



# La Casona de Monteflores

**VOLUNTEER HOST SITE  
SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO**



**PRESBYTERIAN  
DISASTER ASSISTANCE**

**OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE**

# Our Story

Years ago, La Casona de Monteflores ('Casona' translates to 'big house') served as the parish manse, and then as the local community Head Start facility. It was inhabited for few years.

Hurricanes Irma and María caused huge damage in the community. Many houses lost their roofs. Rains and flooding caused several belongings. This emergency invited us to retake the mission of our founder, Rev. Ramón Olivo-Robles, who provided food to the community, made referrals to the Presbyterian Hospital (in San Juan), all the way to house guests (including missionaries) in his own house.

La Casona de Monteflores, next to the Presbyterian Church named after its founder, serves -since December 2017- to house volunteers coming to Puerto Rico to work in the long-term recovery through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

Additional information about PDA's work in Puerto Rico: <https://pda.pcusa.org/situation/puerto-rico/>



# Our community

Monteflores is a neighborhood located in Santurce, in the north region of San Juan, Puerto Rico, and it's located at the Monteflores Presbyterian Church premises. The municipality of San Juan is marked in light gray, including the Santurce area in yellow.

**Address:**

350 Calle Ismael Rivera  
San Juan, Puerto Rico 00912

Google Maps: <https://goo.gl/maps/UprwAMrwhHQho1Jz9>

# Registration Fees

Because of COVID-19 restrictions, La Casona de Monteflores will now only offer lodging for volunteers, for a maximum capacity of 12 volunteers. COVID-19 full vaccination is required for all volunteers.

Lodging fee will be **\$35 per person, per night**

Check-in will be after at 3:00 pm, check-out will be before 11:00 am

All groups are responsible of coordinating their own transportation / rental, and meals. Church parking is available for volunteers at La Casona de Monteflores.

## Nearby Supermarkets

- [Plaza Loíza](#)
- [SuperMax](#) (Open 24/7)
- [Walmart Supercenter \(Santurce\)](#)

# Policy

1. At your arrival all the beds will be set up and clean for your convenience, we ask that at the end of your stay, gather all sheets, pillow cases, dry towels and leave them all together in the living room area for easier pick up.
2. You are free to use all kitchen appliance and utilities, please make sure to clean everything up and take good care of them. Make sure everything is off before leaving for the day. Please clean the filter of the dryer upon using.
3. La Casona has trash cans and recycle bins available. Please, do not flush toilet paper or any other object. Trash will be taken out at the end of the stay.
4. The Rvdo. Ramon Olivo Robles Presbyterian Church in Monteflores has a fenced parking lot and all rented transportation will be safe there. Please make sure to close the gate upon leaving.
5. All the furniture in La Casona was kindly donated and repurpose we ask that there are not taken outside or get wet, to preserved them in the best conditions possible.
6. La Casona is in church grounds and surrounded by a family oriented community. Having loud music, drinking, smoking, or drugs are not permitted on our facilities.

All volunteer are responsible of taking care of our volunteer host site furniture, anything broken or damaged will be responsibility of the group to pay for such damages.

We also have water heaters for your convenience. Volunteers must have in mind that power and water service may be lost during their stay. We do have a water tank to help out in case water service is interrupted. La Casona will provide, sheets, pillows and towels. We ensure that the facilities will be in clean and organized at your arrival we expect to receive them in the same way. We do not have air conditioning but do have fans and it is usually breezy and cool.

# Facilities

The volunteer host site is a 3-story building with 5 rooms, 2 kitchens, 2 single bathrooms, shower room with 2 extra showers and toilet, and living room space. The third floor is an open terrace. Pictures only include second floor.





Bathrooms



Parking lot



Laundry room

## Contact



[facebook.com/lacasonademonteflores](https://www.facebook.com/lacasonademonteflores)



[LaCasonaDeMonteflores@gmail.com](mailto:LaCasonaDeMonteflores@gmail.com)



# What to bring

- Disposable Face Masks
- Refillable water bottles
- Lunch boxes or meal packs
- Flashlight
- Sunblock
- Mosquito repellent
- First aid kit or any specific medication
- Hat, sunglasses.
- A book and/or journal



# Frequently Asked Questions

## Is there Wifi at La Casona de Monteflores?

Yes!

## Can we drink tap water?

Yes, Tap water is perfectly safe and filtered.

## Can I bring my kids?

Volunteers should be at least 14 years or older to fully participate on the programming. We do not have or can offer child care.

## Do we need to bring our own tools?

If you have skills that require certain tools you can bring them. Work site organization will provide the tools. You will be informed if there are any specific tools needed.

## What if water / electricity goes off while we are there?

La Casona has a water tank that would help in case water service is interrupted and we have flashlights if needed.



## Additional Information about Puerto Rico

### *Size and population*

Puerto Rico is a little bit over 100 by 35 miles (160 by 56 km). The island population is around 3 million people.

### *Travel*

Passports are not necessary for U.S. citizens. USDA baggage inspection is required for travelers going from Puerto Rico to the continental US. Closer airport to La Casona de Monteflores is Aeropuerto Internacional Luis Muñoz Marín (SJU).

### *Currency*

The U.S. dollar is the official and only currency used in Puerto Rico.

### *Cellphone service*

Main US cellphone companies have service in Puerto Rico. Please check with your carrier about coverage. Local area codes are 787 and 939.

### *Sales Tax*

There's a 10.5% state tax, and 1% municipality tax for a total of 11.5% on every sale. Prepared foods have a lower tax of 7%.

### *Electricity*

Power outlets are 110v, same used in the U.S.

### *Transportation*

Rental car companies are available at the airport and adjacent areas. UBER is available in most areas in the metropolitan area. Lyft is not available in Puerto Rico. Public transportation (bus and train) and taxis are available in selected areas.

### *Driving*

Gas is sold by liter, distance is measured in kilometers and speed is measured in miles per hour.

