St. Lucia FAQ

The St. Lucia service trip is hosted by Unity World Headquarters in partnership with Global Volunteers. It is a weeklong small group experience, limited to 14 people, where you will serve alongside Unity friends on the Caribbean island of St. Lucia. You can expect to work for six to eight hours per day, Monday-Friday, on service projects deemed most crucial to the local community. This is a powerful opportunity to change the arc of children’s lives, connect with locals, and shape the future.

**Date/Location:** Anse La Raye, St. Lucia, February 20–27, 2021

**Service Projects:**

Global Volunteers teams work under the direction of local leaders and with local people on long-term projects they prioritize. This way we know volunteers are helping meet needs the community has defined as important and valuable. **No special skills are required to assist with these projects.**

Projects could include:

- Work with teachers and students (infants to adolescents): assisting with reading; working with colors and shapes; aiding with group activities and school outings; tutoring special education students; providing “real-life” lessons on nutrition, hygiene, and disease prevention; and training students in reading, numeracy, specific trades, and life skills
- Earthboxes: planting and maintaining container vegetable gardens
- Sewing: assisting sewing groups to create and mend clothing
- Light labor projects

**Schedule:**

February 20 (Saturday)—arrival
February 21 (Sunday)—orientation
February 22–26 (Monday-Friday)—community service
February 27 (Saturday)—departure

**Cost:** $2,419 service program contribution. Deposit is $350. Final payment is due December 7, 2020.

You can pay your deposit via credit card with no additional fee, but your final payment may have a convenience fee added if you pay by credit card. To avoid any fees, you can make your final payment by check.
What's Included?

- Global Volunteers full-time team leader and host from Unity World Headquarters
- Orientation on Sunday; introduction to the community and community-focused work projects Monday through Friday
- Double-occupancy lodging in a delightful, tourist-class hotel. All rooms are spacious, individual cottages. Single-occupancy lodging is possible for an additional fee of $310 per room for the week based upon space availability.
- Three meals daily: breakfast at the hotel, lunch at the work site or in restaurants, and dinners in restaurants or at the hotel
- Potable water. Water is the primary beverage, although soda, coffee, and so on, are available for individual purchase.
- Ground transportation in vans
- Project materials as required
- Volunteer manual
- Global Volunteers conversational English teaching guide
- Global Volunteers T-shirt

What's Not Included?

- Single-occupancy lodging (may be added for an additional fee)
- Airfare
- Personal items
- Soda, coffee, and so on
- Alcoholic beverages
- Snacks or desserts
- Evening free-time activities and excursions not included in standard itinerary

Food:

Three daily meals are included as part of your program fee. St. Lucian food consists mainly of fresh fruit and vegetables, rice, local fish, and a variety of curry, jerk, and stewed dishes. Desserts, soft drinks, and alcoholic beverages are readily available for an additional charge.

Lodging:

Double-occupancy lodging in a delightful, tourist-class hotel is included. Single-occupancy lodging is possible for an additional fee of $310 per room for the week based upon availability.

JJ’s Paradise Resort provides volunteers comfortable, tourist-class lodging just off the east end of spectacular Marigot Bay. Landscaped with local tropical plants, the complex is equipped with an outdoor pool, a bar, and a restaurant. The Capella Marigot Bay resorts and beaches are just a five-minute water
taxi away. Each cottage is air-conditioned with a TV, ceiling fan, bathroom, solar-powered water heaters, and daily maid service. Wi-Fi access is available in the lobby and at various points around the campus.

**Flights:**

Flight costs are not covered and must be purchased separately. There are generally three flights arriving and departing each day from Hewanorra International Airport (airport code UVF), between 1-5 p.m. local time. The four major airlines that fly direct from the US are American, Delta, United, and JetBlue with major hubs at JFK, ORD, MIA, and CLT. Average round-trip flight costs are between $640-$1,000 (USD).

**Ground Transportation:**

All local program transportation is included in your service program fee. You will be met at the Hewanorra International Airport by a Global Volunteers representative and taken by van to JJ’s Paradise Resort. The ride is about 90 minutes. You will also be driven back to the airport on the last day of your service program. During the service program, you will be transported to and from the work sites in Anse La Raye and Marigot Bay by van or car. The ride ranges from 10 to 20 minutes depending on the work site.

