

FIRST TIME & SHORT TERM VISITOR'S GUIDE

We are so thrilled to welcome you to join us in seeing the floodgates of heaven and revival come to our nation. Because of the spiritual and practical dynamics in Sudan at present as well as Iris Sudan's unique DNA as a mission family, we have some specific guidelines and parameters we ask all our visiting teams and individuals to consider and abide by during your time with us.

DEFINITIONS:

FIRST TIME GUESTS/VISITORS

First time visitors are those who have never been to visit Iris Ministries Sudan before. The limit on ALL first time visits is 10-14 days. All visits are contingent on the situation present at the time and may be cancelled at any time due to instabilities.

SHORT TERM VISITORS:

Are all those who are returning and may stay the period agreed upon up to 2 months, until successful completion of Iris International School of Missions and consideration for longer term service. Exceptions may be made for personnel demonstrating like spirit and maturity who have critical skill sets.

SENIOR IRIS MIN SUDAN LEADERSHIP (with authority to respond to matters mentioned in this guide):

- Rev. Michele Perry, Field Ministry Coordinator Iris Ministries Sudan
- Patrick Jalan, IMS Director

PREPARATION:

As we are a pioneering base please understand the following points:

- We are in an extreme setting in a war torn nation and things we ask of you must be honored immediately no questions asked. This is due to the potential safety issues in the area.
- Our accommodations are rustic at best- no running water, no electricity, outdoor latrines and showers. Most teams and many individuals will be asked to bring their own tents and bedding and prepare to camp.
- Our water supply is limited, so you may be limited to one 20 L jerry can every 2-3 days, and may be asked to help pumping or carrying of water.
- Please make sure you have malaria meds (not Larium), your shots (including meningitis and MMR boosters) and med evac insurance in place prior to coming.
- Please contact our Michele for a current list of needed items you may be able to help acquire and bring with you for the base.

RELATIONSHIPS WITH OUR CHILDREN:

- We do not refer to our kids as orphans or to our children's home as an orphanage as we believe there are NO orphans in God's Kingdom. Please refer to our children as "our children" and our work as a children's village or children's home.
- We understand you may like to bring small trinket gifts for our children, but we ask that you do not do so. These "toys" are broken within days and lend to our children developing a beggar mentality that all guests will be bearing gifts. We want to protect them from that. So please give all gifts you do bring to Iris leadership and we will decide how best to give them away. A better investment will be to contact us in advance and

bring things that our children need. Trinkets may make you a hero for a moment but they cause long term problems so we ask you to not bring them.

- We ask you to not bring candy or sweets that will add no nutritional value. Our diet is very basic and we would ask if you want to bless our children you bring trail mix, dried fruit or nuts to do so with.
- Please do not create unrealistic expectations of relationship long term with our children. Be up front and honest, you are just a visitor and will be leaving in a few _____. Many of our kids have been abandoned and have dealt with trust issues. So please do not create a situation that will ultimately break trust with them once you leave.
- As a rule, all our short terms visitors are referred to as Aunties and Uncles. And please refer to each staff member as they are introduced to you. Some are called mama/papa, others aunties/uncles, all for a reason.

RELATIONSHIPS WITH OUR STAFF FAMILY AND NATIONALS:

- Our culture is very different from yours. Our staff are learning and growing as are we. The compound is not managed to Western standards for a reason. We desire our children to be happy (which is often synonymous with dirty!) and grow up with relatively similar standards as they would in a village setting.
- We have different priorities here. We value relationship over tasks and schedules here often are non-existent. We take each moment as it comes and do not plan too far in advance.
- Nationals and long term mission staff may do things differently than you would prefer but please know all we are doing is done with honoring our people and culture and our kids best interests at heart.
- Please be honoring of nationals at all times and seek to learn what it means to be Sudanese—especially when you do not agree or understand them. You are here to learn from them, not to tell them how to do things better. If you have any suggestions/concerns, Iris Sudan's senior leadership would LOVE to discuss them with you.
- Please DO ask questions of our long term missionaries and we will help you learn as much as possible about our culture here.

