



Health Volunteers Overseas

Improving Global Health Through Education

What type of housing is offered on an HVO trip?

HVO volunteers either stay in a guest house or local hotels near the sites. Part of HVO's site assessment is designated to reviewing the housing options at each location. Cleanliness and safety are the primary factors in choosing housing. Relative inexpensiveness is another factor.

What is guest housing like?

Certain programs, like in Suriname, Uganda and Bhutan, provide guest houses at reasonable prices.



Guest house living area, Uganda

Guest houses include basic amenities such as bedrooms, bathrooms, kitchen, dining and living areas, and are located at a reasonable distance from the campuses. Guest houses do not always come fully equipped with supplies for cooking, cleaning, and entertainment (CD players, TVs, etc.) but each volunteer staying in the house usually contributes furnishings to replenish the supplies and make it more comfortable for the next volunteer(s). Internet and telephone access are often available for an extra fee.

Depending on how busy the site is volunteers may share living spaces, such as bathrooms and common living and dining areas, with other HVO and non-HVO volunteers.

What if the site does not offer housing?

Some sites are unable to provide housing due to lack of capacity. In these instances, HVO provides hotel recommendations based largely upon reviews from past volunteers. These hotels are offered in a multitude of price ranges and are usually available at a reduced rate.



Mosquito net

Uganda

"Housing is not extravagant but definitely adequate and safe... Beatrice, the housekeeper, was extremely helpful and nice. She also does laundry for a nominal charge. It reminds me of staying in a hostel in Europe with a private room and a shared bath. The best part of the compound was staying with other volunteers from around the world."



Bedroom, Samoa



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“[I] stayed the first 3 weeks at the main Mulago guest house. My room had en suite full bath, was generous sized and the bed [was] quite comfortable with mosquito netting that I used faithfully. [I] took breakfast at the guest house regularly ... Dinners I mostly ate out although Henry and Sarah (the cooks at the guesthouse) are happy to make relatively inexpensive and reasonably tasty dinner...”

Bhutan



Guest house, Bhutan

“Since we were only the second HVO volunteers to be in Mongar and the first in the current house, there were not as many accoutrements as there were in the Thimphu house. The living quarters were situated on the hospital grounds with fellow physicians and professional staff as neighbors... My wife and I found it more than adequate. The layout and the ceiling fans made the living quarters quite comfortable.”

“The living quarters are very comfortable and we enjoyed cooking in the kitchen, a working refrigerator, a water storage that one pours boiled water into and it keeps it cool

for drinking and cooking, and ample housekeeping equipment like glasses, dishes, utensils, etc. The volunteer who preceded us left ample supplies for us to get started until we could use the markets to resupply. The living area was large with a sitting area and dining area that also served as an office for laptop computer with broadband hook up capabilities at a modest rate.”

Peru

“I stayed at Exclusive Hotel San Augustin in Miraflores, a section of Lima. It is a very fancy hotel with a breakfast buffet every morning. The Front Desk people speak English and there is internet access in the lobby as well as free WiFi in the rooms. There is a drop-off laundry mat around the corner, which is much cheaper than the hotel, and a grocery store a few blocks away, with a bodega next door... I felt completely safe walking around at night alone or with a HVO cardiologist I met down there. We compared Miraflores to the Upper West Side of NYC.”



Peru