

Dominica Project

Information Packet

Location: Dominica

Project Dates: November 1 - 11, 2018

Total Fee: \$950

Children 12 and under: \$800

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

Project Overview

On this project, volunteers will continue 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 finish the block walls and if we have enough volunteers and time allows, pour sidewalks and assist with other finishing jobs for the new church.

Project Schedule

Thursday, November 1
Arrival in Dominica

Friday, November 2
First work day

Saturday, November 3
Worship with the local congregation.
Afternoon community service.

Sunday - Tuesday, November 4 - 6
Work days

Wednesday, November 7
Local excursion

Thursday - Friday, November 8 - 9
Work days

Saturday, November 10
Worship with the local congregation.
Afternoon community service.

Sunday, November 11
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. Depending on the skills of the volunteers who join this group, there will be opportunities to do children's ministry and health education.

Accommodations

Volunteers on this project will experience perhaps one of the most unique accommodations for a Maranatha project in the last few years! The group will stay at a UNESCO World Heritage Center called Fort Shirley. The old fort has been converted into a lodge that has several well-kept up dorms, bathrooms, and a kitchen and dining room.

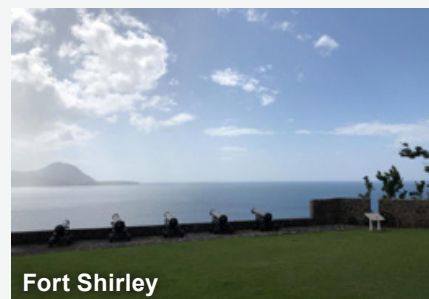
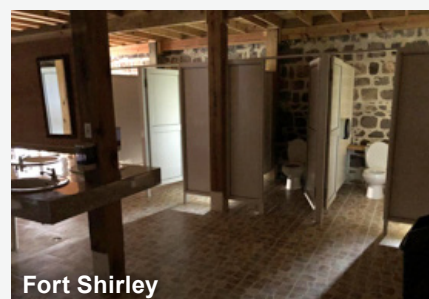
The group will be divided into two dorm rooms, one for males and one for females. There are stairs down to the shared bathrooms from the respective dorms. The bathrooms have hot water and individual stalls for showers. Mattresses are provided, but volunteers will need to bring their own bedding (pillow, sheets, and blanket) as well as towels and washcloths. The rooms do not have air conditioning, so you may also consider bringing a battery-operated fan to help keep your bunk cooler. WiFi is not available at the fort.

Couples and families are welcome on this project. There are a few more-private rooms in the upstairs of the fort. We will put two couples together in a room or one family. If we end up with a large group of volunteers, some couples might have to divide into the dorm rooms.

The fort is located on a bluff overlooking the ocean and about 30 minutes from the construction site. The group will meet together at the hotel for meals and worships. Each day, the group will travel by small bus to the construction.

Excursions

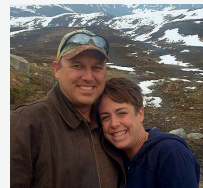
During the project, the group will take a day to tour some sites in Dominica. We'll head to the capital city of Roseau for some souvenir shopping. We'll also be able to go on hikes to visit the island's once beautiful natural landscape, including waterfalls and mountains. There are also several beaches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



Leadership

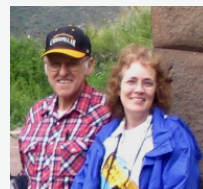
Stacy Peterson | Project Coordinator

Stacy and Laura Peterson reside in Palmer, Alaska with their two teen children, Cameron and Taylor. Stacy first joined Maranatha on a senior class mission trip to Mexico. After some prompting from friends and church members, George and Becky Alder, Stacy and Laura joined Maranatha again in 2014, and now, the entire family remains active on yearly Maranatha projects including the Ultimate Workout, school and church trips, and open team projects! Stacy currently works in administration at the clinic where Laura works as a pediatrician. When not on Maranatha projects, Stacy has enjoyed helping to raise his two teen children, birdwatching, and photography. He will be coordinating the spiritual aspect of the project. While the group will be focused on constructing buildings and caring for the community, his hope is that while doing so, they can also do some digging in God's Word and glean some "WOW" tidbits to share with others.



George Alder | Construction Superintendent

George and Becky Alder join the group from Palmer, Alaska. They are both Maranatha veteran volunteers who have participated on and led many projects. When not on a Maranatha project, they both enjoy spending time with their children and grandchildren. George will bring his expertise and coordinate the volunteers on the job site as the construction superintendent.



Expenses

The fee of \$950 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 October 1 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 - November 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.

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.

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 to those locations or have an overnight layover. 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

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 Thursday, November 1, 2018.

Departure | Please plan to depart from Douglas-Charles (DOM) on Sunday, November 11, 2018.

Arriving Early or Staying Late?

Some of you may choose to arrive earlier than November 1 or stay beyond November 11 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 May 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 Rebekah Shephard, 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

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!

THE MARANATHA STORE

BUY MARANATHA MERCHANDISE!

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

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.



**TO ORDER, VISIT MARANATHA.ORG/STORE
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