

Accommodation

When visiting South America you will often be staying with Mission Partners or National workers and it is important to remember that you are in their home as their guests.

Do not assume that they will have the time to act as your personal interpreter and guide or even to have the accommodation that you initially thought you would have.

In the past Mission Partners and their families have endeavoured to accommodate a constant flow of visitors which often resulted in some upheaval for the family and readjustment of work schedule. The key points to remember when visiting overseas are to be flexible and to have a sense of humour.

Communications

Postal services from South America are not the same standard as at home. It is not unusual for air mail to take between 10 - 16 days. Surface mail has been known to take eight months and occasionally it may not reach your destination.

If your stay in South America is under two months, it would be best to send any letters, postcards, etc, early, or you could be home before them. Also remember that telephone calls or faxes are much more expensive from South America (over £2 per minute).

Many Mission partners have access to e-mail which is a less costly means of communication. The SAMS Ireland e-mail address is:

info@samsireland.com

Check List

- Passport
- Travellers' Cheques
- Plane Tickets
- Immunisation Records
- Travel & Flight Details
- Contact Addresses
- Currency
- English Currency (for meals at Airport)
- Luggage Labelled.
- Travel Sickness tablets (if required)
- Personal Medication
- First Aid Kit
- Yourself and luggage on time in the airport!

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**A Guide to Help Make Your
South American Visit
More Memorable**

Introduction

Whether you are going to South America to consider working with the National Church, to visit Mission Partners or National workers, you will certainly need to spend time praying and preparing well in advance. This leaflet is produced to help you with those all important preparations.

Background Reading

Remember you will be a visitor in THEIR country, so read all you can about the places you will be visiting. An excellent book which covers the whole continent is the "South American Handbook." (published yearly) Your local library will stock this and other relevant books.

Economy

The economic conditions in many parts of South America are often less than ideal, so it is advisable to obtain local currency on arrival, rather than in advance. To obtain local currency normally you will need US Dollars or US Dollar Travellers' Cheques, in preference to Sterling. Credit cards are acceptable in most cities, but you can be charged for using them. It is safer to carry only small amounts of cash and to try and look as little like a "tourist" as possible!

Health

You will need to take extra care whilst overseas and we would suggest you see your GP concerning immunisations. Depending on which countries you visit you may need vaccines for yellow fever, cholera, typhoid, tetanus and others. A visit to your dentist would also be useful. If you wear glasses or contact lenses you may need to bring a spare pair.

Health (cont)

Your GP can advise you on ALL medical matters, - but you would always find a First Aid kit very useful. Medical insurance is also very crucial SAMS or your travel agent can advise you on this matter. Obviously with changes in water, food, and the cooking methods, your body may take time to adjust. Make sure you take some precautions.

- Drink bottled water or soft drinks, or boil water for at least TEN minutes.
- Take care in buying, washing and cooking food
- Allow time in your schedule for altitude sickness and tummy bugs.
- Be sensible about clothing - protect your skin from parasites and the sun.
- Be sensible about the climate - with greater heat and humidity allow more time to complete tasks and take advantage of the opportunity for a siesta.
- If you are travelling to the South of the continent it can get very cold, especially during the winter months.

Language

Ideally, we would encourage you to gain at least a working knowledge of Spanish or Portuguese if visiting Brazil. Your local Adult Education Centre should be able to give you details of evening classes, language schools or cassette course for home use.

Travel

A good reputable travel agency is crucial. They will be able to advise you on all aspects of your journey. SAMS Ireland will also assist in the booking of flights, etc., wherever possible.

Documentation

Depending on which country you visit in South America, you may require various documents for your travel. You will require an up-to-date passport

and if you hold a British passport a tourist visa will be stamped in your passport as you enter. If you hold an Irish passport a visa will be required by applying to the particular Embassy. (UK addresses below) If you require a resident visa this may take several months to come through so it is wise to make preparations as early as possible.

Addresses of Embassies and Consulates

Argentina

65 Brook Street London WK1 4AH

☎ 020 7318 1300

Bolivia

106 Eaton Square, London SW1

☎ 020 7235 4248

Brazil

32 Green Street, London WK1 7AT

☎ 020 7399 9000

Chile

12 Devonshire Street, London W1G 7DS

☎ 020 7580 6392

Paraguay

Third Floor, 344 Kensington High Street,
London W14 4NS ☎ 020 7610 4180

Peru

52 Sloane Street, London SW1X 9SP

☎ 020 7235 1917

Portugal

11 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8PP

☎ 020 7235 53 31/2/3/4

Spain

39 Chesham Place, London SW1X 8SB

☎ 020 7235 5555

Uruguay

140 Brompton Road, London SW3 1HY

☎ 020 7589 8735

Embassies and Consulates are often only open during the morning and usually not every day of the week. Therefore it is advisable to telephone.