



**SMILES  
MOVEMENT**  
Dentistry For Low-Income Families Everywhere

# DENTAL SERVICE LEARNING TRIPS







# WE ARE THE MEDLIFE MOVEMENT

MEDLIFE is a **501(c)(3) non-profit organization** that partners with low-income communities in Latin America and Africa to improve their access to healthcare, education, and safe housing.

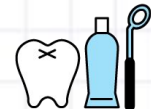
In order to achieve the ultimate goal of a world free from the constraints of poverty, we empower students and volunteers to become advocates for change through traveling on Service Learning Trips and participating in on-campus Chapters.



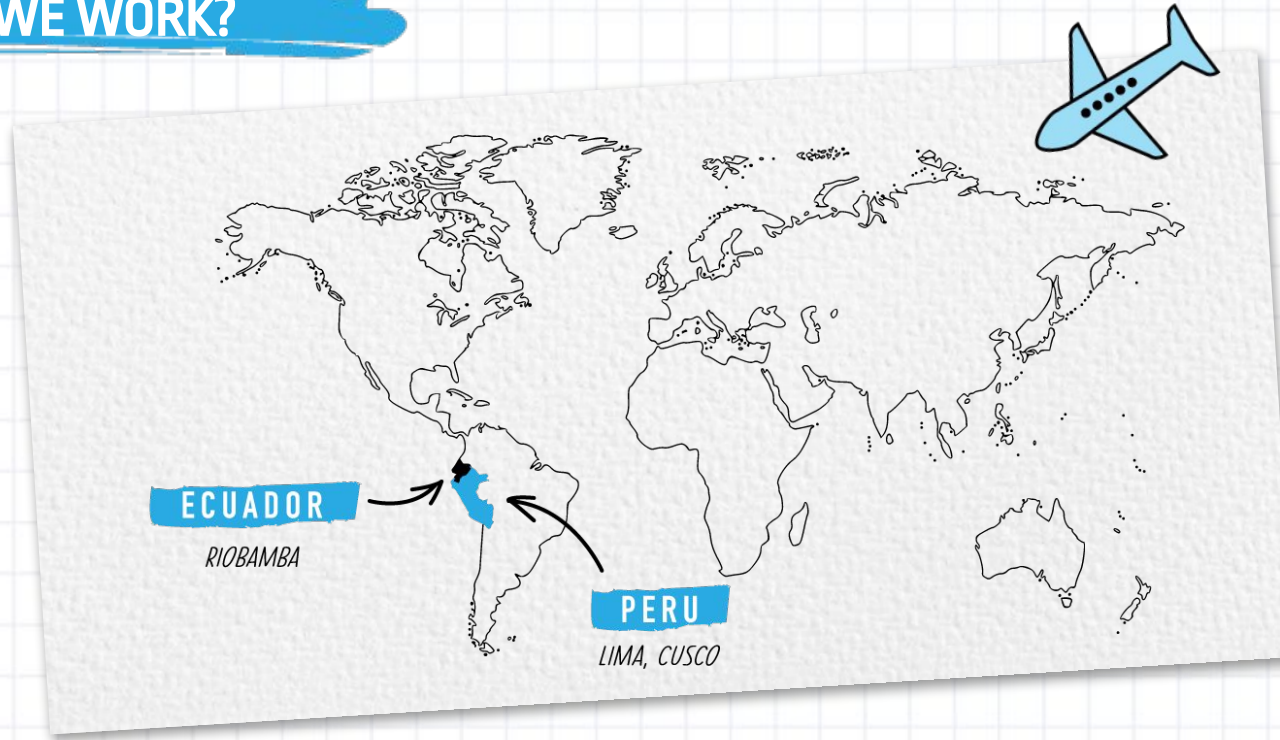
## MORE THAN A MISSION TRIP

Short-term medical missions and voluntourism have been fraught with ethical problems for decades. MEDLIFE was born out of a desire to do better. Rather than imposing traditional approaches, **we follow the lead of local professionals and community leaders** who've spent a lifetime understanding the issues on the ground.

Even when the trip comes to an end, our team continues following up on our projects and patients, ensuring we create the **long-term impact** that our partner communities deserve.



## WHERE DO WE WORK?



## WHY PERU & ECUADOR?

**Oral Health Status:** Dental caries, which is common in many countries, remains a prevalent concern in Peru and Ecuador, especially among children. According to some studies, dental caries affects a significant percentage of children in these countries.

**Rural vs. Urban Divide:** Access to dental care can be challenging for those living in rural areas compared to urban centers. The Andean and Amazonian regions often have fewer dental clinics and professionals, making access to oral health care more difficult.

**Traditional Diets and Oral Health:** Traditional diets, which can sometimes be high in natural sugars from fruits or starchy foods, coupled with a lack of dental health education, can contribute to dental health issues.



# WHAT IS A DENTAL SERVICE LEARNING TRIP?

Week-long **Dental Service Learning Trips** allow dentistry students to volunteer with local professionals, offering essential dental care to underserved communities.

Volunteers will assist in roles like:

- **Organizing and managing** the registration process for patients.
- **Setting up stations** for dental procedures and educational activities.
- **Preparing dental instruments** for use during procedures.
- **Shadowing and supporting dentists** during dental treatments and procedures.
- **Conducting workshops** to educate the community on preventative oral health practices.
- Providing instruction on proper tooth brushing techniques for children.

Volunteers will rotate through the different stations every day, gaining a comprehensive experience in various aspects of dental care and community health education.



## Triage Station

Here we obtain patients' contact information, basic medical history, and other data for the physicians to use during their consultations.



## Profilaxis Station

The Prophylaxis Station provides professional teeth cleaning services performed by local doctors.



