

Humanitarian Airfare Guide

How to fly for less when you travel to serve

Humanitarian (or missionary) fares are special contracted airfares that airlines offer through specialized travel agencies to people traveling for charitable, church, or relief work. They are often cheaper than public fares and come with more flexible rules.

What makes these fares different

- Lower international fares negotiated through agency contracts
- Often two free checked bags per person, useful for supplies and donations
- More flexible change rules and easier name/itinerary edits for groups
- Longer stay allowances and one-way options on many routes
- Booked through a real agent, not a public booking website

Who usually qualifies

- Volunteers traveling with a church, nonprofit, or ministry
- Relief and humanitarian workers
- Long-term missionaries and their families
- Adoption travelers and some educational groups
- Tip: have a letter from Hope Life Global confirming the purpose of your trip

Agencies that specialize in these fares

- Economy Travel - economytravel.com
- Humana Travel - humanatravel.com
- Safe Harbors Travel - safeharbors.com
- Golden Rule Travel - goldenruletravel.com
- Compare quotes from two or three agencies; availability varies by route and airline

How to book, step by step

- Confirm your trip dates and destination with the Hope Life Global team
- Request a trip-purpose letter from Hope Life Global
- Contact 2-3 humanitarian travel agencies for quotes
- Give the agency the organization name, trip purpose, and traveler list
- Compare price, baggage allowance, and change/cancel rules
- Hold the group reservation and meet the deposit deadline
- Send final names exactly as they appear on each passport
- Save your e-ticket and confirm baggage rules 1 week before departure

Money-saving tips

- Book group travel 4-6 months ahead
- Be flexible by a day or two on departure dates
- Ask about one-way or open-jaw options
- Use the free bag allowance for team supplies instead of paying for extra bags
- Always compare the humanitarian quote with the public fare - occasionally public sales are lower

Important notes

Fares, rules, and baggage allowances change often and differ by airline and route. Always confirm details in writing with your agency before you pay. Hope Life Global does not sell airfare and is not affiliated with the agencies listed.

Want more?

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