



# Thirst

MISSIONS

2024 MISSION TRIPS





When you bring a group on a mission trip with Thirst Missions, you will be providing each member of your team with an experience that will mold them, stretch them, and grow them in ways only God can imagine.

Bring a small group or a large one. Drive or fly. Jump into service projects, mercy ministry, children's or sports ministry and into the lives of people in a unique culture that desperately need the love of Jesus Christ. Whatever location and ministries you choose, your trip will benefit the local church while providing life-changing ministry opportunities for your team.

## WHY THIRST MISSIONS?

**Choose location and type of trip** - Choose from Alaska, Appalachia, Belize, or Puerto Rico. All our trips are Private Trips, with just your group. Bring a group as small as 4 people, as large as 140 people, or a number somewhere in-between. Sleep on an air mattress or upgrade to sleeping on a comfy bed in a guest house or hotel. Serve for 6 days or extend your stay. The choices are yours!

**We're Experienced** - Since 2008, Thirst Missions has lead over 800 teams and 15,000 people on mission trips.

**Choose Ministries** - Choose ministries that suit your abilities and interests from our list of 14+ ministry options. Your chosen ministries are then matched to areas of need in your ministry location and added to your trip itinerary.

**Your Own Trip Consultant** - Each trip is planned by a Thirst Missions consultant. Your personal mission consultant will work with you to plan a trip that fits your group's goals and abilities, while answering your questions along the way.

You'll also receive the most thorough participant manuals in the world, videos to share, flyers to pass out to potential participants, posters for your church or school, and access to an easy-to-use online portal for group administration.

**Experienced Field Staff and No-Sweat Logistics** - Each mission trip has 2-3 Thirst Mission's staff members whose sole role is to provide your group with a great mission experience. They'll be on the trip with you every step of the way, making sure ministries are lined up, that there is plenty of great food, and that your transportation, lodging, and recreation are planned and ready for you. They'll even lead evening meetings and be there to provide lots of local knowledge, all while staying where you stay.

You get our staff for the entirety of your trip and know you'll be blessed as we take on the trip details so you can focus on ministries and your group members.

**Awesome Recreation** - Hike on a glacier, sea kayak an alpine lake, snorkel a barrier reef, hike in the mountains or rainforest, or swim at a beach on the Caribbean Sea.















**Upgrade Options** - We've planned a great trip for each location, but also give you the chance to upgrade your recreation, lodging, or length of stay if you wish.





# MINISTRY OPTIONS

Choose Your Preferred Options

	Alaska	Appalachia	Belize	Puerto Rico
 Service Projects	✓	✓	✓	✓
 Construction*	✓	✓	✓	✓
 Children's Ministry	✓	✓	✓	✓
 Church Ministry	✓	✓	✓	✓
 Prayer Walking	✓	✓	✓	✓
 Sports Ministry	✓	✓	✓	✓
 Home Visits		✓	✓	✓
 Mercy Ministry	✓	✓	✓	✓
 Youth Ministry	✓		✓	✓
 School Ministry			✓	
 Outreach Ministry	✓	✓	✓	✓
 Evangelism	✓	✓	✓	✓
 Medical/Dental Ministry*			✓	
 Hurricane or Flood Recovery		✓		✓

\*Choosing this option may incur an additional cost





# ALASKA

A wild and rugged frontier land, Alaska encompasses breathtaking landscapes and some of the most diverse neighborhoods in America. Alaskans are often very independent-minded people, which can make ministry challenging, but also very rewarding.

Teams work in Anchorage, the Matanuska Valley, and the Kenai Peninsula alongside local churches and ministries who are sharing the hope of Christ in a physically and spiritually dark place. Anchorage surprisingly contains some of the most diverse neighborhoods in America. There are over 100 languages spoken in the Anchorage school district and in a couple block span you'll find Sudanese refugees, Japanese fishermen, Mexican store owners, Hmong settlers, Dominican restaurateurs, and a Polynesian salon.

Small churches in the heart of Anchorage and the Matanuska Valley battle poverty, alcoholism, drug abuse, and homelessness providing a spiritual haven and place to grow. Local pastors want the help and encouragement of outreach-oriented teams working alongside their congregations.

On your mission trip, you'll be an encouragement to those you partner alongside, building meaningful relationships all while experiencing the unmatched beauty of Alaska.

## WHY ALASKA?

- Most unchurched state in the USA
- Poverty, alcoholism, abuse, and homelessness among the highest in the nation
- Local pastors want the help and encouragement of outreach-oriented teams
- Invest in awesome kids in need of Christian role models
- Experience the rugged beauty of the last frontier: Glacier-fed alpine lakes, lush forests, and snow-capped mountains teeming with wildlife
- 18-20 hours of daily summer sunshine makes for lots of ministry opportunity

***The Thirst Missions team leaders in Alaska were prepared, yet flexible. They were fun, yet serious when needed. It was obvious that they love the Lord. We served in a variety of ministries which allowed team members to have different experiences. The recreation times allowed us to experience the beauty of Alaska and a deeper appreciation for God's creation."***

*– Kathy, 2022 participant*

### ALASKA - PRIVATE TRIPS IN MAY-AUGUST

Prices start at \$799/person for 6 day, 5 night trips.  
Upgrades and trip customization available.





