannesburg and stay overnight at the City Lodge Hotel at the Johannesburg Airport. Dinner and breakfast the next morning will be served at the hotel restaurant.

Saturday - Drive to the Impact Center/Mission House in Mahikeng by van, possible church visit on the way.

Sunday - Worship at the church in Mareetsane village. Projects / Devotions / Prep for VBS that evening.

Monday - Projects at the Impact Center / VBS in the Village

Tuesday - Projects at the Impact Center / VBS in the Village / Possible clinic visit

Wednesday - Projects at the Impact Center / VBS in the Village / Projects in the Village-Garden, Playground, Preschool

Thursday - Projects at the Impact Center / VBS in the Village / Projects in the Village-Garden, Playground, Preschool

Friday - Leave Impact Center and Drive to Kwa Maritane Lodge / Stop at Local Markets

Saturday - Sunrise Game Drive / Sunset Game Drive

Sunday - Drive to Johannesburg and depart on flight back home to Phoenix.

Note: The drive between the Mission House in Mahikeng and the village in Mareetsane is about an hour each direction

SLEEPING ROOMS

A critical component to a successful Mission Trip is having a safe, relaxing oasis where you can decompress from all that you experience each day and bond with your teammates. Orchard: Africa's 18-bed guesthouse is just that. With Western amenities, and clean, comfortable living spaces, you'll feel immersed in the Mahikeng culture, yet perfectly at home. The mission site has different rooms with multiple bunk beds in them. You will claim a bed for yourself and make it your home for the week. There will be separate male and female rooms.

BEDDING

Beds and bedding are supplied for you by the mission site. Full bedding, with a pillow, sheets, and a blanket will be waiting for you on site. If you have your own favorite pillow or anything that you need, you are free to bring your own along.

OUTLETS AND ELECTRICITY

You will need a travel adapter for the outlets. South Africa requires a Type M plug adapter, which features three large round prongs in a triangular configuration. There are outlets in each room, but you may consider bringing a power strip to accommodate multiple devices in your room.

BATHROOMS AND TOILETRIES

Bathrooms with toilets, showers, and sinks are located directly adjacent to your sleeping rooms. Bring your own soap or whatever you need for bathroom use. Toilet paper is supplied. It is advisable to also bring your own extra roll of toilet paper; sometimes if we are visiting somewhere off-site they don't always have toilet paper in bathrooms. We typically carry extra toilet paper in our day bag for occasions like this.

WATER

Safe drinking water is available at the Mission House at all times. Bring your own refillable water bottle so you can take advantage of staying hydrated. We will stop at the market to or from the village and can purchase bottled water.

ILLNESS

Sometimes people experience minor stomach discomfort or gastrointestinal issues. This is typically not because of anything particularly unsafe but more because our bodies are adjusting to a sudden change in diet or bacterias that we are not use to. The food at the mission site is safe and properly prepared. It is also delicious! You are going to love it!

It is advisable to take extra precautions with any food that you encounter *off* of the mission site. That food is not guaranteed to be prepared safely (i.e. vegetables are not washed, etc). It is not suggested to eat street food in the city or anywhere where we cannot guarantee that it has been prepared safely.

PHONES AND WIFI

Cell phone service is available at the Mission House. Wifi is available on at the Mission House, but we try to limit the number of devices logged into the wifi at any given time as it slows service considerably. Do not anticipate having cell coverage while in the village.

WEATHER

Mareetsane sits at about 4,921 feet above sea level. We will be there during the winter months in South Africa, which means we will experience cool, dry mid-winter conditions. Rain is virtually non-existent during this month. Daytime high temperatures average around 20°C to 22°C (68°F–72°F), while nighttime lows drop to around 2°C to 5°C (36°F–41°F).

For the Game Drives - please bring gloves, beanie/warm hat and a jacket as we will be in open air all-terrain vehicles at dawn/dusk and it gets chilly.

Lows: It can get cold at night. Expect temperatures to drop into the low 40s. The mission house has central heat and the sleeping rooms have blankets, but please come with proper sleep attire suitable for chillier temperatures.

Highs: At peak time, with full sunshine, it can be warm. Expect daytime temperatures to hover in the high 60s/low 70s. Bring layers so that you can be comfortable while we are in the village.

