

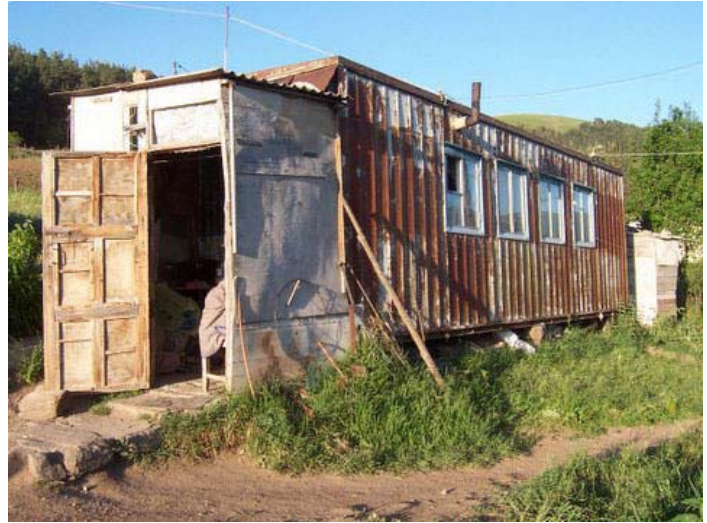
Build Homes and Tour Armenia with Global Builders

June 7 – June 21 to Vanadzor and Yerevan with Patricia Zerounian

Why Armenia?

According to UNECE report of the approximately 800,000 families living in Armenia, about 40,000 or 5% are without permanent shelter. Many of them live in temporary structures, such as metal shipping containers, public buildings converted into dormitories and various deteriorated and damaged housing. Some of these temporary living quarters have no basic amenities, such as sanitation systems or electricity. Overcrowding is a significant problem.

Altogether it is estimated that approximately 100,000 households are either without permanent housing or need urgent assistance. These families are in need of safer and healthier housing conditions.



Substandard Metal Containers (Domiks)



This shack made of metal sheets and wood scrap was home to a family of five, with no heat, no electricity, and no sanitation system.

Homelessness and housing poverty have grave material and psychological consequences for the families and society. Lack of adequate housing can create a perpetual circle of poverty. Families who are unable to meet their basic housing needs are unable to better their economic situation. Many studies show that children living in safe and healthy housing do better in school.

Safe and healthy housing allow families to thrive.

What can I do?

It takes about \$10,000 US dollars to assist a family in completing their home. For many Armenian families this means moving out of a cardboard shack or a metal domik into a 1,200 square foot, 3-bedroom home with running water, sanitation, heat and electricity. In addition to a no-interest, non-profit loan from the Fuller Center for Housing, these families need your assistance in building their home. You can join a Global Builders work team building homes and building hope in partnership with Armenian families.

Do I need any construction skills?

No construction skills are necessary. Some areas in Armenia build primarily with concrete and 'touf,' a volcanic stone indigenous to Armenia. In the Vanadzor region a new Styrofoam and reinforced concrete method is used to build economical, well-insulated, earthquake homes.

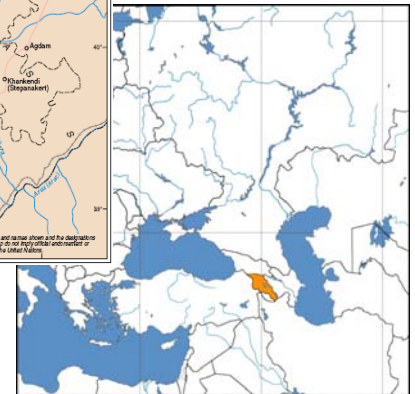


Neighborhood woman and youth observing volunteers as they prepare to make concrete.

Work may involve moving stones for the foundation, constructing walls from touf blocks, mixing cement, plastering and painting.

Where is Armenia?

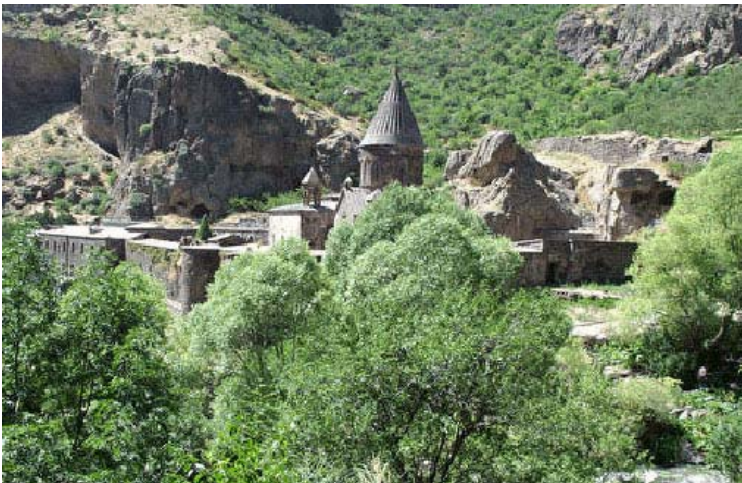
Armenia is located in the Caucasus and shares borders with Georgia, Turkey, Azerbaijan, and Iran. It was the first nation to adopt Christianity as the national religion. It has numerous centuries' old majestic churches and monasteries, strong cultural traditions, and a love for the arts. It also boasts the world's highest mountainous fresh-water lake - Lake Sevan. Yerevan is the capital and has a population of about 1.5 million people.



What about the accommodations?

Hotel accommodations in Vanadzor and Yerevan are double to triple occupancy rooms with private baths in a hotel. Breakfast will be served in the hotel restaurant. Lunches will be taken at the building site, and dinners at various local restaurants. Hotel rooms are simple, but have basic amenities. Electric razors, hair dryers, etc. brought from home will require a European adapter.

