

# 2010 Reach Out Alternative Spring Break Trips

## **Ethiopia**

**Cost:** \$2,080

**Dates:** March 5<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>

The trip will begin with a week in Addis Ababa, where we'll volunteer with Hope for Children, which provides group homes for orphaned youth. We'll work mornings in preschool classrooms, and in the afternoons we'll move to HFC's Youth Center, where we'll help older children with arts and crafts projects, schoolwork, and computer skills. We also hope to spend a day in Addis shadowing Dr. Rick Hodes, a doctor from Long Island who works at Mother Teresa's Clinic. We'll meet Rick's boisterous and unconventional family, which consists of about a dozen children whom the doctor has adopted, at one of his famous Shabbat dinners. We'll leave urban Addis for rural Ytebon, where we'll spend the second half of our trip living and working at Project Mercy, a model sustainable community. Here, we will tutor Project Mercy's students, spend time with the house children, and work on a project that has yet to be determined. Equally as illuminating as the work we will do in this truly inspiring community will be the meals that we share with Marta and Deme, the couple responsible for it. Our aim is an energizing, productive trip that balances work with a wide range of cultural experiences.

Trip Leaders: Phillip ([phillip.cohen@yale.edu](mailto:phillip.cohen@yale.edu)) and Laura ([laura.zax@yale.edu](mailto:laura.zax@yale.edu))

## **Rwanda**

**Cost:** \$2100

**Dates:** March 5<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>

For the service portion of our trip, we will work with Agahozo Shalom Youth Village, an organization that aims to alleviate the trauma suffered by survivors of the Rwandan genocide by providing them with secure accommodation, education, and psychotherapy. We will help out by completing construction projects (the village opened this past summer and is not totally finished), providing an outlet for the residents to practice their English, and simply showing them that non-Rwandans feel for their harrowing pasts. However, there's much more to Rwanda than sadness and terror – Rwanda boasts lush forests, endless mountains (it is often referred to as "The Land of a Thousand Hills"), and diverse wildlife. Rwanda's small size will allow us to explore much of the country on the traveling portion of our trip. Among the highlights will be game spotting in Akagera National Park, relaxing on the banks of Lake Kivu, checking out the markets in Butare, and exploring Rwanda's capital, Kigali.

Trip Leaders: Haley ([haley.cohen@yale.edu](mailto:haley.cohen@yale.edu)) and Josh ([joshua.t.gordon@yale.edu](mailto:joshua.t.gordon@yale.edu))

## **India**

**Cost:** \$2000

**Dates:** March 6<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>

Our trip will begin in New Delhi, the ancient Mughal capital and the now-sprawling metropolitan capital of modern India. We will be working with children in an orphanage, making teaching aids, and doing groundwork. Then, leaving our base in Delhi, we will travel to Agra, the home of the Taj Mahal, and down the Western coast by train. Our voyage will take us through Mumbai, Goa and Kerala, where we will sample a variety of rich and diverse cultures that are very different from those in Delhi and Northern India. Overall, this trip is intended to give a rough framework for understanding India and the challenges it faces in the 21st Century.

Trip Leaders: Thomas ([Thomas.stipanov@yale.edu](mailto:Thomas.stipanov@yale.edu)) and Jessica ([Jessica.bolhack@yale.edu](mailto:Jessica.bolhack@yale.edu))

## **India**

**Cost:** ~\$1850

**Dates:** March 5<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>

As India climbs to the top of global economies, 40% of its population is still illiterate, and only 15% reach high school. The Smile Foundation is dedicated to social equality through education. This NGO engages in a wide variety of projects ranging from educating children with autism to empowering women and girls through educational workshops. After spending six days in New Delhi volunteering with Smile, we will supplement our trip with an in-depth understanding of the history and culture of India by visiting Agra, Jaipur, and Mumbai.

Trip Leaders: Tasnim ([tasnim.motala@yale.edu](mailto:tasnim.motala@yale.edu)) and Zenah ([zenah.hasan@yale.edu](mailto:zenah.hasan@yale.edu))

## **China**

**Cost:** \$1200-\$1300

**Dates:** March 5<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>

Our trip will take place in the outskirts of Beijing, in a rural community far from the flash and glamour of the city. Here, children of Beijing's millions of migrant workers attend run-down, underfunded, "unofficial" schools because their parents lack the legitimacy to send them to regular state-run schools. Yale students on the trip will spend a busy week in one of these schools, teaching the children English and science, and building their character and leadership skills. Yale students will be offering these deprived children a small glimpse of a future filled with hope and opportunity, one built on education, courage and goodness. This trip is a must for those who value education, development and enjoys working with kids. It also includes a few days of sightseeing in one of the most modern, historic and cultural cities in the world.

