

# MAKING CONNECTIONS 2019

## SERVAS INTERNATIONAL

**The use of this directory is for Servas members only**

# *INTRODUCTION*

**If you are interested in finding out more about one of the opportunities listed below, make contact via the @servas.org address given for each country.**

**Non-members can find information about joining Servas in their own country at <https://servas.org/en/join-in>**

The aim of the SI Making Connections project is to bring together interested Servas travellers with host families who can offer a variety of opportunities for an extended stay or a more in-depth visit to their country.

Volunteering, work experience, language learning, sharing skills and knowledge or connecting with local peace and environmental organisations are examples of potential activities that could be arranged in this way.

Although some countries have offered specific opportunities, others invite you as a Servas traveller to make contact if you are planning an extended stay in their country or you want to pursue a particular interest.

Allow plenty of time to explore possibilities and to agree a plan for your visit.

## **Please note:**

Servas International is committed to promoting Making Connections as a way to link hosts and travellers. However, contributions are only offered as possibilities to explore. There is no guarantee that they will lead to a definite arrangement.

Any programme or activity agreed between hosts and travellers will be the responsibility of the individuals involved without any liability to Servas International.

It is important to have a full discussion about expectations on both sides before arrangements are confirmed, especially where a longer stay than usual is planned for a traveller.

### **Any comments and updates**

If you would like to make comment about the Making Connections directory or update an entry please contact Ann Greenhough at [makingconnections@servas.org](mailto:makingconnections@servas.org)

### **Some guidance for hosts and travellers planning an extended Servas visit**

- Confirm the traveller is a Servas member with an up-to-date Letter of Introduction.
- Plan well ahead.
- Check out each other's expectations before confirming the visit.
- Agree a programme in advance.
- Be precise about the exact date of arrival and length of stay.
- Check out that you share a common language and be clear if the traveller needs some knowledge of the local language to do the planned activity.
- Agree any financial costs that the traveller will need to meet such as transport, food, accommodation if not with hosts. The traveller should have sufficient resources to cover any unexpected expenses.
- The traveller must have travel insurance which includes medical cover.
- Hosts are advised to avoid getting involved in any arrangements a traveller may wish to make for paid employment.
- Following the visit please send a short report and photos to [makingconnections@servas.org](mailto:makingconnections@servas.org) so your experiences can be shared with others.

### **Ideas for contributions to Making Connections:**

If you or your country would like to offer a contribution to Making Connections please send your ideas to [makingconnections@servas.org](mailto:makingconnections@servas.org) so they can be included in the next update of the directory.

Some activities will involve a longer stay, from a few days to a month or more, maybe with more than one host. Worthwhile experiences are also possible during a two-night stay with a host, if planned in advance.

Some suggestions for Making Connections experiences:

- An observation visit for one or more days to a local social, environmental or human rights project known to the host.
- A cultural programme for a few days or longer to give a traveller an appreciation of the history, diversity, language and heritage within the host's community.
- Consider offering a language learning experience with a focus. For example, an interest in music, art, dancing, the environment, helping with a community event.
- Linking a traveller with a local peace human rights or environmental organisation.
- Skill sharing: a host willing to share skills in their field of expertise or special interest.
- Servas families with children and young people wanting to link with other host families.
- Exchanging ideas between hosts and traveller who share an interest, skill or profession.
- Host families offering a language experience in exchange for help to learn the traveller's own language.
- Observation visits or work experience to contribute to a young person's training in a specific field.
- Volunteering: e.g. in local projects known to the host, at a community event, help during harvest time. These could be for a few days through to a more extended stay. Highlight what skills, experience or interests a traveller might need.

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# SOUTH AMERICA

## ARGENTINA

Contact us at [argentina@servas.org](mailto:argentina@servas.org)

Todos los viajeros Servas del mundo entero serán bienvenidos en la Argentina, en caso de necesitar estancias más prolongadas o desear anotarse en un Programa específico, pueden conectarse personalmente conmigo a este e-mail: [mariaelenagnecco@gmail.com](mailto:mariaelenagnecco@gmail.com).

All the SERVAS travelers in the world are welcome in Argentina!!! If you are looking for a longer stay or interested in a special Program, please contact us. Maria Elena Gnecco, National Secretary.