REGARDING FINANCES:

All visitors are completely responsible for their own financial needs! This includes all official costs of permits, transportation, internet, base fees, water, medical and any sundry items needed while here

- All financial gifts to the base are to be given to the office of the Field Ministry Coordinator upon arrival. Designations will be considered and accommodated when at all possible and in the best interest of the base. Please make NO financial commitments or investments without going through the FMC.
- **An entry permit costs \$50 USD at the airstrip. Please bring 2-4 passport sized photos.**
- Drinking water is available in town for purchase: approximately \$20 USD for 12 1.5 liter bottles. Food is expensive here—if you desire to supplement the provided meals, plan to bring simple snacks with you or bring enough money to do so.
- **You must bring US Dollars in 100 denominations dated 2006 or later** for them to be exchangeable here. THERE ARE NO ATMS!!!!!!!!!!!!
- **We ask all our teams/individual visitors to contribute \$15/person/day for base fees unless other arrangements are made in advance...**
- Transport is not provided at this time... walking is the preferred mode of travel locally. Renting a car-driver runs approximately \$125/day locally—more if traveling outside of Yei. Bicycles are available for around \$100 and would be a GREAT blessing to our base after your stay. Picking you up at the airstrip is approximately \$40 USD each trip.

- If you desire to stay off base, rooms when available go for around \$40 USD/night when available and are often very primitive.
- Please make NO promises on behalf of Iris Sudan or personally regarding support, finances, employment or the intake of children. YOU MUST REFER ALL SUCH CONCERNS to the FMC.
- Please do not intervene in staffing issues or policies, rather communicate concerns to IMS senior leadership and we will respond accordingly as God leads and the situations deems appropriate.

REGARDING OUTREACH OR LEAVING BASE CAMP:

Outreaches to our community are often set up on a weekly basis. Our guests will be invited to participate in outreaches and if you have ideas or God speaks to you a way to love people, please share it with us and we will pray about it.

While we always encourage you to be sensitive to Holy Spirit and love the one in front of you, please DO NOT under any circumstances go visiting out in the villages/neighborhood surrounding our compound or leave our base camp unaccompanied. You are representing Iris Sudan. To prevent unnecessary cultural misunderstandings or conflict from arising we require you must have a long term staff or national leader with you as you do not know the culture or the security issues here.

And under no circumstances are you to travel by foot after 4:30 pm. Stabbings and robbery, drunkenness and AK-47 toting soldiers are a common occurrence. The Sudanese are very friendly and may invite you to visit their homes. Please OK all such visits with senior Iris leadership BEFORE accepting invitations.

If you have a particular outreach you desire to do apart from our ones already planned, please let us know in advance so we can put together an estimate for what it might cost and see if it is something we can do. At this time, all additional outreaches must be supported by the teams or individuals wishing to conduct them.

REGARDING SECURITY, LIABILITY & CONDUCT:

Our security situation is tentative at best. Please honor all requests from senior leadership and understand Iris reserves the right to send any visitor home early for any reason due to the pioneering and security issues on the field here. We expect all our guests to represent the heart and character of Jesus in all relationships and conduct while serving with Iris Sudan.

Some additional notes:

- Men and women other than to shake hands do not touch here. Nor do they talk in a room alone.
- Visitors are not allowed to be in private with any member of the opposite sex.
- We ask all visitors avoid romantic involvement or deep emotional entanglement with anyone of the opposite sex here during their stay.
- Often men will hold hands with other men and women with other women. Such is normal here and simply a sign of friendship.
- All visitors agree to assume FULL responsibility for their choice to visit, are aware of the potential risks involved and waive all liability of any compensation from Iris Ministries, Inc or any of its affiliates for any harm or loss incurred while on the field in Sudan.
- All visitors MUST fill out some basic information and sign a liability release upon arrival.