Trip Leaders: Michael ([michael.zhan@yale.edu](mailto:michael.zhan@yale.edu)) and Rachel ([rachel.wang@yale.edu](mailto:rachel.wang@yale.edu))

## **Brazil**

**Cost:** \$1500-1600

**Dates:** March 6<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>

Favelas are severely impoverished communities in Brazil that are commonly represented in popular media as dangerous hubs for drugs and violence, which fails to portray the people's sense of community and drive for betterment. In Rio de Janeiro, Reach Out Brazil participants will explore the various socioeconomic and political issues that face individuals living in favelas by working first-hand with the citizens of Favela da Maré in a community center that was built in their honor from grants awarded by the municipal government and the Brazilian oil company PETROBRAS. Students in the trip will also have the chance to be immersed in the vibrant culture and customs unique to Brazil to help foster a sense of cross-cultural dialogue and understanding. Trip Leaders: Brian ([brian.agredano@yale.edu](mailto:brian.agredano@yale.edu)) and Christine ([christine.saffold@yale.edu](mailto:christine.saffold@yale.edu))

### **Nicaragua**

**Cost:** \$1200-1600 (pending)

**Dates:** March 5<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>

Our trip will take us to León, Nicaragua, where we will collaborate on a service project with residents in a rural town and meet with community leaders, NGOs, and political figures. We will work closely with the New Haven/León Sister City Project, a non-profit founded in 1984 that today continues working to promote democracy and human rights. Participants will stay with host families, and we will have plenty of time to explore the city and immerse ourselves in Nicaraguan culture. Spanish is helpful but not required.

*Trip Leaders: Alexis* ([alexis.johnson@yale.edu](mailto:alexis.johnson@yale.edu)) *and Stephannie* ([stephannie.furtak@yale.edu](mailto:stephannie.furtak@yale.edu))

### **Jordan**

**Cost:** ~\$1600

**Dates:** March 4<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>

We will be traveling to Jordan to help out Palestinian refugees and do our part to ease the strain that the refugee crisis has placed on Jordan. We will be working in a camp outside of Amman in conjunction with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency, which administers the refugee camps. The ultimate goals of our journey are to develop a better conception of the local ramifications of Jordan's refugee crisis and also to foster understanding and appreciation of Jordan as a unique country and its place in the wider region. Jordan is a wonderful, welcoming country, and we expect that the experience will be mutually enriching.

*Trip Leaders: Meredith* ([meredith.morrison@yale.edu](mailto:meredith.morrison@yale.edu)) *and Judd* ([judd.rosenblatt@yale.edu](mailto:judd.rosenblatt@yale.edu))

### **Vietnam**

**Cost:** \$1600-1800

**Dates:** March 7<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>

Vietnam boasts one of the fastest-growing economies in Asia. Yet, despite its open borders and markets, its issues in the realms of public health, human rights, and social development cannot be ignored. Our trip will provide an introduction to these issues via personal interactions and cross-cultural exchange. Based in Saigon, Reach Out: Hello, Vietnam! offers students the opportunity to work with orphaned children and disabled adults at a shelter and vocational training center called La Maison Chance in the heart of the city, and experience the vibrant culture and welcoming locals with excursions to Hoi An and the capitol city of Hanoi.

*Trip Leaders: Quynh* ([quynh.do@yale.edu](mailto:quynh.do@yale.edu)) *and Kimberly* ([kimberly.ton@yale.edu](mailto:kimberly.ton@yale.edu))

### **South Africa/Swaziland**

**Cost:** \$2000

**Dates:** March 6<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>

This trip will use the perspective of community-engaged theater to introduce participants to the HIV/AIDS pandemic and other public health issues in Southern Africa. Participants will embark on a two-week collaboration with Clowns Without Borders South Africa (CWBSA) in Durban, South Africa, performing for children in rural townships, participating in workshops for Orphaned and Vulnerable Children, and exploring the KwaZulu-Natal province. CWBSA works with Orphaned and Vulnerable Children in South Africa, Swaziland, and Lesotho, leading workshops to improve the psychosocial condition of the children and their communities. This unique immersion will address several facets of life in a developing country, and students will gain an understanding of personal and public health issues; the economic, social, political, and cultural structures of South Africa; community-engaged art; and laughing at oneself. No theater experience necessary (at all).

*Trip Leaders: Camila* ([camila.garcia@yale.edu](mailto:camila.garcia@yale.edu)) *Karissa* ([karissa.britten@yale.edu](mailto:karissa.britten@yale.edu)) *& Willi* ([willi.rechler@yale.edu](mailto:willi.rechler@yale.edu))

### **Dominican Republic**

**Cost:** \$1150

**Dates:** March 6<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>

Our trip will begin in Santiago, where we will spend one night before heading to the border with Haiti. At Dajabon, the border town where Trujillo's army massacred thousands of Haitians and Dominicans in 1937, we will visit the market and talk with UN guards stationed there. From Dajabon, we will travel to Batey Libertad, an impoverished rural community of Dominicans and Haitians. We will spend 4 or 5 days in the Batey, living with host families, taking tours of agricultural fields and factories, a free trade zone, schools, and learning about development in the community and our role in this development. From the Batey we will travel to Santo Domingo for a two day stay, where we will visit cultural and historical sites and spend half a day at the beach. This trip is sponsored by Yspaniola, a non-profit founded at Yale that seeks to provide scholarships to students in the Batey. As such, the primary service component of the trip will involve fundraising beforehand to help send our hosts and friends in the Batey to school.

*Trip leaders: Gideon* ([gideon.mausner@yale.edu](mailto:gideon.mausner@yale.edu))