

*Amidst stunning mountains and deep, shaded hollows, Appalachia is home to generations of proud families, many wrestling with the despair of extreme poverty.*



Teams of Hand in Hand immersion trip volunteers travel to eastern Kentucky repairing homes for those most in need. Repairs range from building wheelchair ramps for the disabled to replacing floors, roofs and plumbing in family homes. After a hard days work, immersion trip volunteers stay at The Auxier Center, a renovated school building that also serves as a community center for the region with a library and food pantry.

*Hand in Hand also offers one-week immersion trips to Belize and Nicaragua. Experience cultures of the rich Latin roots of Nicaragua, to the Caribbean beauty of Belize and the breathtaking mountain vistas of Appalachia. Smiling faces and open arms will welcome you.*

Hand in Hand's local staff schedules time with each immersion trip group to explore the history, culture and heritage of Appalachia, Belize and Nicaragua.



In Appalachia, visit Jenny Wiley State Park, enjoy local music and more while learning the history of the area.

Taking a break from house-building in Belize, trip volunteers visit the Mayan Ruins of Altun Ha, learn local history with the Garifuna Dancers and spend a day relaxing on the beach in Caye Caulker.

A trip to Nicaragua would not be complete without visiting a volcano or lake created in a volcanic crater, a visit to a Pacific Ocean beach, visiting local potters, blacksmiths or other craftsmen. Nicaraguan trips usually include taking local children on a swimming and lunch outing.

For more information visit  
[www.myhandinhand.org](http://www.myhandinhand.org)  
or call the Hand in Hand office at  
**502.459.9930**  
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**AUXIER**  
**APPALACHIAN IMMERSION TRIPS**  
**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

## Frequently Asked Questions for Appalachia Immersion Trips

1. *Where does Hand in Hand Ministries work in Appalachia?*

Located in Auxier, Kentucky. We work in Floyd, Magoffin, Johnson and Martin Counties.

2. *How long is the trip?*

Trips are 3 nights and 2 1/2 days -

- Sunday - Wednesday
- Wednesday - Saturday
- Thursday - Sunday

See the immersion trip schedule on Hand in Hand's website for exact dates.

3. *What is the cost of an Appalachian immersion trip and what does it include?*

The cost is \$250 per person. This includes lodging, most meals, building materials and a Hand in Hand t-Shirt.

4. *Where do we stay?*

We stay in a renovated school building that has been converted into dorm-like rooms.



There are a limited number of private rooms available. There are separate sleeping quarters for men and women. Electrical outlets are available in all rooms.

5. *Are there indoor bathrooms?*

Yes, we have nine bathrooms with hot and cold running water.

6. *Is the building air-conditioned?*

Yes, the rooms are air-conditioned.



7. *Is Wi-Fi available for use?*

Wi-Fi is available.

8. *Does HHM have a van/bus to take individuals to Auxier?*

No. Individuals depart either at the Hand in Hand office or group's location and travel by caravan or carpool to Auxier and all groups **must arrive between 5 and 5:30 pm** the first day.

9. *What is a typical day on an immersion trip?*

Breakfast at 7:30 am, work at job site from 8 - 4:30 pm. On the last day, the group is exposed to cultural immersion. Evening meals are provided two nights, with options for cultural experiences, reflection, and dinner at a local restaurant one evening.

10. *What is the size of the worksite groups?*

We have 6-10 people assigned to each worksite, depending on the project. Each worksite will have a site leader who will act as the construction coordinator for that site.

11. *How long is the drive from the center to the job site?*

The job sites range from 10 minutes to an hour away, depending on site location.

12. *Do I need to have home repair skills to join a trip?*

No. All skill levels can go on the trip. We have all sorts of jobs available on the worksites. Sometimes the job is to visit with the homeowner.

13. *How long is the drive from Louisville to Auxier?*

The drive is approximately 3 1/2 hours, with rest stops along the way.

14. *Will the homeowners be working with the volunteers on the projects?*

Homeowners are required to help if physically capable. We encourage those that are physically able to work hand in hand with our volunteers.

15. *Who prepares the meals?*

Breakfast is provided each day. You pack your own lunch at the center and bring it to the worksite. We prepare dinner for two nights. Groups are encouraged to sample a local restaurant one night.

16. *Will we have cell phone coverage?*

Most people do have cell service at the Auxier Center. Coverage may be limited on the worksites.

17. *Do I need to bring tools?*

No, we provide the tools, but you are welcome to bring your own, if you prefer.