### **Focus Tango: to learn to dance Tango**

- A two week Cultural Exchange Program with a focus on Tango, aimed at advancing the learning of TANGO dance.
  - Each day consists of three events: Class, milonga, followed by a tourist outing such as a visit to an emblematic place, a musical show, a film alluding to dance or shoe and tango clothing shopping. The program will be provided by the organizers.
  - All the activities can take place without leaving Buenos Aires. Or a request can be made for some activities elsewhere. Other cities which participate in the program are Rosario (300 kms), Córdoba (700 kms), Chivilcoy (150 kms) and La Plata (60 kms).
  - Hospitality with Servas host will be arranged by the program organizers.
- Contact: Jorge Casin at [argentina@servas.org](mailto:argentina@servas.org) for more information.

### **Annual Servas Trip:** to know our country with a group of travellers:

A chance for Servas members to understand our country away from the tourist trails which could include meeting indigenous communities. About 10 days duration.

Contact Ana Manghi at [argentina@servas.org](mailto:argentina@servas.org)

## **Language and Cultural Servas Exchange:**

To practice our language and know our culture Servas members could have an extended visit of up to 4 weeks to practice our language, staying with one or more hosts.

Contact Maria Elena Gnecco and Cintia Amor at [argentina@servas.org](mailto:argentina@servas.org)

## **BRAZIL**

Contact us at [brazil@servas.org](mailto:brazil@servas.org)

Servas Brazil would like to introduce Brazil to Servas travelers by offering at least two opportunities:

### **1. Bahia: history, culture and sustainability:**

There is the possibility for Servas travellers to take part in a programme that includes Salvador da Bahia, the first capital city, an environmental project in Santo Antonio de Jesus, Bahia State and Petrolina and Juazeiro, twin cities on the border of Bahia and Pernambuco States. It is also possible to visit historical towns along the way.

In Petrolina you will visit the Women Association ([http://mulheresrendeiras.blogspot.com.br/p/blog-page\\_68.html](http://mulheresrendeiras.blogspot.com.br/p/blog-page_68.html)) and vineyards and may also cruise the São Francisco River. There are also volunteer opportunities at the University.

Come with a willingness to learn and teach and share! There are also possibilities for Environmental International Day in June each year.

We expect that you will write us a small report about your experience to share with the Servas community and the blog of both projects. Check it out: [santiagoocoliving.blogspot.com.br](http://santiagoocoliving.blogspot.com.br) and [rendeirasbrasil.blogspot.com.br](http://rendeirasbrasil.blogspot.com.br)

### **2. Extrema, Minas Gerais, 100 km from São Paulo capital**

Edna Cardoso, fluent in Portuguese, Spanish and English offers a one week experience that includes:

- Visit: Sustainability - Conservator of Water, awarded - UN-Habitat-2012; (<https://believe.earth/pt-br/fatos/projeto-premiado-na-onu-recuperanascentes-em-minas-gerais/>)
- Workshops and visits: Arts;
- Volunteering: Children in need;
- Fun: Carnival, visitor can participate in the parade.

Participant shall contribute in food and fuel expenses.



Furthermore: Servas Brazil is willing to offer other possibilities according to the interests and availability of our members. Please contact us.

## **CHILE**

Contact us at [chile@servas.org](mailto:chile@servas.org)

Servas Chile offers the possibility of a language and cultural experience for Servas members of all ages. Hospitality would be offered in various cities in Chile for up to one month. Contact us for more information.

## **PARAGUAY**

Contact us at [paraguay@servas.org](mailto:paraguay@servas.org)

Welcome to Paraguay which is located in the heart of South America. It has a Mediterranean climate with a population of 7,000,000 inhabitants. A lot of nature awaits you in this country with friendly, simple people and with a spirit of peace.

Paraguay has many attractions and adventures in natural settings such as along the Jesuit route as well as in historical places. It is a paradise for bird watching.

## **CENTRAL AMERICA**

### **COSTA RICA**

Contact us at [costarica@servas.org](mailto:costarica@servas.org)

Servas Costa Rica has connections with a number of social projects which travellers could visit during their stay. Contact us for more information.

Servas Costa Rica tiene conexiones con varios proyectos sociales que los viajeros pueden visitar durante su estancia. Para más información contáctenos.

### **PANAMA**

Contact us at [panama@servas.org](mailto:panama@servas.org)

Servas Panama gives a cordial invitation to all Servas travellers. We would like to offer opportunities to share our knowledge and experience so travellers can better understand the culture and history of our country. Contact us for more information.

## MEXICO

Contact us at [mexico@servas.org](mailto:mexico@servas.org)

Servas travelers can ask to stay for a longer period. The majority of our current members are in the central part of the country.

It will be a pleasure for us to help you with your travel plans for a longer stay in our country.

