



Preparing for an Outreach to Romania

*This document is for individual visitors and mission teams of any size. Some info may not apply to every visitor but please read this document in its entirety.

- 1) **Finances:** Each visitor is financially responsible for all details in advance of their trip, from beginning to end. The daily financial obligation for each visitor once in Romania will be determined **in advance** of their trip, through communication by one of the Outstretched Hands leadership in Romania, in communication with the team leader/family leader/or individual. Team and family leaders are responsible to communicate financial obligations to their team/family in advance of the trip. The daily amount depends on the length of trip, activities that are done during their stay, the current exchange rates, fluctuations in gas and food prices, and the season of travel. Each traveler should expect to take care of their financial obligation soon after their arrival into Romania so we can get the money exchanged and available for taking care of visitor's responsibilities. When traveling with a team, all finances should be handled through the team leader or other designated persons to maintain order and minimize mistakes.

****New Cash!** Make sure that you bring very new bills that have no cracks, ink stains, or worn marks. **Bring USD or Euro to exchange upon arrival.**

- 2) **Boy/Girl relationships:** If any members of visiting teams are currently in any form of dating relationship with other team members we would like to be informed well before the team arrives here. And, if that is the case, we expect that the relationship respectfully be put on hold during their time with us. We want to make sure that visitors maintain a "team" perspective and do all activities together. We think it is best that a boy and girl do not go off alone apart from their team and so we discourage and monitor it. Visiting teams are watched very carefully by the Romanian Community since they stand out in the culture, therefore how visitors conduct themselves, especially in boy/girl interaction, can be impacting in a negative way if we don't conduct ourselves in an appropriate way that is worthy of respect.
- 3) **Clothing:** Women often have questions about what kind of clothing is acceptable to bring and wear in this culture. There is a difference in what is

considered to be “**modest**” clothing here, what can be worn in public and to church services. If you have specific questions about this, please write to Nora Hayes from the OH Team and ask her directly. If the ladies from our team notice that visitors are wearing something that might not be appropriate they will discreetly inform the visitors. In general, it is best for girls to not wear clothes that show cleavage, shorts/dresses/skirts that are not too short, tight, or provocative in any way, and for boys also to keep their shirts on and clothes not too tight. Nora’s email address is: norahayes@juno.com

- 4) **Attitudes:** The best possible attitude to come to Romania with is that you come to serve. Sometimes visitors come to Romania and think they see weaknesses in the Romanian culture or ways that they would do things *better*. Try to not think this way. Instead, allow yourself to see all the many strengths of Romanians and how you can serve and work well with them. They WILL serve you to the best of their ability. Often, people do not want to receive their blessings, and can feel guilty for accepting from what they have. Serving you is their way to bless you. Allow them this privilege. You WILL be stretched at times, be prepared for that.
- 5) **Practical serving:** Find ways you can serve the Romanians, other members of your team, and the missionaries who live in Romania. Some of the many practical ways in which you can exhibit an attitude of serving is to help in the daily washing of dishes after your meals or set up a daily rotation for jobs like this. We have sometimes been disappointed when visitors do not offer to help us and choose rather to talk while the rest of us wash dishes, load the vehicles for ministry activities, etc. Another way to serve is to make sure you leave the place where you stay cleaner than when you arrived.
- 6) **Traveling:** You may experience jet lag as you travel both ways. One very helpful and natural way to combat jet lag is Melatonin. You can buy Melatonin at any drug store or Wal-Mart. It will help you to fall asleep naturally and re-set your body’s natural time clock. This is not recommended for kids under 12.
- 7) **Housing:** We can accommodate teams of up to 50 in our homes, apartments, and Community Centre, depending on how many extended short term missionaries we have staying with us at that time. Where each team member stays are determined by their team leader and our staff based on male/female ratio of visitors, team chemistry, and the age of children traveling with parents. Husbands and wives should *not* expect to share the same room when visiting Romania with a team. Groups of over 40 can consider staying in a local hotel.
 - **Power Source is 220 in Romania but we also have 110 capability.**
- 8) **Internet/phone:** Each of our housing locations has internet, a computer, and wi-fi. It is best to always ask permission before using computers and keep the time to a bare minimum. If visitors must make long distance phone calls to their home country, they can purchase international calling cards in Romania. We have at times been surprised by large phone bills the month after a team leaves.

9) **De-briefing:** It is good to set a time after you return home and are rested to meet as a team and talk about what you experienced, how the Lord changed you, and what you learned. Also, talk as a team about ways that you can stay connected, whether through e-mail, sending care packages, or financially supporting OH Team members or activities you met or were involved with while in Romania. Also, as a team, talk about how you can become involved with OH and how you can get other people involved too. Remember to send a thank you and trip report to those who supported you.

