



What is Global Village?

Global Village offers international volunteers the opportunity to take part in the "hands on" construction or renovation of homes in more than 40 countries around the world. Participating in a Global Village team offers a unique travel experience and an unforgettable opportunity to be fully immersed in the local community. Team members experience great personal growth through cultural and linguistic challenges, and return to their home countries transformed.

Join a Global Village team and you can make a difference in the lives of Portuguese families in need of a simple, decent place to live. You might just find your own life changed as well.

PORTUGAL

Building together for a brighter future

Housing is a major concern of Portuguese families in need, with 65 percent of them living in dilapidated housing and 8.5 percent in shacks. One of the biggest challenges of Habitat for Humanity Portugal is to change the culture of subsidy dependency. The Governmental Social Housing Program has shown some effectiveness, in terms of numbers, on re-housing families that lived in poor conditions, but the nurturing and educational programs that should be given to these families after the re-housing do not exist.

Poverty housing in Portugal is spread all over the country, with two distinctive kinds of housing: in the interior the 'hidden poverty' (typical Portuguese houses with a small orchard that hides disgraceful housing conditions) and in the big cities, the shacks. Since the 1970s, Portugal has been the destination country for immigrants from the former Portuguese colonies and Brazil and, more recently, for immigrants from former Soviet Union countries. The need for affordable housing is growing dramatically.

Habitat facts

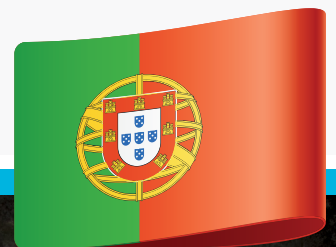
Families served
more than 70

Construction types
New builds
Renovations and rehabilitations

Hosting season
All year round

Team size
6-14 volunteers

Number of volunteers hosted
more than 3,300



Did you know

During the 15th century, Portugal started the European overseas exploration, discovering and mapping coasts of Africa, Asia and Brazil.

Portugal is home to the longest bridge in Europe, the Vasco de Gama bridge in Lisbon. It stretches over 17 km (10.5 miles).

Portugal is known for its wonderful gastronomy and wine.



BLUEPRINT FOR VOLUNTEERING

Habitat for Humanity's Global Village program



Logistics

How to get there

The best way to get to our projects is to fly Porto International Airport. It takes about 45 minutes from there to Braga or Amarante.

Transportation

Transportation from the airport to Braga and Amarante is done by private van and it will be arranged by the Habitat staff.

Lodging

Team members will stay in a hotel where they will be provided with breakfast in the morning. They will sleep in double rooms (with private bathrooms) both in Braga and Amarante.

All hotels are located in the city center which makes easier for the team members to walk around the city.

Food and water

Breakfast: Served at the hotel.

Lunches: Served near the worksite in a local restaurant.

Dinners: During the week, teams will be able to taste the local cuisine in several local restaurants.

Water: Tap water is safe to drink at hotels. Bottled water will be provided at the worksite to volunteers every day.



Meet a Habitat family

For several years the Costa family have been living in an annex to the family's house. The main problem was the lack of space, insulation and basic sanitation. The mother, Maria da Conceição Costa became a widow in 2008, left with 5 children to raise on her own. Due to a chronic illness, Maria can't work but has the support from her parents and her older son with their living expenses.

A simple, decent and affordable house will help to break the established poverty cycle, give the children a new opportunity to raise their self-esteem and to believe that a dream can come true.

What do the volunteers say?

"The whole trip was an amazing experience. I've never done anything like this before and the trip was a birthday present from family and friends. It was the best birthday present I have ever received. The gift of giving."

Join us on a journey of adventure, life enrichment and joy, choose a place and start making a difference now!

Contact

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