



Uruguay Open Team

Information Packet

Location: Barros Blancos, Uruguay

Project Dates: February 22 – March 5, 2017

Participation Fee: \$995

Flight to Montevideo is not included in the participation fee



Maranatha in Uruguay

Uruguay has a population of 3.3 million people, with a Seventh-day Adventist membership of less than 9,000 believers. It is considered one of the most secular countries in the Americas, and Adventist leadership in Uruguay is hoping to strengthen the Church's presence through education. For years, Adventist Church leaders have been talking to Maranatha about the possibility of starting a new effort in Uruguay, specifically for school construction projects. Now, in response to the request, Maranatha will be constructing a large school facility in a suburb of Montevideo.

Project Overview

A few years ago, the Adventist Church voted to close the Barros Blancos Adventist Primary School, due to crumbling infrastructure and a lack of the students. But the teachers fought to keep the school open, sacrificing much of their salaries and working hard to recruit new students. Today, the school is thriving with 140 students; more than 90% are not part of the Adventist Church. Many more students have shown interest in enrolling, but the school is not large enough to accommodate additional students. They are currently operating out of Sabbath school classrooms as well as three small modular classrooms, and they have to operate two shifts each day to accommodate the current students.

For this project, Maranatha will be constructing an eight-classroom Education and Evangelism Center, which will allow the school to operate in its own facility and provide room for growth up to 320 students!

Maranatha volunteers on this project will help with the block masonry at the school facility. They will also help paint the church sanctuary on the same property. In addition to construction and painting, the group will also run programs for the children. The school will be in session when the volunteers are there, so a small group will go from class to class to present an hour-long children's program.

Project Schedule

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22
Arrival in Montevideo

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23
Orientation and first work day

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24
Work day

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25
Worship with the local congregation. Afternoon visit to a nearby Adventist academy.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26
Work day

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27
Excursion to Colonia del Sacramento

TUESDAY, FEB. 28 – FRIDAY, MAR. 3
Work days

SATURDAY, MARCH 4
Worship with the local congregation.

SUNDAY, MARCH 5
Departure from Montevideo

Accommodations

The group will stay at the Betania Retreat Center. The center is located about 35 minutes from the airport and about 35 minutes from the school job site. The campus is located in the country, outside the city, with plenty of open areas on the grounds. The group will travel each day, to and from the work site, in a private bus.

Volunteers will stay in a mixture of rooms with bunk beds and rooms with double beds. Each room is double or triple occupancy, but each room has a private bathroom. You should plan on staying in a double room with a roommate, but if you are interested in a single occupancy room at an additional cost (TBD), email volunteer@maranatha.org and you will be placed on a first-come first-serve list to be confirmed if the single rooms are available.

There is hot water on campus, but each room has a small water tank in the bathroom, so in order for everyone to get hot water, short showers are recommended. Bedding is provided, but please plan to bring a towel, washcloth, and pillow. The rooms do not have screens on the windows, so we recommend that volunteers bring a mosquito net to either place over the window or to cover the bed. A full packing list will be available in the final information packet.

Meals will take place in a common dining room at the center and worships will be held in another meeting room. WiFi is available in some spots on campus, but do not expect a very fast connection. Laundry service will be arranged for an additional cost.

Excursions

After a few days of work, the group will have a chance to visit a small town called Colonia del Sacramento. Volunteers will travel approximately two and a half hours to this colonial town where they will get to explore the Barrio Histórico, or historic quarter, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Popular attractions include a lighthouse and convent ruins, the basilica, several historic houses, and museums. The group will enjoy a nice lunch, time to explore on their own, and an opportunity to purchase local souvenirs.

Additional Excursion Options

Many volunteers have expressed an interest in doing some additional traveling before or after the volunteer project. Maranatha is not coordinating an optional excursion at the end of this project. So please plan to make your own hotel and transportation arrangements for any additional days outside the Maranatha project dates.