REGARDING WORSHIP AND INTERCESSION:

Here we worship differently than in the West. We are seeking God for the protection of the purity of the sound He has created in them and the release of the sounds of Sudan to worship the Lamb. We seek to honor the indigenous sound of our children and their people. And we are still learning ourselves. So our invitation is for our visitors to join us in learning what it means to be

adopted by our Daddy in heaven and to begin learning the sounds of the nation we are so blessed to call home.

We ask that visiting teams only bring musical instruments from the West with permission and only use them in authorized settings in public.

We honor our guests' gifting for the west, but here we are all laying our gifts and crowns at Jesus feet to lay down our lives for the one, to lay down our agendas and even our dreams so we can embrace His-- to come in all humility as lovers and learners of the least, seeking not a platform or a ministry apart from learning of His Kingdom of heaven from the best teachers on the planet: our kids, who are becoming our heroes more every day.

Please understand this is a war-traumatized nation and the normal understandings of spiritual warfare as it is aggressively practiced is NOT helpful here. We war by love, mercy, worship, intimacy, humility and kindness. We war by laying down our lives in love every day.

As guests in our nation of Sudan there are some things we need make sure are clearly understood. There are certain types of "warring" that we do not want introduced to our family, as we feel they are harmful and counterproductive as to what God is doing regionally in this season.

To address strongholds in a spirit of violence/warring will given the history of this region will actually open doors to the enemy. Regardless of personal inclination or background, we ask that all teams coming to pray with us lay down personal preferences in order to honor God's heart in ministering to this culture and its peoples.

We who are long term and left to deal with the affects of well-intentioned prayer gone awry have a differing perspective from many short term teams. This perspective has been shaped by over a decade on the field in cross-cultural settings and we humbly ask that you would honor it.

BASIC POSTURE: WORSHIP TO CHANGE ATMOSPHERES

- Our basic posture is ALWAYS humility and intimacy. Our authority comes from the posture of our humility before Him and our intimacy with Him.
- We war from our faces in worship by extravagant acts of love and mercy.
- We come as lovers and learners of the least and the people here: servant lovers, not experts even in the spiritual realm.
- We war by worshiping until His glory comes—NOT by ranting and railing against the enemy.
- Mercy triumphs over judgment
- Bless and not curse—love and not judge.
- Carriers of His light as we live before His face
- We become what we behold, so we spend the majority of our time and all of our focus on His face, even while we are aware of the enemy and his schemes.
- Learn to love and laugh in the face of the enemy knowing a table is prepared when and where ever he rears his head
- It is less about tackling strongholds and all about worshiping until there is an atmospheric shift that ushers in His glory and opens the gates to the King of Kings
- We honor the culture and especially the individual even when we disagree with them: knowing Jesus is the One who changes hearts not us. Honor and love give us the authority to be salt and light in their lives.
- We do not war by trial and error... nor do we applaud suffering as backlash of the enemy. The place of intimacy with Jesus is the place of invisibility to the enemy. Backlash as a constant battle is unnecessary and may be indicative of foolish praying.
- We do not proclaim and declare what we want God to do... this can become a subtle form of manipulative praying that is actually witchcraft. Instead we pray and ask Jesus to open our eyes to show us what He is already doing and then we partner with Him as

those who are so in love, their greatest joy is to give their lives away as hilarious love offerings to the King.

ABOUT PREPARATION:

- Research is valuable primarily to see what areas of our own hearts to bring before the Lord so we have fewer open doors to the enemy and that we may walk in the Spirit of Jesus according to HIS ways that are opposite to the regional operations of the enemy.
- Seek God's heart for the people, not the enemy's strongholds.
- Our Iris Sudan team has done extensive research and understands the principalities in operation and this is reflective of what God has shown us to bring breakthrough, while preserving the safety of the ground that has already been gained in the process.

