

Dominica Project

Information Packet

Location: Dominica

Project Dates: May 31 - June 10, 2018

Total Fee: \$1,250

Children 12 and under: \$1,100

(Age determined on the start date of the project)

Flight to Dominica is not included in the participation fee



Maranatha in Dominica

Maranatha's first project in Dominica was in 1979, when volunteers assisted with the construction of a Seventh-day Adventist secondary school in the city of Portsmouth. Maranatha's major effort didn't take place until the 1980s though, after Hurricane David slammed into the island and destroyed many of its structures. In response, Maranatha began working on the island to help rebuild homes, churches, and schools. It was an effort that lasted into the 1990s.

Then, on the night of September 18, 2017, Hurricane Maria, a category 5 hurricane, plowed into Dominica. Rain and winds of more than 200 mph tore through the country. The storm lasted for hours, and in the morning, Dominicans woke to a scene of utter devastation. The once lush tropical island was stripped of leaves, trees, and vegetation. More than two dozen people lost their lives. Thousands of homes were impacted. Out of 34 Adventist churches on the island, 28 were damaged or destroyed.

In late 2017, the Adventist Church in Dominica contacted Maranatha to request assistance in rebuilding their churches. To start, Maranatha will focus on the reconstruction of two churches and potentially other projects. Additional opportunities may be available in the future.

Project Overview

On this project, volunteers will assist with the reconstruction of the Beryl Adventist Church, home to 120 members. The Beryl congregation has been meeting for more than 40 years, but their actual church was built in 1988 by Maranatha! Unfortunately, the sanctuary was toppled by Hurricane Maria. The roof flew off during the storm, and the walls collapsed. The entire structure will need to be torn down and rebuilt. Volunteers on this project will pour the floor and foundation and assemble the metal frame for the new structure. The new Maranatha church will use a design capable of withstanding powerful winds, and part of its success hinges on the strong foundation of the church. This project will be very important to the future of the church.

Project Schedule

Thursday, May 31
Arrival in Dominica

Friday, June 1
First work day

Saturday, June 2
Worship with the local congregation.
Afternoon community service.

Sunday - Tuesday, June 3 - 5
Work days

Wednesday, June 6
Local excursion

Thursday - Friday, June 7-8
Work days

Saturday, June 9
Worship with the local congregation.
Afternoon community service.

Sunday, June 10
Departure

There are many needs on the island that reach beyond the reconstruction of churches. While many of the Christians we met expressed hope and optimism because of their faith in God, people are still recovering emotionally from the terrifying experience. Many children were traumatized and suffer from anxiety. Volunteers working in Dominica may have the opportunity to spread hope and joy to these individuals through a variety of community outreach activities.



Depending on the skills of the volunteers who join this group, there will be opportunities to do children's ministry, health education, and food and seed distribution. Most of the plants were wiped out during the hurricane, and people have lost their source of food and income. Maranatha volunteers will help by distributing seeds to families to help with the replanting process.



Accommodations

Volunteers will stay at the Atlantique View Hotel. This facility fared relatively well in the hurricane, and although many of the rooms are under repair, the hotel will adequately accommodate this group. Overall the accommodations are nice and range between a 2- and 3- star hotel.

The rooms have a mix of twin and queen beds with private bathrooms and air-conditioning. Linens are provided, but washcloths are not typically available, so plan on bringing your own. The hotel has WiFi access in the lobby. The group will meet together at the hotel for meals and worships. Each day, the group will travel by bus to the construction and clinic sites.

The hurricane wiped out much of the island's infrastructure. While the government is slowly repairing the power grid, much of the island is still without power. The hotel will have a generator for a few hours each morning and evening, but outages can be common.

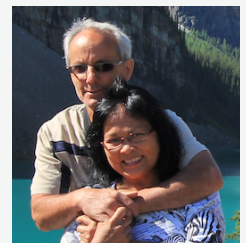
Excursions

During the project, the group will take a day to tour some sites in Dominica. We'll head to the capital city of Roseau for some souvenir shopping. We'll also be able to go on hikes to visit the island's once beautiful natural landscape, including waterfalls and mountains. There are also several beaches that the group can enjoy during the trip. Volunteers will also have the option to scuba dive or snorkel for an additional cost.

Leadership

Dwain and Nellie Ferguson | Project Coordinator and Construction Superintendent

Dwain and Nellie Ferguson join the group from British Columbia, Canada. They have joined several Maranatha projects as both volunteers and leaders, and their most recent travels have taken them to countries including Curaçao, Chad, Ghana, Panama, Kenya, and the Dominican Republic. Nellie will oversee all aspects of the trip as the project coordinator and Dwain will lead the group on the construction site.



Expenses

The fee of \$1,250 covers housing, three vegetarian meals a day, ground transportation to and from the airport and project site, local excursions, short-term travel insurance, a Maranatha t-shirt, and luggage tags.

Maranatha must receive all funds and forms by April 30 due to application processing time. Wait for confirmation of acceptance on the project before purchasing your airfare.

All prices are listed in U.S. dollars. Payments can be made by cash or check sent to the Maranatha office in California (please include your name and "Dominica Project - June 2018") or by credit or debit card online or over the phone.

For Canadian tax-deductible receipts, payments must be made by check to the Maranatha Volunteers International (Canada) Association; the address is listed at the end of this information packet. At this time Maranatha cannot issue tax-deductible receipts for credit card payments.

If you are fundraising or receiving donations, please either 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 Dominica:** \$1100 - \$1500
- **Passport:** \$130 or \$110 for renewal

About Dominica

Dominica is located in the Caribbean and is part of the Lesser Antilles, just north of Martinique and south of Guadeloupe. It was the last of the Caribbean islands to be colonized by Europeans, primarily due to the resistance of the original inhabitants, the Kalinago.

