



# BIENVENIDOS!

You have accepted to volunteer with Hope Builders. We are thrilled to have you aboard the only mission in Vieques serving homes destroyed by Hurricane Irma and Maria. Thank you for deciding to spend your time serving others.

This experience will enable you to put your beliefs into action, to build partnerships with people sharing a common goal, to gain greater awareness of the need for safe and resilient housing and to deepen your commitment to social action.

This guide has been designed for you to use before, during and after your trip. Included are lots of helpful tips to make the most out of your experience.

With Gratitude,  
The Hope Builders Team



# Volunteer Handbook



## Isla de Vieques

### Education

A small, unspoiled island of rural “old world” charm and pristin deserted beaches. Paso Fino horses roam free throughout the island. The Bioluminescent Bay is the brightest natural phenomenon in the world. No commecrial developments and not one traffic light. La Isla Nena, the baby sister of Puerto Rico, habitats 9,000 Viequenses and is only 3.5 miles wide by 21 miles long. Vieques is a tropical paradise, an experience you will never forget.

Hope Builders has rebuilt over 190 homes since Hurricane Maria hit in 2017. With your help we plan to build 100 more within the year.

### Recorded information from the 2019 Census Report

<b>Estimated Population:</b>	8,364
<b>Median Age:</b>	41 years old
<b>Highschool Graduation Rate:</b>	73.9%
<b>Individuals Below Poverty Level:</b>	36.8%
<b>Total Employer Establishments:</b>	108
<b>Median Household Income:</b>	\$16,261
<b>Per Capita Income:</b>	\$11,136
<b>Estimated Households:</b>	2,555



## ISLA DE VIEQUES



Your participation in and support of Hope Builders is a vital contribution to the mission of eliminating inadequate housing for the island of Vieques. Thank you

### Raise Awareness

Get others excited about your trip! Speak up about the problems of damaged homes and displaced homeowners in Vieques.

Our Ambassadors program empowers leaders within their local communities to promote mutual understanding and support social action needed in Vieques. Contact your outreach coordinator to learn more

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## Trip Expenses

### Transportation

There are two ways to arrive to the island of Vieques, by ferry or plane. The schedule for the ferry can be found on [PorFerry.com](http://PorFerry.com). A one way passenger ticket is \$2 from the port in Ceiba, Puerto Rico; roughly 45 minutes by car from San Juan. At the dock, long term parking options are available.

The Antonio Rivera Rodriguez Airport is the only airport in Vieques. There are direct flights from San Juan, Isla Grande and Ceiba. Below are the airlines that operate back and forth to the island:

<b>Air Link</b>	<a href="http://viequesairlink.com">viequesairlink.com</a>
<b>Air Flamenco</b>	<a href="http://flyairflamenco.com">flyairflamenco.com</a>
<b>Cape Air</b>	<a href="http://capeair.com">capeair.com</a>
<b>Seaborne Airlines</b>	<a href="http://seaborneairlines.com">seaborneairlines.com</a>
<b>Taxi Aereo</b>	<a href="http://taxiaereoopr.travel">taxiaereoopr.travel</a>

A car is necessary for getting around the island. Hope Builders does not provide transportation to and from job site. Below are the rental car businesses that operate on the island:

<b>Avis Vieques</b>	787-741-0284
<b>Coqui Car Rental</b>	787-741-3696
<b>Fun Brothers (Scooters)</b>	787-435-9372
<b>Island Car Rental</b>	787-741-8822
<b>Island Jeep Rental</b>	787-741-3318
<b>Maritza's Car Rental</b>	787-741-0078
<b>Scooters for Rent</b>	787-741-7722
<b>Vieques Car Rental</b>	787-741-1037

Renting a car may be out of your budget. There is a public bus on the island, and taxis available daily:

<b>Alba Melendez</b> 787-435-0113	<b>Hilda Robles</b> 787-486-0267	<b>Letty Perez</b> 787-556-6003
<b>Alejito Bermúdez</b> 939-261-7857	<b>Henry</b> 787-649-3838	<b>Luis Gonzalez</b> 787-435-3805
<b>Ana Robles</b> 787-514-9597	<b>Jose Morales</b> 787-435-4277	<b>Naté</b> 787-364-5911
<b>Angie Chauffeur</b> 787-455-4596	<b>Josue</b> 787-445-4599	<b>Vieques Taxi</b> 787-741-TAXI 8294
<b>Carlos &amp; Denisse</b> 787-447-8697	<b>Juanito</b> 787-645-2329	<b>Vieques Tours &amp; Transportation</b> 787-397-2048
<b>Edna Robles</b> 787-630-4673	<b>Julio</b> 787-579-1141	



### Accommodations

Volunteers are responsible for organizing their accommodations. Airbnb and Guesthouses are the most common choice of stay. For recommendations, contact your outreach coordinator.

### Meals

Volunteers are responsible for daily meals. On average \$5 - \$15 is sufficient per meal on the island.

# Volunteer Handbook



## What to Bring

### Recommended Packing List

- ❑ Appropriate construction site apparel.  
Skin should be minimally exposed. Closed toed shoes. Sneakers or work boots are highly recommended.  
**Disclaimer: Apparel and/or shoes worn to job site may be damaged.**
- ❑ Protection from the sun. Hat, visor or bandanna
- ❑ Sunblock and Insect Repellent
- ❑ Work Gloves
- ❑ Hope Builders T-Shirt
- ❑ Water Bottle
- ❑ Rain Jacket

### Safety

Alcohol and drugs are not allowed on the construction site. The introduction of substances can impair perceptions and create an unsafe environment.

Cigarette breaks are not permitted on job sites. If you must smoke, remove yourself from job site, clean up cigarette butts, and respect clients home.

Inspect all power tools, hand tools, ladders and scaffolding daily. Advise your supervisor immediately of any unsafe conditions or hazards.

Know where the first-aid kit is located and how to get emergency help.

### Leisure Time

When your not volunteering, adventure awaits.

#### Beaches

Playa Negra  
Playa Caracas  
Playa Arenas  
Playa Sunbay  
Playa Bastimento  
Puerto Ferro  
La Chiva  
El Gallito

#### Adventure

Biolumescent Bay  
Rompeolas  
Horseback Riding  
Diving & Snorkeling  
Kayaking  
Jet Skiing  
Fishing  
Hiking



While on your trip, you are guests in the community of Vieques. You are representing Hope Builders and advocating its mission. It is important to be respectful of the space and property of others. No matter who you are or where you come from, on this journey you are helping to provide a strong foundation for a family to grow and prosper.



# STAY INVOLVED

Before saying goodbye, collect contact information of those whom you have gotten to know during your trip. You don't have to wait until next year to lead your team on another adventure. Further opportunities to be involved with Hope Builders vary; for open volunteer, internship or staff positions visit our site [hopebuildersinc.org](http://hopebuildersinc.org)

**Instagram**

**Twitter**

**Facebook**

**Email**

@HopeBuildersInc

@HopeBuildersInc

[www.facebook.com/hopebuilders](http://www.facebook.com/hopebuilders)

[volunteer@hopebuildersinc.org](mailto:volunteer@hopebuildersinc.org)

