

Inside Ethiopia 2017: in Partnership with REALITY Frequently Asked Questions

Who is the appropriate candidate for JDC Entwine/REALITY Inside Ethiopia 2017 journey?

JDC Entwine, in partnership with REALITY, is curating a diverse group of young professionals from across the United States, United Kingdom, and around the world ranging in age, background, profession, and interests. We are looking for applicants who are interested in learning about and taking action on global issues and are excited to participate in a group travel experience. There is no one profile that is appropriate.

What are the goals the Inside Ethiopia trip?

Inside Ethiopia is an opportunity for leaders from around the world to engage with global humanitarian and Jewish issues while traveling with a group of likeminded peers. Participants will connect and build relationships with fellow participants and peers overseas, have the opportunity to learn about the opportunities and challenges facing the community in another part of the world and the role of JDC Entwine and its partners in responding to overseas needs, and, upon returning home, will have the opportunity to engage in further opportunities to learn about and advocate on issues related to our communities response to global needs.

What is expected of participants?

Participants who engage fully before, during, and after Inside Ethiopia gain the most from the experience. Before the trip, participants are expected to participate in virtual pre-trip briefings, read the provided briefing materials to gain a better understanding of the community, and acquaint themselves with the other participants. On the ground, participants are expected to participate in all scheduled activities and will get the most out of the experience by making an effort to get to know all fellow participants and actively engage with community members. Following the trip, it is up to participants to bring the experience home in whatever way speaks to them; follow up activities can range from creating educational and advocacy opportunities for their personal networks to being part of local, national and global initiatives that support global needs. JDC Entwine and REALITY staff are available to assist with post-trip follow up activities.

What is the informal educational content of the Inside Ethiopia trip?

Throughout the trip, we will pause occasionally as a group to have conversations about what the group is seeing and experiencing. These all-group conversations tend to be among the highlights of our trips! The goals of these all-group conversations are to:

- a. create a space for participants to reflect on what they are experiencing
- b. surface big questions that will arise for the group
- c. “get out of our own heads” so that we can support and learn from each other

What is involved in the application process & what information should I have handy?

The application asks for information about your education and activities/volunteer experience, current employment, as well as a few short essay questions. Applicants will be invited for a 10 minute virtual conversation with JDC Entwine and REALITY staff within one month following the application deadline.

When will I find out if I am accepted & how long do I have to confirm my participation?

All participants will be notified of acceptance at the end of August. If selected, you will have approximately two weeks to confirm your participation and pay the non-refundable trip deposit.

What is included in the participation fee?

Included in the participation fee is roundtrip airfare from Dulles Airport, local transportation, meals, hotel accommodations (note: the participation fee covers accommodations in double rooms; participants may elect to stay in a single room for an additional fee), briefings, tours, leisure activities, and medical and emergency evacuation insurance.

I cannot afford the full cost of the trip. What kinds of subsidies are available?

We are pleased to provide our Inside Ethiopia participants with a highly subsidized fee.

Is my payment refundable should I have to withdraw after confirming my participation?

A non-refundable deposit of \$1,000, due within two weeks of notification of acceptance, is required to confirm your participation and reserve your spot on the trip.

Typically, the remainder of the participation fee is due two months before the trip departure date. Cancellation after the submission of final payment may result in a loss of the entire payment. No refunds will be made within seven days of departure.

Is my payment tax deductible?

No. Participation fees are payments, not donations, and therefore do not qualify as tax deductible.

What accommodations are made for dietary and religious needs?

All dietary needs ranging from gluten free to vegetarian to kosher-style are met on the ground. Should participants require strictly kosher food, they should indicate this on their application and participation form. When available, JDC Entwine staff will try to accommodate as best as possible. In some locations, certified kosher food may not be available, in which case, alternate arrangements can be made. JDC Entwine Insider Trips are pluralistic and designed for all levels of religious observance; travel is not required on Shabbat.

What does the group flight entail? Can I book my own flights?

Typically, US-based participants must travel to the trip location on the group flight. Depending on airline rules, participants may receive frequent flyer miles for these flights and, if desired, may be able to upgrade their tickets for an additional cost.

International participants coming from locations other than the United States are expected to book their own travel to the trip location in coordination with JDC Entwine staff.

Can I extend my stay in Ethiopia after the group trip? Can JDC staff assist with post-trip accommodations?

Participants can usually extend their trip after the group experience. Extensions are subject to availability and any difference in fare/change fees charged. Participants interested in extending will be given contact information for JDC Entwine's travel agent only once the deposit for the trip is submitted.

JDC Entwine staff are not available to assist with any post-trip travel plans, recommendations, or accommodations. We are happy to connect you with our preferred travel agent who may be able to assist with your requests.

What accommodations are made for the security and safety of participants?

JDC is the largest Jewish humanitarian aid organization, operating in over 70 countries, with more than 100 years of experience and longstanding relationships around the world. The organization does as much as possible to ascertain and ensure the safety of staff and participants traveling with JDC. Locations for travel are selected based on an assessment that they meet high levels of safety and security. Security conditions are subject to constant and rapid changes. JDC's Global Security team monitors conditions on an ongoing basis and adjusts instructions and activities as necessary. Security guidelines are shared with the group before departure and participants will receive a comprehensive security briefing by local staff upon arrival to the field.

All participants are required to share emergency contact information with JDC Entwine staff. Additionally, JDC Entwine staff always travel with an international cell phone, should participants need to reach loved ones or vice versa.

Is travel health insurance provided through the trip?

Yes, comprehensive health insurance is covered in the participation fee.

Do I need any vaccinations to travel to Ethiopia?

See the Center of Disease Control and Prevention website at www.cdc.gov for any special health requirements for US citizens traveling to Ethiopia.

My passport expires in less than 6 months from the date of the trip. Should I renew it now?

Passports must be valid for at least 6 months from the date you will return to the US. Please ensure your passport will be valid for this time. JDC Entwine will manage the visa process for entry into Ethiopia.

When will I find out who else is in the group? Will there be an opportunity to connect prior to the trip itself?

Shortly after confirming your participation for the trip, you will receive a formal “Welcome E-mail” with logistics, briefing materials, and dates to mark on your calendar. You will also be introduced to the rest of the group and will receive everyone’s bios and contact information.

There will be two group briefings via webinar and/or by phone within the two months before takeoff. Additionally, if there are a few participants in a given city, these participants may organize an informal get together, which JDC Entwine and REALITY staff and trip co-chairs are happy to help facilitate.

During your Ethiopia journey, there will be several trip chairs. What is a Trip Chair?

A Trip Chair is a trip participant who takes on certain leadership roles and responsibilities before, during, and after the trip. Trip Chairs work very closely with JDC Entwine and REALITY staff throughout the program development process, and are essential members of the team who help lead the trip.

Does participation in one trip preclude my participation in future trips?

Not at all! Many alumni participate in multiple trips. Alumni are encouraged to get involved in their local Entwine Learning Networks and pursue other leadership opportunities through Entwine. For more information about Entwine’s Learning Networks, visit our website: <http://jdcentwine.org/events>.