

#10 Airlines / Layovers:

Myth – The 410 Bridge books the cheapest flight, regardless of schedule, number of layovers, route.

Fact – During the busy season, we often have limited choices. The larger the group, the more difficult it is to get group seats - especially out of smaller airports. We take many, many things into consideration before we contract with the airlines for a group.

For open teams – Flight itineraries are chosen to accommodate the entire team on the same flight if at all possible. Multiple flights can cause logistical issues for our international staff.

If a flight is delayed, work with the ticket agent at the airport. The U.S. 410 Bridge staff tracks all flights and knows when a flight is delayed. We will do everything we can to get you back on schedule, however, there is very little that The 410 Bridge can control once the airline takes over the reservation.

#9 Mosquitoes / Bugs:

Bring mosquito repellent – bug spray is important. Most people in these nations live without nets and bug spray, therefore, not all hotels see a need to provide these for our teams.

#8 Food / Diet:

Too many carbohydrates and no gluten free meals.

You are going to a developing country, where food options are limited. Our hosts give us the best they have, but really have no concept of gluten free meals or too many carbohydrates. If you have a dietary need or preference, please pack food to accommodate that need or preference.

#7 Air Conditioning:

Our partner countries can be hot and not all guesthouses or hotels have air conditioning. Drink lots of water and bring a fan that sprays water, as an option.

#6 Toilets:

Typically you will use pit latrines, which means – a hole in the ground. You may wish to take a bandana with a dryer sheet wrapped inside to tie around your nose to help with the stench. Take wipes or toilet paper for use in the communities and at rest stops. It is highly likely that none will be provided.

#5 Transportation / Distance / Quality:

We rent the best transportation available in country. Air-conditioning may or may not be available. Roads are extremely rough. Flat tires are common. Getting stuck can happen. Driving is culturally different. It is fast and sometimes scary. The 410 Bridge strives to provide the safest drivers available.

I Want To Give:

The 410 Bridge does not allow any individual giving on the ground. We're committed to meeting needs in our communities without creating dependency.

Giving a gift of any size has an enormously negative impact on the community, the relationship with The 410 Bridge and future teams.

We have systems and processes in place to give and assist in a healthy manner. Talk to The 410 Bridge staff if you see a need. Suggest reading *When Helping Hurts* and/or *Toxic Charity*. The greatest impact can be made by becoming a monthly donor to The 410 Bridge.

#3 I Want More Work:

Americans like to work and see something tangible that has been accomplished by the end of the trip.

You will work on projects, however, building relationships is the focus of all 410 Bridge trips. We want to encourage and serve them, but they drive our efforts – highlight: **Push vs. Pull Guiding Principle.**

Tools are not always available – use downtime to build relationships.

The relationships you build will be far more important than the project itself.

If your service project is not completed, do not be discouraged. The community will complete the task.

#2 Guesthouse Accommodations:

The 410 Bridge arranges the best-suited accommodations available. Sometimes the distance from your lodging to your service area is great. We take many things into account, doing what we believe is best for teams in terms of safety, food preparation, comfort, etc.

Air conditioning is not common.

Having hot water and consistent electricity is not guaranteed.

#1 I want more time in the community:

Travel times to reach your service community can be long.

Available flights often dictate what we are able or not able to do in terms of getting teams to their final destination as quickly as possible.

For safety reasons, our teams cannot be on the road after dark, therefore overnights generally occur in both Nairobi and Port-au-Prince.

The duration of our trips have been established in an effort to keep trip costs within reason.