# APPALACHIA

The region known as Appalachia is a 205,000 square mile territory that follows the spine of the Appalachian Mountains from southern New York to northern Mississippi. Specifically, in Southeast Kentucky, where we serve, the Appalachian economy has been dependent upon coal mining, agriculture, and heavy industry.

Southeast Kentucky is rich in history, culture, natural resources, and scenic beauty. Yet, in terms of infrastructure, healthcare, behavioral health, mortality, and economic development, the region lags behind the rest of the nation in almost every category. The median household income in Southeast Kentucky, specifically, is 40 percent less than the national average.

When you bring a team on a mission to Appalachia, you are helping small church congregations to have a larger impact in their own communities. Whether through flood recovery, food pantries, Bible School, sports camps, general repair and maintenance of homes and churches, handing out blessing bags, prayerwalking, or through skilled construction projects, your team will bring the light and the compassion of Christ to a region where many feel left behind and forgotten.

Come and serve communities steeped in history in a quintessentially American region among the beauty of the Appalachian Mountains.

## WHY APPALACHIA?



- Serve in the USA in a region that needs it the most, especially after recent flooding and widespread devastation.
- Median household incomes are 40% below the national average
- Poverty, suicide, depression, and drug abuse are all significantly higher than the national average
- Centrally located - a relatively short drive to Southeast Kentucky for the majority of US residents
- Experience ministry and adventure in the "hills and hollows" of some of the most rural areas in the nation
- Experience American history up close and in person in towns literally built by the steel and coal industry.

***The team was very organized. Prompt schedule. Team leaders became new friends. Clearly had a heart for missions. No issues. Definitely recommend!***

***– Sharon, 2022 Participant***

### APPALACHIA - PRIVATE TRIPS AVAILABLE YEAR ROUND

Prices start at \$449/person for 6 day, 5 night trips.  
Upgrades and trip customization available.





# BELIZE

A beautiful, tropical country, Belize has miles of lush Caribbean Sea coastline and many islands. Belize also has many challenges with widespread poverty, limited medical care, and many people are not engaged in a local church. Belizean pastors work very hard with limited resources and deeply desire to partner with mission teams to bless the people of their church and village. English is the official language and the people are resilient, resourceful, and cheerful. A trip to Belize is a life-changing experience.

## WHY BELIZE?

- 43% of the population lives below the poverty line
- Great spiritual and physical need
- Discover a new culture and gain a new world perspective
- English is the official language
- Easy and safe travel: democratic nation, accepts US dollars, convenient flights
- Experience rainforests, Mayan ruins, and a barrier reef

*"This mission trip to Belize was truly amazing. I was greeted so well and seeing how we impacted the kids and how the kids impacted me was one of my highlights. I felt loved since day one by all the people from Belize. I was pushed past my comfort zone and all with support from so many people. I really do hope I can come back next year because my experience was one of the best mission trip experiences I've had. It brought me pure joy."*

– Kate, 2022 participant

### BELIZE - PRIVATE TRIPS AVAILABLE YEAR ROUND

Prices start at \$649/person for 6 day, 5 night trips.  
Upgrades and trip customization available.





# PUERTO RICO

Known as the "Island of Enchantment," Puerto Rico is densely populated with bustling cities, rugged mountains, rainforest, and beautiful coastline. Recent years have been extremely difficult with the devastation of Hurricane Maria followed by earthquakes and the pandemic. The need for ministry is great, both in partnering with local churches and caring for the most needy. Teams serve mostly in the eastern half of the island and in the mountainous interior.

## WHY PUERTO RICO?

- Thousands still need help rebuilding after recent hurricanes
- Help revitalize local churches that lost members after hurricanes and the pandemic
- No passport required
- Inexpensive, direct flights from major US cities
- Enjoy ministry and adventure on a tropical island with warm and welcoming people
- Experience historic cities, rainforest jungle, and a picturesque Caribbean beach

*"The Team from our church had such an amazing time in Puerto Rico. It was a life-changing trip of service and glorifying our Lord and Savior. Our Thirst Leader made the experience that much greater with his stewardship, kindness, leadership, and devotion to the people of Puerto Rico. Thank you to everyone from Thirst for impacting so many people."*

*—Justin, 2022 Group Leader*

### PUERTO RICO - PRIVATE TRIPS AVAILABLE YEAR ROUND

Prices start at \$699/person for 6 day, 5 night trips.  
Upgrades and trip customization available.