WHILE BEING HOSTED BY IRIS SUDAN:

YOU MAY:

- Love, worship, act in mercy, worship, bless, worship and love
- War from your face in worship through extravagant acts of love and kindness
- Learn about the Kingdom of heaven from some of the best teachers on the planet: our children and the people here—the poor in spirit.
- Laugh and embrace a life of laid-down love, building castles in the dirt of God's Presence, knowing the JOY of the Lord is your protection and defense. Look for the table in the presence of the enemy
- War by coming in an opposite spirit... love in the face of hate; peace in the midst of war...
- Present any strategy you feel you have received from the Lord to our leadership for prayerful consideration.
- Address anything personally that comes against you and stand in the place of rest and love. If you need prayer or are struggling, PLEASE let one of us know so we can pray with you.

YOU MAY NOT:

- Address regional principalities or strongholds and thus poking holes into the second heaven that will ultimately release more darkness to operate.
- Take on ANY identified spirit or stronghold in an aggressive posture as a visiting team because you do not know the history surrounding it, the foundation already laid here in confronting it, the ground already taken in the spirit OR how it will affect the region after you leave.
- Step into any corporate spiritual warfare strategy apart from the direct OK of senior Iris Sudan leadership

So in short—if you are fishing, a can of worms is helpful. But if you are gardening they are anything but! So please understand in joining with us, we are in a unique situation and what is common practice is often not helpful here.

PRACTICAL NOTES:

- Teams may be asked to bring tents to sleep in and their own sleeping bags/camp mats/etc.—accommodations will be decided upon a case by case basis in advance.
- To get to Yei, book your flight into Entebbe, Uganda and purchase an air ticket with Eagle Air round trip to Yei. Information can be found online at <http://www.flyeagleuganda.com/>
- Food—our diet here is VERY basic (rice, beans, greens, cornmeal paste, cabbage) and we are not able to accommodate any special needs dietetically at this time. We may or may not have facilities for you to cook things for yourself. Bringing snack bars and water bottle drink mix is a very good idea.
- Medical--- there is little to no medical services in our region. If you get seriously sick, you will need to fly to Kampala or Nairobi. All medical expenses are the responsibility of the individual visiting.

WHAT TO BRING:

Insect repellent/Mosquito net
Baby Wipes/Face wipes
Clothes
Perfume/toiletries
Any Meds you need
A set of bed sheets to leave (blue if possible)
Bible/journal/pens
Energy bars/snack food- teas/coffee
Rechargeable batteries and charger for electronics
Rain poncho
Hand sanitizer
Trail mix/Instant oatmeal/soup packets
Sunblock
Flashlight/torch,
Electrical outlets are 3 prong flat used in Africa—220 volts (adapters/converters as necessary)

You may be asked to bring special items for the base and missionaries. Please watch emails for this...

DRESS:

We dress in a way that is acceptable and modest in Southern Sudanese culture. Men may wear pants/trousers. T-shirts or button-up shirts.

Women may wear pants/trousers, 'Capri' pants/trousers, and skirts or dresses below the knee. While on base, modest tops of any sort are acceptable except those baring the midriff.

For church services, outings and other times of ministry, the nationals wear their best. It is disrespectful for visitors to show-up in "grubbies." Calve length dresses or skirts are most acceptable for ministry outreaches or church services. Women may have opportunity to buy traditional skirt wraps—or if here long enough, have a Sudanese outfit made

The weather is warm-hot year round, but evenings will get cool (especially during rainy season months—June through November), so bring a light sweater or jacket.

We love you and look forward to welcoming you into our nation and His embrace of revival.

Love in Jesus,



Rev. Michele Perry
Field Ministry Coordinator, Iris Ministries Sudan

Living from heaven to earth...

Related Websites:

Iris Ministries Sudan: www.iris-sudan.org ;
Converge International: www.convergeinternational.org