*Note:* transportation for free-time activities is not included. It is easy to call a taxi at reception at JJ’s Paradise Resort.

**Free Time and Sightseeing:**

Free time to enjoy the island’s natural and cultural attractions is available early in the morning before breakfast, after dinner, and on the weekend. Marigot Bay, beaches, and shopping are within walking distance. On the weekends, a local tour agency arranges several tours including sunset cruises, snorkeling, boating, visiting botanical gardens or volcano parks, shopping, exploring the island’s national park, and other sightseeing excursions. Prices are usually quoted in U.S. dollars and vary based on the kind and duration of tours.

Castries Market is a one-hour drive away. Bring an extra suitcase for shopping!

**Currency, Exchange Rates, and Credit Card vs. Cash:**

The best exchange rates are available from ATMs, the airport, and at the Bank of Saint Lucia (there is one across the bay from JJ’s Paradise Resort). If you go to a bank to exchange currency, you will need to show them your passport. The standard exchange rate is $1 = $2.65 XCD.

Most places will also take U.S. dollars at the rate $1 US = $2.50 XCD. At JJ’s Paradise Resort, small sums can be exchanged at variable rates.

The most widely accepted credit cards are Visa and Mastercard, but cash is easiest. Use smaller bills when possible.
Tipping:
Tipping is a standard rate of 15 percent. Typically at JJ’s Paradise Resort, volunteers may give whatever they think is right. This is usually done at the end of the service program as a group or individually.

Travel Insurance:
No travel insurance is provided, but it is readily available as a separate purchase from other companies. We highly recommend this.

Transfer and Cancellation Policy:
If you cannot personally attend, another person may go in your place if you notify us 30 days prior to the program start date.

In the event any individual cancels, the amount of refund shall be as follows:

- More than 60 days prior to the program start date: The deposit is not refundable; 100 percent of the balance is refunded.
- 60 to 30 days prior to the program start date: The deposit is not refundable; 55 percent of the balance is refunded.
- Less than 30 days prior to the program start date: The deposit is not refundable; 25 percent of the balance is refunded.

For all transfers or cancellations, you must notify Unity and Global Volunteers in writing (email preferred).

Communication:
Once you register with Global Volunteers, you will receive an email with all paperwork to be signed, scanned, and sent back in. You’ll get a link to log in to your own volunteer portal, where you can share your flight information, food restrictions, and project preferences with Global Volunteers. You can log in anytime to get details about your trip.

Other General Information:
- **Language**: English and Creole/French
- **Climate**: Tropical climate, mosquitoes (check CDC—take all precautions)
- **Legal Documents**: Passport required, no additional travel visa required, no fee
Meet Your Hosts:

Unity Host: Cheri Jamison

Cheri Jamison is an inspiring facilitator, podcast host, and classical singer dedicated to uplifting you and the consciousness of the world. She serves as Outreach program manager at Unity World Headquarters, stewarding the Outreach program and coordinating Unity Village events and retreats including Nehemiah, Fillmore Festival, and Travel with Unity. Deemed as "masterful at serving conscious evolution," Cheri uses her M.A. in spiritual psychology to humanize, educate, and empower seekers to invest in their own personal spirituality. She loves traveling, connecting with, and serving the Unity community at Unity Village and worldwide.

St. Lucia Host: Chemida Popo-Cox

Chemida Popo-Cox will be our St. Lucia host, cultural ambassador, and “dorm mother.” As a native St. Lucian, a mother, community leader, and longtime
educator, Chemida is uniquely suited to guide volunteers’ contributions to our host community and promote our work across the island. Formerly a teacher and acting principal at Anse La Raye Primary School, Chemida has been engaged with Global Volunteers since 2012. She is experienced in managing diverse groups of people with panache and enjoys sharing the island’s culture and tradition.

**How to Register:**

Your registration will take place on the Global Volunteers website: [globalvolunteers.org/register/unity](http://globalvolunteers.org/register/unity).

Printable registration forms are also available.

Deposit is due at the time of registration.

Thank you! We hope you can join us for this exciting service opportunity in the Caribbean.