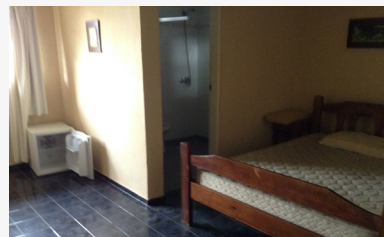
Uruguay is located very close to Argentina. From the project location, it is approximately a two and a half-hour bus ride, plus a ferry ride, to arrive in Buenos Aires, Argentina. This is a better option than flying. If you are interested in this extra travel, Maranatha is willing to drop off volunteers at the bus stop at the end of the project. However, the rest of the arrangements will be up to you. The three companies for bus/ferry tickets are Buquebus, Colonia Express, and Seacat Colonia. We will do one drop off in the morning of March 5 for those who want to do this. Please contact Maranatha to get your name on this list before you make bus/ferry reservations.

Expenses

The participation fee covers housing, three vegetarian meals a day, ground transportation to and from the airport and project site, local excursions, secondary accident insurance, a Maranatha t-shirt, and luggage tags.

Maranatha must receive all funds and forms by January 9, due to application processing time. Wait for confirmation of acceptance on the project before purchasing your airfare.

Maranatha participation fees are tax-deductible. For Canadian tax-deductible receipts, payments must be made by check to the Maranatha Association (address located at the end of this information packet). For U.S. tax-deductible receipts, payments can be made by cash, check, or credit/debit cards.



If you are fundraising or receiving donations, please have them sent directly to you or work with your local church treasurer to collect funds and issue tax-deductible receipts, since it is difficult for Maranatha to track individual small checks. If your church will not work with you, please wait until you have collected the full amount of your participation fee before submitting your participation fee to Maranatha.

Estimate of Additional Costs

Flight to Montevideo \$900 -1,800

Passport \$130 or \$110 for renewal

Leadership

Vickie and Bernie Wiedmann | Project Coordinator and Construction Superintendent

Vickie and Bernie have enjoyed volunteering with Maranatha projects for the past 22 years. When not on a mission trip, they own and run a small electrical business in Washington. Through the years, Vickie has had experience leading Maranatha's Ultimate Workout, Open Team volunteer groups, and the Christmas Family Project. When Bernie can join her, he leads out in construction with the building, painting, and electrical work. Vickie will be leading the group as the overall project coordinator, and Bernie will lead the masonry construction at the school.



Mark Jones | Painting Coordinator

Mark and Vickie Jones join the group from Minnesota, where Mark owns a business and works as a professional painter. They first joined Maranatha in 2009, and since then, they have volunteered on several projects throughout the world. Their genuine love for people makes them a joy to have on any project. Mark will lead the church painting site.



Loretta Jessop | Head Cook

Loretta joins the group as the head cook. She and her husband, Gary, have been serving together as Maranatha volunteers since the 1980's, both internationally and in the United States. They reside in western Washington where they are very involved in their local church and enjoy spending time with their family. It has been their goal to bring all of their grandchildren on a Maranatha project. Loretta is used to cooking wonderful meals in rough conditions. Gary often helps lead the construction projects or gives Loretta a hand in the kitchen.



About Uruguay

Uruguay is located on the eastern coast of South America, beneath Brazil, and it is the third smallest country on the continent after Suriname and French Guiana. Rolling plains and low hills cover most of the landscape. Throughout the country, the climate is very temperate and dry, and without large mountain ranges, the land is prone to high winds. To the southwest lies Rio de la Plata, the estuary of the Uruguay River, separating Uruguay from Argentina.

The Portuguese colonized the country in 1512, but the Spanish arrived just four years later. Fierce resistance to conquest by the indigenous people, combined with a lack of precious metals in the land, limited colonization in the area until the 18th century when Montevideo was founded by the Spanish as a military stronghold. Uruguay gained its independence from Spain in 1830. Now Uruguay is widely considered one of the most liberal nations in the world and one of the most socially developed regionally.

Life in Uruguay shares much of the folklore and customs of Argentina. With the open plains throughout much of Uruguay, the life of gauchos or cattle ranchers, form a prominent part of the culture. Meat, and especially beef, is a staple in Uruguay. Asado, a type of barbecued beef, is considered the national dish. And it's hard to go too far without seeing someone drinking a loose-leaf caffeinated tea called mate or eating an alfajor, a shortbread cookie sandwich filled with creamed caramel.