## Toothbrushing

The goal of this station is to educate children from ages 3 and up about dental hygiene.



## Education Station

A space to provide health education on various topics such as nutrition, gender-based violence, breast and Pap screening, among other health themes.



## Pharmacy Station

After the patient has visited every station indicated on their medical form, they will be directed to the Pharmacy Station to fill their prescriptions.



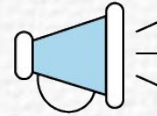
## Dental Station

Bringing quality dental care directly to communities with convenience and expertise. Not available in Costa Rica and Tanzania

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE TRIP



- **Shadow and learn from local medical professionals**, performing services like fillings, extractions, prophylaxis, and dental education.



- **Apply academic theory in real-world settings** through respectful, hands-on fieldwork that prioritizes community perspectives and values.



- **Deepen your understanding** of cultural sensitivity, sustainable development in global health, and the root causes of poverty.



- **Foster personal connections** with communities and follow-up patients supported by MEDLIFE.



# Dental SLT Itinerary

Transfer in & Orientation	Reality Tour	Mobile Clinic	Mobile Clinic	Mobile Clinic	Project	GLE (optional)	Transfer Out
Saturday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
5:00 PM-11:00 PM TRANSFER IN	7:00 AM Breakfast	6:30 AM Breakfast	6:30 AM Breakfast	6:30 AM Breakfast	6:30 AM Breakfast	OPTIONAL TOUR	3:00 AM-9:00 PM Back to Home
	2:00 PM Bus to community	7:30 AM Bus to community or to permanent dental clinic	7:30 AM Bus to community or to permanent dental clinic	7:30 AM Bus to community or to permanent dental clinic	7:30 AM Bus to community or to permanent dental clinic		
Sunday	2:00 PM - 10:00 PM Reality Tour	8:30 AM - 2:30 PM Clinic Day 1	8:30 AM - 2:30 PM Clinic Day 2	8:30 AM - 2:30 PM Clinic Day 3	8:30 AM - 2:30 PM Clinic Day 3		
	Bus to Hotel	Bus to Hotel	Bus to Hotel	Bus to Hotel	Bus to Hotel		
9:00 AM Walking Tour  5:00 PM Welcome meeting & Orientation		5:00 PM Post Clinic Activity	5:00 PM Post Clinic Activity	5:00 PM Post Clinic Activity			
	6:00 PM Dinner	6:00 PM Dinner	6:00 PM Dinner	6:00 PM Dinner	6:00 PM Dinner		

\*Schedule might change depending on destination. Contact a MEDLIFE Advisor for more information at [info@medlifemovement.org](mailto:info@medlifemovement.org)



## WHAT OTHER VOLUNTEERS HAVE TO SAY?



"I really enjoyed connecting with different patients and the global health aspect of MEDLIFE as well. It has made me also potentially consider a path in global health."

*Katlyn, Northeastern University*



"The way of life of all individuals is different in every country so I kind of have had some of the background knowledge of what an SLT is like but every SLT is unique and special in some way."

*Audrey, Purdue University*



"I really enjoy the Mobile Clinics, especially shadowing the doctors here. It's really interesting to see the patients that come here, what conditions they have, to get a little bit better."

*Mikael, University of Toronto*



# THE ABCs OF SAFE TRAVEL WITH MEDLIFE

Service Learning Trips Safety. At MEDLIFE we take safety seriously. We encourage you to read this page in conjunction with our [FAQs](#) and [booking conditions](#).



**COVID-19 Insurance Coverage Options:** Emergency medical insurance is included in the cost of your trip with a deductible of \$250 USD. However, **insurance for trip cancelation or disruption is not included.** We highly recommend purchasing upgraded insurance for more comprehensive protection.



**Vaccination & Testing Requirements:** COVID-19 Vaccination and Testing are no longer required to attend a MEDLIFE Service Learning Trip. However, we highly recommend all participants get fully vaccinated against COVID-19 (three doses) before traveling to their SLT destination.



**Compulsory Safety Briefing:** All participants must attend a mandatory Pre-Trip Safety Review aimed to ensure that all participants are aware of MEDLIFE procedures, precautions, and protocols. Upon arrival, volunteers will attend an extensive safety briefing that includes protective equipment along with face masks.



**Safety During Mobile Clinics:** We are in constant communication with our partner communities to understand their needs and concerns regarding COVID-19. Any patients exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 are screened by a medical professional and separated to avoid contact with volunteers.



# PRICING & INCLUSIONS

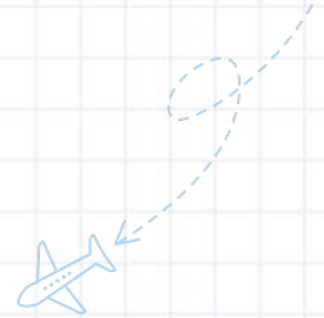
Pricing varies depending on group size and destination. Please visit our [SLTs website](#) for updated pricing or email [info@medlifemovement.org](mailto:info@medlifemovement.org) for more information.

## INCLUDED

- ✓ 7 nights dorm room accommodation
- ✓ Breakfast, lunch and dinner from Monday to Friday
- ✓ Transport to Service Learning Trips activities
- ✓ English-speaking Trip Leader
- ✓ Safety equipment (including face masks)

## NOT INCLUDED

- ✓ Flights
- ✓ Tips
- ✓ Pre or post-trip accommodation
- ✓ Optional excursions
- ✓ Weekend meals



**Any questions? Feel free to [book a call with a MEDLIFE Advisor](#) to find out more about our available scholarships and discounts for students and groups.**

