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February 22, 2022

Invitation to MindLeaps-Guided Trip to Guinea – Summer 2022

We invite you to join our week-long guided trip to Guinea hosted by MindLeaps Executive Director, Rebecca Davis.

This trip gives a small group of guests the opportunity to view the programs and operations of MindLeaps in Guinea. You will meet our Guinean students and local staff. You will experience activities at the MindLeaps Center in Conakry, take a day trip to a local island, meet with other local NGOs, and visit cultural and historical sites.

In 2022, we are also breaking ground on a new MindLeaps Center in Conakry. You will be able to visit our new land, which will become a center for dance for our organization.

The trip fee is \$2,000 per person and covers all meals, ground transportation and logistics. Trip dates will be in June, July or August; exact dates will be based on the availability of interested travelers.

We would be happy to answer any questions.

I hope you will be able to join us for this special experience.

Best wishes,



Rebecca Davis
Executive Director



Summer 2022 Dates and Registration

Departure:

Please choose flights that arrive in Conakry the day before activities begin.

Return flight:

Please choose flights that leave the day following the itinerary. If you leave after that date, you will be responsible for your own logistics.

Trip fee: \$2,000 per person. The trip fee includes your in-country transportation and guides, all meals, cultural event costs, and airport pick up and drop off. The fee does not include airfare, accommodations, visa, vaccinations, malaria pills, or COVID tests. We would be happy to recommend and help book your accommodations.

Deposit due: Non-refundable \$500 per person deposit is *due two months before travel*

Remaining due: The remaining amount of \$1,500 per person is *due one month before travel*

Please send your deposit by check to:

By check: Mail a check made out to *MindLeaps* to

116 West 23rd Street, Suite 500

New York, NY 10011

Online: Please email info@mindleaps.org or call 646.902.1295 to receive an invoice you can pay online through ACH or credit card (includes 1% fee for ACH and 2.9% fee for credit card)

MindLeaps creates educational paths for the most vulnerable children in the world through a creative arts program that is built on data-driven metrics. Supplemental skill training is provided through academic acceleration courses.

In Guinea, MindLeaps currently serves 80 students at our center, and we are sponsoring 203 students in formal education.

www.mindleaps.org



About Guinea

Guinea is a country in West Africa, bordered on the west by the Atlantic Ocean.

The capital city, Conakry, is home to the modern Grand Mosque and the National Museum, with its regional artifacts.

Guinea's mineral wealth makes it potentially one of Africa's richest countries, but its people are among the poorest in West Africa.



EXCLUSIVE GUIDED TOUR

MindLeaps invites you on an exclusive one-week guided tour for a small group of up to eight people. You will meet our children who are working to transform their lives and now succeed in school. The tour includes travel around Conakry, visits to MindLeaps' programs, and private meetings with NGOs, government officials and local entrepreneurs.

Who will you meet?

MindLeaps works with vulnerable youth living in extreme poverty. The youth change their mindset of survival and learn skills that are in demand in Guinea's labor force. This opens the way to employment and self-sufficiency. After completing MindLeaps program, the students are sponsored to join formal education. You will meet youth who are at every stage of this life-changing journey. Through doing so, you learn about Guinea and the fight against poverty.



EXAMPLE ITINERARY

Day 1: Understanding Guinea & MindLeaps

Visit MindLeaps' Center in Conakry and observe the activities. Speak with MindLeaps students and staff. Special dinner out.



Day 2: Day in the Life

See where some of the MindLeaps' children live in Conakry. Visit a school where MindLeaps students are being sponsored. Meet local officials and community leaders over dinner.



Day 3: NGOs & Traditional Dance

Visit other NGOs and meet their leadership. Enjoy a dinner & performance with traditional Guinean dance.



Day 4: Outside Conakry

Enjoy a day trip to Iles de Los with beautiful beaches outside of Conakry.



Day 5: Visit Dubreka Waterfalls

Day trip to Les Cascades De La Soumba (Dubreka)



Day 6: Final visit to MindLeaps

Visit MindLeaps one more time to say goodbye! Take COVID departure test, if required, before flying out.



Visa assistance:

MindLeaps will provide an invitation letter and assist you throughout the visa application process.

Recommended accommodations:

Hotel: [Sheraton Grand Conakry](#) - \$150/night
Motel-style: University of Kofi Annan - \$50/night

Vaccinations:

- Yellow Fever vaccine is required
- Typhoid and Malarone pills are recommended
- Recommended vaccines: Chickenpox (Varicella), Diphtheria-Tetanus-Pertussis, Flu (influenza), Measles-Mumps-Rubella (MMR), Polio, COVID-19, Hepatitis A & B, Measles, Meningitis
- Additional recommended vaccines are listed on the CDC website [here](#). We also recommend visiting a travel doctor.