## NORTH AMERICA

### CANADA

Contact Michael Johnston, Making Connections Coordinator, at [canada@servas.org](mailto:canada@servas.org)

Servas hosts in Canada, with its two official languages: English and French, plus hosts with dozens of other first languages, welcome enquiries from any member wishing to improve a language. Some hosts are farmers and others live on or near lakes. Canada has 60% of the world's lakes. So there can also be other opportunities to stay in rural areas. A traveler could volunteer or join community events.

Consider what you would like to do then write to us with your idea. We can then try to find possibilities for you to stay with one or more hosts for a week or longer.

Some other things to consider when thinking about an extended stay with Servas hosts:

You will need to arrange your own travel medical insurance if you come. You cannot work in Canada without a work permit, so do not say you are "working" in exchange for food and shelter, because that could be considered working illegally. There is no exchange of money between members.

If you CHOOSE to help the host in some way, that is appreciated but it not an obligation and therefore is not considered to be "working". Wishing you a wonderful future and a new adventure.

## UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Contact Chris-Ann Lauria at [usa@servas.org](mailto:usa@servas.org)

Servas travelers who wish to consider an extended stay to the US for an enriching travel experience can do so through social activism, volunteerism, or peace activism. Other opportunities to consider are language learning, cultural events, or participation in special interest activities.

## SOUTH PACIFIC

### AUSTRALIA

Contact us at [australia@servas.org](mailto:australia@servas.org)

Servas Australia is excited to call Servas Members from across the world to seek longer stays through Making Connections in Australia. Do you have an interest in music? Or festivals? food? Are you a wine enthusiast? Do you enjoy sport? Surfing? The outdoors?

Let us know the type of stay you are looking for and let us see what we might have to offer!

### **A message from Servas hosts in the state of Victoria – the South West region, Coast and Hinterland:**

**Servas Hosts of South West Victoria** invite Servas travellers from everywhere to come and stay in our region for up to 2 weeks - we can offer a tour of, or stays around the region, and participation in local events and festivals, depending on the time of year!

We can also offer hospitality to travellers wanting to pursue their special interests. Following are a list of some of the destinations and activities within our region.

### **DESTINATIONS in South West Victoria**

**Warrnambool:** Bay of Islands, Bay of Martyrs, Childers Cove, Flagstaff Hill, Art Galleries, Penguin Colony minded by Marema dogs ("Oddball" the movie).

**Port Fairy:** Recipient of 2012 International LIVCOM Award for Most Liveable Small Town in the World under 12,000 population. Historic harbour village with Irish influences, over 150 historic buildings, strong cafe culture, Tower Hill State Park with easy-to-spot-native animals in their natural habitat, cycle the rail trail, beach walking, surfing. Walk Griffith Island to the Lighthouse.

**Portland:** Natural harbour and a busy operating Port, Bridgewater Bay, Petrified Forest, Discovery Bay, 250km Great South West Walk (can be done in chunks),

Cable Tram, Powerhouse and Car Museum, Cape Nelson State Park and Lighthouses.

**Hamilton:** Rural scapes, Nigretta and Wannan Falls, Art Gallery, Botanic Gardens. Campe's Motor Museum and Sir Reginald Ansett's Transport Museum. Can do day trips to the Grampians.

**Grampians:** Ancient geological formations, mountains, lookouts, nature and parks, climbing, hiking trails, cycling, Halls Gap Zoo, McKenzie Falls. Bambruk Indigenous Cultural Centre.

### ***ANNUAL FESTIVALS in the South West of Victoria:***

- 31 December to 26 January MOYNEYANA FESTIVAL PORT FAIRY ... Family entertainment – free for kids all month
- February JAZZ FESTIVAL PORT FAIRY ... Street parade, music in several venues around town
- Long weekend in March PORT FAIRY FOLK FESTIVAL ... International artists, world music, markets, workshops
- Third weekend in March KANA FESTIVAL COLAC ... Street parade, art, music, markets for families
- June & July alternate weekends WINTER WEEKENDS PORT FAIRY Focus on art, music, food & wine, workshops
- 11 – 13 October 2019 SPRING MUSIC FESTIVAL PORT FAIRY ... Classical music, dance, theatre and international guests
- First weekend in November UPWELLING FESTIVAL PORTLAND ... Fleet blessing, live music, markets, whaling history etc.
- 22 – 24 November 2019 QUEENSCLIFF MUSIC FESTIVAL - music, markets and workshops

## **ASIA**

### **CHINA**

Contact Jack Huang national secretary at [china@servas.org](mailto:china@servas.org)

Servas China welcomes you to mainland China, an ancient and mysterious land that radiates new glory in this 21<sup>st</sup> century and internet era. We have Alipay, which offers you life without wallet; WeChat, which gives you seamless connection beyond the limitation of location, language, and distance; MoBike/ MoCar, which gives you alternative method of transportation; and a kaleidoscopic landscape of politics, geography, culture, and ecology.