Please be flexible about accommodations, amenities, and other differences in culture. Fresh fruits and vegetables, outstanding vistas, and warm hospitality surely make up for any inconveniences.



Geghardt, a 12th-century monastery and church complex carved into the mountainside.

What about site seeing?

We will have some days off for trips to some of the major cultural and historical sites in Armenia. These may include the following: Gerhardt, a 12th-century monastery and church complex carved in a mountainside; Khor Virab, the sight of St. Gregory's internment, with a spectacular view of Mt. Ararat, historically part of Armenia; Echmiadzin, the seat of the Armenian Apostolic Church; and, Tsitsernakaberd, a monument to the 1.5 million victims of the 1915 Armenian Genocide.

In addition, we hope to attend a concert, dance performance, or other cultural events. There will also be shopping opportunities and some free time to see sites of your choice in Vanadzor and Yerevan. In support of free time experiences, maps and lists of things to do and places to see will be provided.



Lunch at the work site.



Roadside market vendors.

Tell me a little about the Team Leader

Patricia Zerounian is a native Californian who works as public health researcher and program evaluator. In 2006, 2007, and 2009 she traveled to Armenia to build homes with Habitat for Humanity and the Fuller Center for Housing Armenia. This will be her third trip to the Vanadzor region. Patricia is a trained international team leader. See her blog about this trip at <http://www.armeniahomebuildtour2010.blogspot.com/> or see her Facebook page for more information about Patricia. She is granddaughter of Armenian genocide survivors, and enthusiastically supports new economic, health, and educational opportunities in Armenia. She is looking forward to leading a team to Vanadzor helping homeowners move from metal containers and earth-quake damaged buildings into safe, decent housing.



Work team with family.

How do I sign up?

First, contact Patricia by email pzeroun@cruzio.com and leave your phone number, or call her at 831/662-3164 (h). We'll talk about the goals of the trip and your expectations. Patricia will forward you an application form and other informational materials, or you can access them on line. You can learn much more about the Fuller Center for Housing Armenia (and register online) at volunteer@fullercenterarmenia.org

How much does it cost?

The trip is estimated to cost between \$1,600 and \$1,700 depending on the size of the team, plus round-trip airfare (we will attempt to get group-discounted airfare). The cost includes lodging, food, all ground transportation, cultural tours, orientation materials, traveler's medical insurance, transfers to and from the Yerevan airport (EVN), and a tax-free donation to FCHA. The donation covers building materials and operating costs, including staff assistance during our trip. Team members are responsible for their transportation to Armenia, passport, visa (about \$15), and vaccinations.

Once we have our group finalized, Patricia will look for group rates from the east coast. She is working with a travel agency that regularly schedules tours to Armenia, and can provide us with a group discount based on a group of at least 10 team members.



A neighbor shelling peas.

How are payments made?

Team members secure their space in the team by sending the deposit and the filing the online application form <http://www.fullercenter.org/global-builders/register>. A team member deposit of \$400 is due 40 days prior to the trip. The rest of the trip cost (expenses), are due no less than 30 days prior to trip.

Each Global Builders participant is assigned an individual Global Builder ID # on their first Global Builders trip. All trip payments are sent to Fuller Center for Housing at the address below. Please be sure to add your trip ID (for example, Patricia Zerounian's June 7-21 2010 trip to Armenia is trip # **AM1001**) and your individual Global Builder (xxxx-xxxx) on the check memo line to assure it is properly credited.

TFCH address to send donations: The Fuller Center for Housing
 PO Box 523
 Americus, GA 31709

Can Fuller Center help me with fundraising for my Global Builders Trip?

Yes! Friends and family members can donate to your trip through your fundraising web page, where they can receive tax receipts and you can post personal messages and track your progress. To create your fundraising webpage, go to <http://www.fullercenter.org/build-fundraising-web-page>.

Is any of this tax-deductible?

The \$400 deposit is a donation to the building effort and is considered to be tax-deductible. The donation helps with building and operating costs, and services of the FCHA personnel during the course of your trip. Please consult your tax accountant for more information. If you fundraise for your trip and individuals send monies to your trip account, they may also be able to claim a tax deduction for a donation. Again, please consult your tax accountant for more information



Family and Global Builder volunteer in the garden.

Do I need a passport and/or Visa?

Yes, passports are required. The Team Leader, the Fuller Center office in Americus, GA, and the Fuller Center office in Armenia will keep copies of your passport while you are in country. Please send a copy of your passport by email or regular mail to your team leader.

Visas are required and may be purchased on arrival at Zvartnots International Airport in Yerevan for approximately \$15.00. Alternatively, you may obtain an electronic visa (e-visa) in advance of your arrival for \$60.00 by going to <http://www.armeniaforeignministry.am> It usually takes about 2-3 days to receive confirmation after you apply online.

What if I have health or medical needs?

Please check Centers for Disease Control website (<http://www.cdc.gov/travel>) for tips about how to stay healthy in country and vaccine recommendations.

Please bring all your medications and label everything clearly. Please let your team leader know of any allergies or other medical needs that you may have.

What about travel insurance?

Included in the trip fee is a MEDEX policy that provides coverage for medical care, evacuation, trip interruption, lost baggage, etc. For more information, go to www.medexassist.com.



“Papik” walked 8 km to see his son’s house being built with the assistance of volunteers.



A completed home.

More Resources

Armeniapedia: the online Armenia Encyclopedia
www.armeniapedia.org

US State Department – Armenia
<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/5275.htm>

Lonely Planet Armenia
<http://www.lonelyplanet.com/armenia>

Yerevan Information
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yerevan>

Vanadzor Information
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vanadzor>

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<http://www.fullercenterarmenia.org>