MindLeaps FY21 Highlights



In February 2021, a permanent MindLeaps program in the Rwamwanja Refugee Settlement was secured. The settlement hosts almost 76,000 refugees, primarily those who have fled violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

February



In June 2021, 600 MindLeaps students completed their academic year. In addition, 116 of these students began preparing for their national examinations in July to graduate from Primary or Secondary School.

June

July



In July 2021, MindLeaps hosted Kirven Douthit-Boyd, former dancer with Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. Kirven traveled to the Jim Bell Centre in Rwanda to choreograph a dance piece for the Ubumuntu Arts Festival and host five artistic workshops.

August



Beginning in August 2021, local Guinean youth began a 12-week intensive Train The Trainer program. 13 of these youth graduated from the training and will be hired by MindLeaps in 2022.

September

October



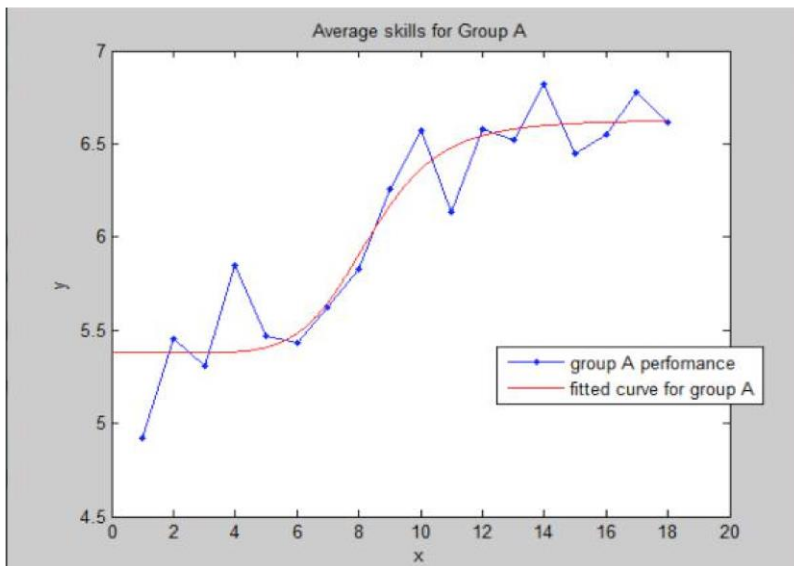
In September 2021, MindLeaps partnered with Chance for Childhood (CfC) and Empowering Children with Disabilities (EmCD) to launch a new program that focuses on D/deaf girls from the Nyabihu School for Deaf Children (NSDC) in Rwanda.



In October 2021, MindLeaps opened the Women's Digital Dreams Center at MindLeaps Guinea. This center is made possible through the support of Fondation Orange Guinée.

MindLeaps Research

Working with **Carnegie Mellon University Rwanda** and **Drexel University**, MindLeaps has developed an analytical tool to measure the change in 7 cognitive and non-cognitive skills in vulnerable children through the MindLeaps' dance curriculum. These skills are considered critical for success in a formal classroom setting. Below is a typical graph showing the average change in these 7 skills in a class of 15 students over 20 weeks in the program. The seven skills measured on a scale of 1 to 7: memorization, language, grit, self-esteem, creativity & self-expression, discipline and teamwork & collaboration. www.mindleaps.org/research



70% of MindLeaps children performed in the top 20% of their class when enrolled in school

X-Axis: # of Weeks at MindLeaps Center in Rwanda

Y-Axis: Average scores on 7 cognitive and behavioral skills on a scale of 1-7

Sample: 15 children ("Group A") who take dance class three days/week (2 hours/class) at MindLeaps

About Rebecca Davis, Founder of MindLeaps

In founding and serving as the Executive Director of MindLeaps, Rebecca is responsible for the strategic direction, fundraising and management of an organization currently operational in six countries and with headquarters in New York City. Prior to MindLeaps, Rebecca worked for The Carter Center, Stage Holding Russia, and Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts. She ran a professional dance company and a pre-professional training program in Philadelphia for five years known as RDDC: Rebecca Davis Dance Company. Rebecca graduated summa cum laude with a Bachelors of Business Administration in Entrepreneurship from Temple University, and she holds a Masters in International Relations with a concentration in Peacekeeping from American Military University. She received a post-graduate certificate in Ballet and Choreography Studies during her Fulbright year in Russia. Rebecca has been recognized for outstanding leadership and MindLeaps' potential to scale an innovative solution: how to achieve and quantify behavioral change through movement. Rebecca is a two-time Fulbright Scholar (Russia, Ukraine) and a former Greater New York City Fulbright Alumna- in-Residence. She was a 2017 Truman Security Fellow, and a 2018 Gratitude Network Fellow. A sought-after speaker whose accomplishments are frequently noted in various news media, Rebecca has most recently spoken at The World Bank's Human Development Week (2019), Segal Family Foundation's Annual General Meeting (2019) and chaired the Arts & Resiliency Panel for Ubumuntu Arts Festival with panelists Reggie Van Lee, LaMar Baylor and Royce Zackery.