# RECREATION

## ALASKA

Your team will take a scenic drive along Cook Inlet's Turnagain Arm, nestled between gorgeous mountain ranges and the unique bore tide that flows in and out of the Inlet. You'll experience Alaska's wildlife up close at the Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center, then hike along a river trail and ascend Byron Glacier in a gorgeous mountain basin. From there you'll go to Virgin Falls in the world's northernmost rainforest.

We highly recommend adding the optional midweek recreation - a trip to Eklutna Lake for mountain biking and sea kayaking on a pristine, glacier-fed lake with stunning alpine views.

If you wish to upgrade your final day recreation you may choose from a variety of three amazing glacier cruises or take an aerial tram in the Chugach Mountains.

***"We loved every bit of working with Thirst Missions and their team as we served in Alaska! Our group leader and his assistants did a great job of being organized, keeping us on schedule, and providing anything we needed. I would say to anyone looking for a mission opportunity to look at partnering with Thirst!"***

*– Katie, 2022 participant*



## APPALACHIA

As a break during a busy week of ministry, your team will take advantage of the region's natural beauty by exploring either Natural Bridges or Kingdom Come State Park. Get your cameras ready! You may also have the opportunity to visit the expansive and impressive Kentucky Coal Museum, ride paddle boats, canoes, and kayaks, or take a historical and educational ride on a redesigned coal cart traveling into one of the most world-renowned coal mines, Portal 31, where more coal was pulled out in one day than any coal mine in the world. Your team will cap off the week at a local restaurant with well deserved a time of fellowship and fantastic local cuisine.

***"The staff were AMAZING! They were very knowledgeable about the area we were in and way helpful at making EVERYONE comfortable and provided for! They go above and beyond expectations and I would highly recommend them to anyone or any group wanting to participate in Mission work!"***

*– Kimberly P, Adult Participant*





# RECREATION

## BELIZE

Belize teams will enjoy a journey to the Mayan ruins during their trip as the standard option for recreation.

Teams have the opportunity to upgrade their midweek recreation from the Mayan Ruins for an additional cost to one of the following options:

- Boat Eco Tour to Lamanai
- Cave Tubing
- Ziplining
- Cave Tubing and Ziplining Combo
- Orchid Bay day trip or overnight

*\*We highly recommend that teams add on an optional night on Caye Caulker at the end of their trip - it's an amazing tropical island 20 miles off the coast, and a 45 minute boat ride into a world where the theme is "Go Slow", there are no cars, and the stress of the world just melts away. There, teams can snorkel on the second-longest barrier reef in the world, stay in a hotel steps from the beach, and enjoy the local cuisine!*

***"We had an amazing God-filled week in Belize. Thirst Missions staff was wonderful to work with! This was the 4th year our church has sent a group to Belize. It feels like home every time we go back! Love these people and the partnership we've formed."***

***– Mary, Youth Director***

## PUERTO RICO

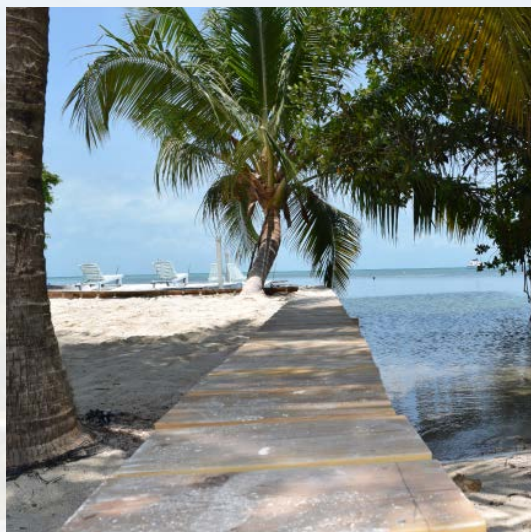
After a fulfilling week of ministry, you can explore the cobblestone streets of either Old San Juan or Ponce, experiencing centuries-old sites and architecture. You can swim in the warm waters of the Caribbean Sea, stroll along the sandy beach, or relax under a palm tree. Afterward, you'll dine on mouth watering cuisine at a local restaurant.

You have the opportunity to upgrade your recreation for an additional cost to one of the following options:

- El Yunque & Old San Juan
- Indian Cave & Bishop's Pond Beach
- Ziplining at Toro Verde Adventure Park

***"I went to Puerto Rico on a mission trip for the first time out of the 48 Mainland states, and it was absolutely amazing! The staff were wonderful and everything was so well planned!"***

***– Ryan H, Participant***





## OUR APPROACH TO MISSIONS

### Win/Win

A mission trip can (and should) be as beneficial to the mission team as it is to the host pastor and church. The trip should also be a part of changing the sending church culture for the better while impacting the lives of each person who serves. With care and intentionality each trip can be a win/win.