In the 1600s, even as nearby islands were settled by Europe, the island of Dominica was left as neutral territory. The natural resources and timber of the mountainous island were attractive to many European countries, and eventually the French established the first permanent settlement in 1690. Formally colonizing the island in the 1700s, the French brought slaves over from West Africa to help with coffee plantations and officially colonized the island in the early 1700s. In the late 1700s, the British seized control of Dominica. Dominica gained its independence from the United Kingdom in 1978.

Dominica is a small island, just shy of 290 square miles, which is smaller than the city of New York. It is known as “The Nature Island of the Caribbean” due to its mountainous terrain, variety of flora and fauna, and access to some of the most pristine wilderness and dive spots in the Caribbean. More than 60 percent of the island is covered by rainforest, and visitors can hike through the jungle to access beautiful waterfalls and rivers. Dominica is also home to Boiling Lake, the second-largest hot lake in the world. Much of the beautiful scenery of Dominica has been destroyed by Hurricane Maria, but one day, the island plants will recover and it will be back to its original beauty. Trail restoration projects are underway and trees are already growing back.

Its Caribbean location brings beautiful weather nearly year-round. The island is also subject to tropical storms and hurricanes, which impacts not only their island’s beauty but also the local economy. In 2015, the island suffered extensive damage after being deluged with rain by Tropical Storm Erica. During September 2017, Hurricane Maria swept through the island. Maria denuded the island’s vegetation, damaged structures, and wiped out the country’s power supply. Since then, the country has been diligently clearing debris, repairing roads, and restoring power, section by section.

The culture of Dominica was widely developed by the mixing of cultures from French and English settlers, the African slaves, and the Kalinago people, who still remain on the island. This has resulted in a vibrant Caribbean culture. Music and dance play a large part in the culture and is seen in the numerous festivals that take place throughout the year.



Facts and Figures

Capital: Roseau

Population: 73,897 (July 2017)

Language: English

Climate: Tropical; heavy rainfall

Religion: Catholic 61%,
Protestant 29%

Currency: East Caribbean Dollar

Travel Information

Volunteers will purchase their own plane tickets to Dominica and will be met upon arrival at the airport. If you arrive or depart outside the posted time frames, you may have to wait at the airport or you may be responsible for paying the additional transportation costs for your airport transfer.

Please wait for confirmation before purchasing your airfare. Once you are confirmed, do not hesitate to buy your tickets as space on the flights are limited and airlines have reduced the number of flights to the island. Once you have purchased your flight, send a copy of your itinerary to volunteer@maranatha.org.

Flights

Arrival | Please plan to arrive at the Douglas-Charles Airport, formerly known as Melville Hall Airport, (airport code DOM) on Thursday, May 31, 2018.

Departure | Please plan to depart from Douglas-Charles (DOM) on Sunday, June 10, 2018.

Arriving Early or Staying Late?

Some of you may choose to arrive earlier than May 31 or stay beyond June 10 to explore the country on your own. The project dates are firm and any extra travel must coincide with the arrival and departure windows above. Please make your own hotel and transportation plans for any days outside of the Maranatha project dates. If you have any questions, feel free to call Maranatha at (916) 774-7700.

Travel Resources

- **CI Azumano Travel:** 800-454-4099 or by email with Erle Dpenha or Azumano Team at corporatetravel@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

Passport | All passports must be valid for at least six months from the dates of intended travel (valid until December 11, 2018). 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.

There is no visa requirement for U.S. and Canadian citizens for trips with a duration of less than six months.

Traveling With Minors

If you are traveling with a legal minor (under the age of 18 on the date you depart), both parents or legal guardians must travel with the minor. Otherwise, you must have two parental consent forms notarized. This provides government entities with evidence that both guardians have consented to their child leaving the country with the other guardian and Maranatha. One original must be mailed to Maranatha, and the other original must stay with you while you travel. If a parent is divorced, the missing parent still needs to sign the form unless the parent traveling with the minor has sole legal custody. In that case, a copy of the divorce paperwork, indicating sole custody, must also be included. If a parent has died, a copy of the death certificate must be included.

You can download a PDF of the Parental Consent Form at <http://www.maranatha.org/resources>. This form will ask for two people as appointees of the minor. The first appointee will be the guardian traveling with the child. The other will be Nellarene Ferguson, Maranatha's project coordinator for this project.

Staying Healthy

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

You may already have some of these vaccinations, and they may still be good for this trip. Others you may deem unnecessary for this trip. Maranatha recommends that you schedule a consultation with your physician or a travel clinic to discuss the medical risks in Dominica and the ways to minimize them.

Zika and Mosquitoes

According to local medical doctors, Zika is not an issue on the island anymore. However, the CDC still has a Level 2 warning for the island. This warning does not suggest you postpone travel, but does urge volunteers to take heightened precautions to avoid being bitten by mosquitos. Zika is a mosquito-borne disease that acts like a hard-hitting flu. It can have additional effects on pregnant women and their babies. If you or your partner are pregnant or planning to conceive, Maranatha recommends speaking with your doctor for more information.

Mosquitoes and other flying insects can also carry a variety of diseases. Personal precautions are strongly recommended to lower the risk of being bitten. Use a bug repellent. Wear long sleeves, long pants, and closed-toe shoes when possible. Avoid areas of standing water and spending a lot of time outside during dusk and dawn.

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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2018 MARANATHA T-SHIRT \$10



This blend of polyester and cotton is an ultra-soft, ultra-comfy unisex T-shirt that feels like you've owned it for years. Represent Maranatha anywhere you go!

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.

HARD HAT \$13



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

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.

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*All confirmed volunteers on an International Maranatha Open Team receive a Maranatha t-shirt as part of their participation fee.