Travel Information

Flights

Volunteers will purchase their own plane tickets to the city of Montevideo (see below). Please wait for confirmation from Maranatha before purchasing your airfare to ensure there is still space on the project. Together volunteers will travel together by bus to the project location.

Arrival

Please plan to arrive in Montevideo (airport code MVD) in the afternoon or evening of February 22.

Departure

Please plan to depart from Montevideo (MVD) anytime on March 5. Maranatha will make two or three trips to the airport on this day. Those with later departures will have some time in Montevideo, prior to being taken to the airport.

Travel Resources

- **Azumano Travel:** 800-454-4099 or by email with Erle at edpenha@ciazumano.com
- **Butler Travel:** 503-879-5005 or by email with Nathanael at nathan@butlertravel.com or with Ellen at ellen@butlertravel.com.
- **Kayak:** www.kayak.com

When contacting the Azumano or Butler travel agencies, make sure you mention Maranatha to receive a discounted service charge.

Entry Requirements

All passports must be valid for at least six months from the dates of intended travel (September 6, 2017). If you do not have a passport, U.S. citizens can apply at any U.S. post office or online at <http://travel.state.gov>. Canadian citizens can apply online at www.passport.gc.ca. It can take up to two months to complete the entire process, so plan accordingly to give yourself enough time to receive your passport.

Citizens of the United States and Canada do not need a visa to enter Uruguay for visits lasting less than three months.

Citizens of other countries, please consult the Uruguayan embassy or consulate in your home country for entrance requirements.

Health & Safety

Maranatha requires that every volunteer have a current tetanus vaccine (within the last 10 years). The Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) also recommend vaccines for hepatitis A and typhoid.

You may have already received some of these vaccines, and you may deem some of them unnecessary for this trip. You should schedule a consultation with a travel clinic doctor to talk about the medical risks in Uruguay and the ways to minimize them.



Facts and Figures

Capital:
Montevideo

Population:
3.3 million

Language:
Spanish

Climate:
Warm, temperate

Religion:
Catholic 47%, Atheist or Agnostic 17%, Protestant 11%

Currency:
Uruguayan Peso

Giving Opportunity

As a part of this project, volunteers will have an opportunity to paint the sanctuary for the church that the school has been using for assemblies. The walls are in need of a new coat of paint, and this will also provide the church members with a nice looking building. However, the cost of this paint is not included in the Maranatha participation fee, and it is an additional project for our group. We need to fundraise for the cost of the paint, which will be approximately \$1,000. If you are interested in giving towards this project, please contact Maranatha.

How to Register

To register, please complete the online registration and pay the full participation fee or an initial deposit of at least half the total participation fee. You can make this payment by credit card online or over the phone or with a check made out to Maranatha Volunteers International and sent to the address below. If for any reason you need to cancel your participation, Maranatha will do their best to refund your deposit up until one month before travel. After that point, \$150 is non-refundable and the remainder will depend on the reservations and the project arrangements already made.

Register online at Maranatha.org or over the phone.

Contact Information

Phone: (916) 774-7700

Fax: (916) 774-7701

Email: volunteer@maranatha.org

Website: www.maranatha.org

Mailing Address:

Maranatha Volunteers International

990 Reserve Drive

Suite 100

Roseville, CA 95678

Canadian Payments Only:

Maranatha Volunteers International
Association

c/o V06494C

PO Box 6494, Station Terminal
Vancouver, BC V6B 6R3

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STORE

BUY MARANATHA MERCHANDISE!

Share the spirit of service with Maranatha-themed apparel and accessories.



CAP \$12



All cotton and easy to pack, this cap is sure to keep the sun off your face on a mission project and at home.

WATER BOTTLE \$15



The autospout water bottle by Contigo features a one-touch-button spout for convenient one-handed drinking. It also has a spout shield to protect the spout from debris and dirt when not in use—perfect for the project site.

HARD HAT \$11



This MSA V-Gard hard hat, with Staz-On suspension, ensures excellent shock absorption on the job site.

**TO ORDER, VISIT [MARANATHA.ORG/STORE](https://www.maranatha.org/store)
OR CALL (916) 774-7700**

All prices are excluding sales tax and shipping.