DEVOTIONS

We will gather together as a group and do a nightly devotion. We will read Scripture and reflect on the day. This is a good time to share "God Moments"; moments where we saw God that day. Everyone in the group will be assigned one devotion to lead. Begin with Scripture and then simply share reflections on the Scripture. The devotion can be a simple sharing or interactive or however you wish to do it. If you need assistance with this please reach out to one of our church pastors.

CRAFTS

Everyone is responsible for brainstorming and bringing the supplies to lead 1-2 craft projects. We will have opportunities to lead crafts with children of all ages while we are there. We will plan together as a team for the VBS crafts.

EMERGENCY CONTACT

Tell your friends and family: If there is an emergency while you are away and you need to be contacted, they can always contact the church office and they will be able to contact us. La Casa de Cristo Church Office: 480-948-1234, info@lacasadecristo.com

PACKING LIST

Clothing:

- Layered clothes for different temperatures 5 of 7
- Jackets / sweatshirt / sweater
- Socks
- Underwear
- Sun hat
- Pants / Skirt for church days
- Pajamas
- Shoes
- Sunglasses
- Saturday - Casual traveling clothes
- Sunday - Church clothes
- Monday - Casual clothes
- Tuesday - Casual clothes
- Wednesday - Casual clothes
- Thursday - Casual clothes
- Friday - Casual clothes / traveling clothes
- Saturday - Casual clothes - layers for the game drives (hats, gloves, jackets)



Toiletries:

- Personal Medicines
- Tummy Meds (if needed)
- Toilet Paper / Kleenex
- Soap
- Shampoo/Conditioner
- Hand sanitizer / Hand wipes
- Sunscreen
- Personal Toiletries
- Ear plugs (if you like those for sleeping)

Travel Items:

- South African Rand (ZAR) (see below)
- Phone and phone charger
- Passport
- Bible
- Refillable Water Bottle
- Extra snacks (there will be plenty of food, but if you like your own snacks...)

For Fun:

- Games (cards, other fun games to share with the group, optional)

MONEY

Occasions you may want Rand for:

- Church offering
- Traveling snacks
- Visits to the market (food or souvenirs)



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS



What ages can go on this trip?

We welcome ages 15+ on this trip. Due to the long travel, it is recommended for those in high school and older. For those that are under the age of 18, we will need a waiver signed by a parent/guardian, if a parent is not joining them on the trip.

What is Orchard: Africa?

More than three decades ago a small group of people from a local church took the words of Jesus in Matthew 25 seriously and served a pot of food for children in desperate need. Under an Acacia tree, in its cool shade, this ministry of compassion started.

Now, 30+ years and 13 million meals later, that small group has grown into an extraordinary movement of people who are making an impact in the lives of thousands of children and adults every day.

At Orchard: Africa, they believe that the smallest of seeds, planted and tended, can grow into the largest of trees where the weary can be refreshed in its branches ... for so is the kingdom of heaven. <https://www.orchardafrica.org/>

Where is this trip to?

This trip will take us through Johannesburg and up into the NW region of South Africa. The Impact Center/Mission House is located in Mahikeng, the capital of the North West province, and the village is approximately 40 miles NW Maseru.

Orchard: Africa works in and through the local church.

- The mission of the Church is to serve Jesus, to bring his message of LOVE to a broken world and to holistically care for the vulnerable (Matthew 25:31-46). We are committed to this mission.
- The Church is one of the most SUSTAINABLE community-based organizations in the world, The Church is able to reach where many other established organizations cannot.
- The church can make GENERATIONAL impact in the lives of its community as it models the compassion and love of Jesus.

How does Orchard: Africa think about impact ?

By equipping the church to care for the vulnerable in three key stages:

RELIEF - RECONSTRUCTION - DEVELOPMENT

Relief is providing for the immediate needs that impact daily life. Such as providing food and necessary items.

Reconstruction is rebuilding what was broken, healing, forgiveness, preparing to move forward.

Developing systems that create sustainable solutions for the future.

Their work involves all three stages of care, but focuses on ultimately moving communities toward long-term development.

How do I sign up?

An online registration form is available on lacasadecristo.com/southafrica

Who can I contact with questions?

Contact Pastor Garman at La Casa de Cristo Lutheran Church, 480-948-1234

Should I go on this trip?

Yes, yes you should.

