



# Dominica Project

## Information Packet

**Location:** Dominica

**Project Dates:** February 20 - March 3, 2019

**Participation Fee:** \$995\*

**Children 12 and under:** \$845

(Age determined on the start date of the project)



*\*All amounts listed in document are in U.S. dollars.*

*International flights are 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, 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.

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, and Maranatha began responding to their request in May, 2018.

## Project Overview

On this project, volunteers will start the reconstruction of a community services building at the Wesley Adventist Church, home to about 250 active members. The church was originally established in the early 1940's. The community services building was added later and was primarily used as a kitchen and serving facility for hot meals. On certain days the members meet for "soup days" where they go into the community and give food to the needy. They also have an active Dorcas society which delivers food and clothing to their less fortunate neighbors. The Pathfinder club also gets involved in outreach and use the community services building as their homebase for their activities.

### Project Schedule

**Wednesday, February 20**  
Arrival in Dominica

**Thursday-Friday, February 22-23**  
Work Days

**Saturday, February 23**  
Worship with the local congregation

**Sunday - Friday, February 24 - March 1**  
Work days with midweek excursion

**Saturday, March 2**  
Worship with the local congregation

**Sunday, March 3**  
Departure from Dominica

Hurricane Maria not only damaged the existing Wesley Church, it also completely leveled the community services building to nothing but a cement slab. The prospect of rebuilding two structures was daunting and the congregation ultimately decided to complete the reconstruction of their church on their own, but has requested Maranatha's assistance to rebuild the community service building.

Volunteers on this project will be the first team to work at the Wesley Church and will start the block walls for the new community services building. In order to ensure that the building lasts through any future hurricanes, the structure is a reinforced version of the normal Maranatha model and the blocks are very heavy!

There are many needs on the island that reach beyond the reconstruction of buildings. 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. Depending on the interests of the volunteers who join this group, there might also be opportunities to do community outreach.

## Accommodations

Accommodations on the island of Dominica are quite limited especially after the hurricane. Volunteers on this project will truly become a family as they stay together at two or three large houses about 5-15 minutes from the construction site.

Depending on the people who register, volunteers will be divided into several rooms that have bedrooms with single or double beds. All volunteers will need to bring their own bedding (pillows, sheets and blankets or a light sleeping bag) as well as towels and washcloths. You may also consider bringing a simple mattress cover for an added layer of cleanliness. There is also plenty of floor space, and depending on the number of volunteers, we may need some people to bring air mattresses or sleeping pads to sleep on the floor in the large rooms.

There is no air-conditioning in the houses. Some of the rooms have floor fans, and you may also consider bringing a battery-operated fan to help keep your area cooler. Wi-Fi is not available.

## Excursions

During the project, the group will take some time to enjoy the beauty 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 beautiful natural landscape, including waterfalls, as well as take a boat out from one of the beaches where people can swim and snorkel. You may want to bring a mask and fins for this afternoon.

## Leadership

### **Vickie and Bernie Wiedmann | Project Coordinator and Construction Superintendent**

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 led Maranatha's Ultimate Workout, open team volunteer groups, and the Christmas Family Project. When Bernie can join her, he leads 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. Vickie also serves as one of Maranatha's board members.



## Expenses

**All amounts listed are in U.S. dollars.**

The participation fee of \$995 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. The participation fee is tax-deductible.

Maranatha must receive all funds and forms by January 21, 2019, 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 - February 2019") 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:** \$1,100 - 1,500
- **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. They 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



### 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

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 impact 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 are seen in the numerous festivals that take place throughout the year.

## 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 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](mailto:volunteer@maranatha.org).

Dominica is not the easiest Caribbean island to get to. Most flight itineraries will route you through either Puerto Rico or Barbados. You will probably need to take a red eye flight to those locations or have an overnight layover. The flights from Puerto Rico or Barbados to Dominica are on Seaborne or LIAT airlines respectively. These do not code share with many well known airlines, so you might need to completely recheck your bags in the connecting airport. If booking on your own, you'll want to have plenty of time to make these connections to avoid missing your next flight. Working with a travel agent can avoid some of those problems.

### Flights

**Arrival** | Please plan to arrive at the Douglas-Charles Airport, formerly known as Melville Hall Airport, (airport code DOM) on Wednesday, February 20, 2019

**Departure** | Please plan to depart from Douglas-Charles (DOM) in the morning or early afternoon of Sunday, March 3, 2019.

### Arriving Early or Staying Late?

Some of you may choose to arrive earlier than February 20 or stay beyond March 3 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](mailto:corporatetravel@ciazumano.com)

**Butler Travel:** 503-879-5005 or by email with Nathanael at [nathan@butlertravel.com](mailto:nathan@butlertravel.com) or with Ellen at [ellen@butlertravel.com](mailto:ellen@butlertravel.com).

**Kayak:** [www.kayak.com](http://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 September 3, 2019). 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](http://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 [www.maranatha.org/resources](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 Vickie Wiedmann, 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 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](http://Maranatha.org) or over the phone.

## Contact Information

**Phone:** (916) 774-7700

**Fax:** (916) 774-7701

**Email:** [volunteer@maranatha.org](mailto:volunteer@maranatha.org)

**Website:** [www.maranatha.org](http://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

## Social Media

*Share your mission trip with family and friends! And be sure to tag us on social media!*



@maranathavolunteersinternational



@gomaranatha



@maranatha

Use our hashtag,  
**#maranathavolunteersinternational**  
when posting, so we can feature  
your trip!

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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!

### HARD HAT \$13



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

**MARANATHA.ORG**

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



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OR CALL (916) 774-7700**

All prices are excluding sales tax and shipping.

### 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. Available in Khaki and Navy.

### 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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VOLUNTEERS INTERNATIONAL