Uganda — February 2027

What to Expect · February 11–20, 2027

Trip at a glance

This team serves in Uganda's Rwentobo region, celebrating new GPPD water wells and encouraging the churches, schools and families around them. The trip will stretch you physically, emotionally and spiritually.

Dates	February 11–20, 2027
Team leader	Matt Riggins
In-country host	In the Garden Missions
Team size	About 6–10
Where we serve	Rwentobo region, southwest Uganda (we fly into Kigali, Rwanda, and cross by land)
Ministry focus	Water well dedications, schools, village churches, a girls' tailoring program, women and children
Cost	$2,500 + airfare

Covered: lodging, meals, in-country transportation, ministry costs, travel insurance and a team shirt.
Not covered: passport and visa fees, vaccines and prescriptions, airport food and souvenirs.

Airfare: GPPD books the team's flights and adds the airfare to your total trip cost.

Why we go

- To celebrate clean water with the communities who receive it.
- To encourage local pastors, teachers and believers in the work already happening there.
- To serve with humility, honoring the dignity of everyone we meet.
- To come home with a bigger view of the world and a lasting commitment to praying, giving and going.

Before you go

Passport. Valid through at least **August 31, 2027**, with at least two blank pages.

East African Tourist Visa (about $100). One visa covers Rwanda, Uganda and Kenya. Apply online about 4–6 weeks before travel; approval usually takes about a week. Your leader will send step-by-step instructions. Print the approval and payment receipt.

Yellow fever. Vaccination is no longer required for this trip. Ask your doctor whether it's recommended for you.

Health. See a travel clinic by mid-December. Uganda has malaria — ask your doctor about preventive medicine. Be current on routine vaccines and ask about Hepatitis A and Typhoid.

Go Method. Application and deposit, passport copy, medical release, background screening (adults), visa approval and trip balance.

Insurance. GPPD purchases travel medical insurance for every participant.

Packing

Pack **one checked bag for yourself** and give your second to team donations and supplies. Bags must be 50 lb or less.

- **Must have:** passport, printed visa approval and receipt, copies packed separately, prescriptions and malaria medicine, water bottle, Bible and journal, **Type G (UK-style) plug adapter**, money belt
- **Recommended:** DEET or picaridin repellent, sunscreen, hand sanitizer, washcloth, toilet paper, flashlight, daypack, lunch snacks (tuna packets, jerky, granola bars)
- **Good ideas:** neck pillow, ear plugs, hat, sunglasses, portable charger, a sweatshirt for cool evenings

Dress code

Setting	Men	Women
Church	Long pants, collared shirt; tie if speaking	Dress or skirt below the knee, shoulders covered
Ministry days	Shorts or pants, T-shirt, closed-toe shoes	Skirt, capris or pants below the knee; midriff covered; closed-toe shoes
At the house	Casual; sandals OK	Modest casual; sandals OK

Leave jewelry at home, and no clothing advertising alcohol, drugs or bands.

Travel, lodging & food

We fly from Washington Dulles to Kigali, Rwanda, drive about an hour to the border, cross on foot, and continue to our host's ministry home in Uganda — about 30 hours door to door. We stay in simple shared rooms, with one night of safari "glamping" near the end of the week.

Breakfast and dinner are served at the house; pack your own lunch items (PB&J is available). **Drink only sealed bottled water**, eat food that's cooked and served hot, and peel your own fruit.

A typical day

Time	What happens
7:30 AM	Team prayer and worship
8:00 AM	Breakfast
9:00 AM	Depart for ministry
12:30 PM	Packed lunch
1:00–3:00 PM	Ministry continues
6:00 PM	Dinner, free time, team debrief

A typical week includes well dedications at schools, churches and a widow's home; a village church service; time with a one-year tailoring program for orphaned young women; a ladies' fellowship; livestock gifts to families; a morning safari; and a stop at the Kigali Genocide Memorial on the way home.

Team covenant & culture

- Keep a positive attitude, be on time, and never go anywhere alone.
- Men minister to men and women to women where possible; no dating on the trip.
- Take time to greet people, and use your right hand to give and receive.
- Be ready for tough questions about America; answer humbly and listen well.
- Don't hand out money or promise future help; follow our hosts' lead.
- Ask before taking photos, and don't post children's full names or locations.

Health & safety

Malaria, stomach illness and sun are the main risks. Take malaria medicine as prescribed, use repellent at dawn and dusk, and don't swim in lakes or rivers (schistosomiasis is present). Bring a small medicine kit and tell your leader right away if you feel sick — including in the weeks after you return.

Preparing your heart

Settle that you're called to go, and soak the trip in prayer. Recruit prayer partners, prepare a short testimony, and practice a song or children's activity with the team.

Questions? Contact Matt Riggins at mriggins@gpartners.org.

Entry, visa and health requirements can change. Leaders confirm current guidance before departure.