10) **Fund raising:** There are many ways to go about this. You can be as creative as you would like to be. One great way to begin is have each team member send out a support letter to the people closest to them, asking for prayer and/or funds. Take time to review some of the following websites which are rich in fundraising ideas for mission trips.

www.shorttermmissions.com/discussion/viewtopic.php?t=150
www.reachmissiontrips.org/camp-forms/fundraising-ideas/
home.snu.edu/~hculbert/funds.htm
www.fundraiserhelp.com/7-ways-to-raise-funds-for-a-mission-trip.htm
mycrazyadoption.org/crazy-fundraiser-for-a-mission-trip/#sthash.PMKxzYD0.dpbs
<http://www.buckner.org/blog/ways-to-raise-money-for-your-mission-trip-part-i/>
<http://www.whatchristianswanttoknow.com/7-fundraising-ideas-for-mission-trips/>

11) **Airfare:** There are a few different ways to look for the best price in airfare.

- **Websites:** The very cheapest websites tend to be hotwire.com, cheaptickets.com, travelocity.com, priceline.com, expedia.com, and justfly.com. On these websites, you can often choose options of flexible dates, and they will show you the BEST deals.
- **Travel Agents:** You can call a travel agent and let them do the “leg work” for finding the best deal. Our organization travel agent is Aero Travel in Oradea, Romania and very often gets a good rate. You can contact them by emailing Cornel Caba at cckba@yahoo.com, or his assistant Livia Sabu at livia.sabau@aerotravel.ro Mention you were referred by Brad Hayes with Outstretched Hands. Groups of ten + qualify for “team rate discounts”.
- **Calling airlines:** A couple months before you plan to travel you can call all the major airlines and find out if they have any specials or promotions coming up. Also, ask each airline what their best price is and compare. If you have 10 or more traveling, ask for the group desk and often you will receive discounted tickets. Sometimes if you mention you are doing an outreach to a third world country they will offer you an even better deal. That is rare, but it will happen occasionally. If calling from the United States, I suggest calling: Lufthansa 1-800-645-3880, KLM 1-773-462-9428, Northwest 1-800-447-4747, British Airways 1-800-AIRWAYS, Air France 1-800-237-2747, American Airlines 1-800-433-7300.

12) Passports and traveling documents: Make sure you have a **current** passport. If you do not have one, you need to work on that right away. Get official passport pictures taken, have your original birth certificate, and then go to your county's courthouse or main post office and apply for a passport. It takes about 4-6 weeks and costs around \$110.00 for adults and \$80.00 for people under 16. If you do not have much time, you can apply for an expedited passport and receive it in as fast as a week. If needed, you can also have passports done in as short as 3 days. A great resource for step by step instructions and everything you need to know about passports is travel.state.gov/passport/passport_1738.html

- You do **NOT** need a visa in Romania unless your stay is over 90 days.
- You will need to take a valid form of ID along with your passport.
- GREAT suggestion: make TWO copies of your passport: one to leave in the USA, and one to bring with you and keep in your luggage.

Sample Packing List for Romania

- Passport and plane ticket
- Bible/journal
- Small flashlight with batteries/there can be a lot of walking in the dark
- Personal toiletries
- Towel and washcloth (depending on how large your team is)
- Chap stick and lotion (your skin gets drier if it is cold)
- Long underwear (if visiting during the cold months)
- One long skirt for women /dress pants for men
- One pair of work pants or pants that could get dirty
- One pair of tennis shoes/walking shoes
- One pair of shoes that you can wear in the MUD if visiting in spring or late fall!
- Warm winter jacket, scarves, mittens, hats, etc. (Winter is Nov 1st-April 1st)
- Some kind of carrier for your money and passport (Frontpack/Moneybelt)
- We do not suggest bringing expensive jewelry (outside of wedding rings)
- It is a good idea for one or two of your team members to apply for and bring an international driver license in case there is need for an extra driver.

A few helpful suggestions:

- Pack for at least half the amount of time you will be in Romania. (Example: 10-day trip/5 days of clothing)
- Be prepared to re-wear jeans
- Bring enough undergarments for the duration of the whole trip
- **Laundry:** There are no such things as laundry mats in Calarasi, and there is always a chance something could be wrong with the washer and dryer in the ministry apartment. So, be prepared as if you could NOT do laundry.

We trust that the info we have provided for you will help prepare you and/or your team towards having an unforgettable and impacting experience in Romania.