### Healthy Long-Term Partnerships

Our focus is to support the work of the local church with each team. Their work enables a pastor's greater vision and helps the church grow. *We greatly encourage teams to take a big picture view and embrace a long-term partnership with your partner church.*

### Mutual Exchange

*We strive to bring the gospel in a way that respects the local culture. Go expecting to give, but also to receive the wisdom and hospitality of those you'll meet.*

### Do Necessary Work

*If we are putting a mission team to work on something, it is because that need was identified by a trusted location pastor or ministry partner. We have hundreds of churches needing partnerships and thousands of families who need help after the recent pandemic.*

### Custom Private Trips, Targeted Ministry

*Teams have customized private trips so their ministry matches areas of need for the partner church or ministry.*

### Larger Ministry Context

We invest in each of our locations beyond the work of individual teams. For example, we are "pastoring the pastors" in Belize. *Through the work of our location director and a partner ministry we are providing encouragement, support, and one-on-one discipleship to 80 Belizean pastors!*

### Logistical Support

We handle trip logistics so you can be free to minister, disciple your people, build community, and fully enjoy the mission experience.

### What to Expect

God's call is for us to be "the hands and feet of Christ." *We want your team to have a great adventure, experience the beauty of serving together, and build deep community.*





# WHAT'S INCLUDED?

**Each All-Inclusive Private Mission Trip Consists of:**

- ✓ Pre-Trip **Consultation**
- ✓ Promotional **Materials & Videos**
- ✓ Digital Participant **Manuals**
- ✓ Cultural **Orientation & Immersion**
- ✓ Full Hour-by-Hour **Trip Itinerary**
- ✓ Local **Church/Ministry Partner**
- ✓ Experienced Staff to **Guide Your Trip**
- ✓ Well-Crafted **Ministry Options**
- ✓ Service Project **Materials**
- ✓ **Lodging**
- ✓ Online **Trip Portal**
- ✓ Delicious **Meals & Snacks**
- ✓ Purified **Drinking Water**
- ✓ Evening **Worship Meetings**
- ✓ Final Day **Recreation**

*"This mission trip with Thirst was one of the best weeks of my life, hands down. They perfectly combined serving God first with going out and witnessing his majesty. Also, the Thirst leaders on our trip were truly amazing people who loved our group (but we loved them more). Can't say enough!"*

*– Wesley, 2022 participant*



WHAT'S INCLUDED



# SAMPLE ITINERARY

(Each trip's itinerary will be customized to your groups chosen ministries and location)

	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
7AM	Travel to Mission Location	Breakfast/Devotions	Breakfast/Devotions	Breakfast/Devotions	Breakfast/Devotions	Breakfast/
8AM	Travel to Mission Location	Service Projects	Service Projects	Service Projects	Service Projects	Devotions
9AM	Travel to Mission Location	Service Projects	Service Projects	Service Projects	Service Projects	Prayerwalking
10AM	Travel to Mission Location	Service Projects	Service Projects	Service Projects	Service Projects	Clean up/Pack
11AM	Travel to Mission Location	Service Projects	Service Projects	Service Projects	Service Projects	Travel to Airport
12PM	Arrive in Mission Location	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Airport Drop Off
1PM	Greeted by Thirst Staff	Bible Club/Kids Ministry	Bible Club/Kids Ministry	Sports Ministry	Recreation	Check In/Lunch at Airport
2PM	Drive to Lodging Location	Bible Club/Kids Ministry	Bible Club/Kids Ministry	Sports Ministry	Recreation	Fly Home
3PM	Move in and Get Settled	Bible Club/Kids Ministry	Bible Club/Kids Ministry	Sports Ministry	Recreation	Fly Home
4PM	Drive to Church Partner	Home Visits	Home Visits	Free Time	Recreation	Fly Home
5PM	Supper	Home Visits	Home Visits	Free Time	Recreation	Fly Home
6PM	Welcoming Service	Supper	Supper	Supper	Final Supper at Restaurant	Fly Home
7PM	Drive to Lodging	Free Time	Church Service	Outreach Night	Drive to Lodging	Arrive Home
8PM	Orientation Meeting	Free Time	Church Service	Outreach Night	Closing Meeting	Arrive Home
9PM	Orientation Meeting	Evening Meeting	Evening Meeting	Evening Meeting	Closing Meeting	
10PM	Get Ready for Bed/Sleep	Get Ready for Bed/Sleep	Get Ready for Bed/Sleep	Get Ready for Bed/Sleep	Get Ready for Bed/Pack	
11PM	Lights Out	Lights Out	Lights Out	Lights Out	Fly Home	



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Jesus answered, Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.



## REVIEWS

Hundreds of Trip Reviews from past participants can be found on our website

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