We can offer Servas travellers:  
Volunteer opportunities.  
Long stay and language learning experiences for all ages.  
Internship in local companies.

## **INDIA**

Contact Abhay Shaha, national secretary at [india@servas.org](mailto:india@servas.org)

Welcome to India. We are happy to receive Servas travellers to learn, enjoy, connect and share. We are of many diversities, religions, culture, climates, languages, food etc. If you would like some help to explore possibilities for your visit that can offer a more in-depth experience and understanding of life in India please let us know.

Hearts and doors are open to Servas guests worldwide.

Guests can learn local languages including English.

Every year, normally in September, we offer a week long Ganesh Festival program to get to know about our culture. Servas travellers are also welcome to join our Servas India annual meeting. English language will be used for communication with possible help with Spanish and French translation if needed.

## **INDONESIA**

Contact Amin Sudarto at [indonesia@servas.org](mailto:indonesia@servas.org)

Welcome to Servas travelers who are already exploring Indonesia or who plan to visit our country. We in Servas Indonesia are happy to have you stay longer with us to work in one of our projects.

Our members would like to promote the Making Connections programme through the activities we can offer such as teaching English, working on an Outward-Bound project, learning the Indonesian language and appreciating local cultures, nature and traditional arts.

So far we have 4 possible places with projects - in Temanggung, Ngadirejo, Solo and Ambarawa. So you could change places during your stay. These projects take place throughout the year, so it's possible to come at any time.

## THAILAND

Contact us at [thailand@servas.org](mailto:thailand@servas.org)

Servas Thailand would like to welcome you to the land of smiles. Rich in culture, natural beauty and vibrant socio-political development, Thailand has much to explore during a longer stay.

We have almost 50 hosts for day visits and overnight stays across our different regions in the country. We are ready to help you interact with our local communities, spend time with you over our world famous street food or perhaps a boat trip along the river, trekking over the mountain or camping in the forests.

Let us know if you would like to be a volunteer. Possibilities could include working in a wildlife sanctuary, at a meditation camp, helping in a hospital or in the paddy fields.

## TAIWAN

Contact us at [taiwan@servas.org](mailto:taiwan@servas.org)

Welcome to Taiwan to learn Chinese or have cultural exchange with aboriginal kids or local people!

1. SYLE: language experience for 18-30 years old members. Max 4 weeks.
2. Language experience for those over 30 years old. Max 4 weeks.
3. Bring the world to a remote area: half-day cultural exchange with aboriginal kids or local people in remote area (usually with beautiful scenery). They may not have a chance to go abroad, but you can help them to see the world through introducing your country, culture, professional for half a day.

## *EUROPE and CENTRAL ASIA*

### AUSTRIA

Contact us at [austria@servas.org](mailto:austria@servas.org)

Austria is offering longer stays for both adults and young people; an individual programme would be developed by the host families, through discussion with each Servas traveller.

Depending on the age of the visitor, a variety of language learning experiences could be offered. Travellers would be able to take part in everyday activities with their hosts.

We have several families with children and young people who are very interested in youth exchanges with other countries.

For several years Servas Austria has been associated with an integrative intercultural organisation in Vienna: <http://brunnenpassage.at/>. Visitors would have a chance to participate in their activities.

In general the offers are from one to two weeks but some hosts may offer longer stays. One week stays with three or four different hosts might also be possible. Some day hosts would be willing to take part in a visitor's program for example through sports activities, language learning or visiting places of interest.

The majority of our hosts are found in Vienna and surroundings as well as the region of Linz in Upper Austria. The local language is Austrian German. All hosts speak English, many speak Italian or Spanish. Some financial contribution to the costs of the visit would be expected according to the circumstances of individual hosts and travellers.

Contact us if you are interested in finding out more. More information about Servas Austria can be found at <http://www.servas-austria.org>

## **BRITAIN**

Contact us at [britain@servas.org](mailto:britain@servas.org)

Servas Britain offers support and advice to travellers interested in volunteering, work experience and observation visits, especially for young people.

Around the country we have hosts who are active in a range of organisations that support asylum seekers and refugees. They would welcome contact with travellers who are involved in similar projects in their own country or interested in understanding more about the complex issues facing those who seek asylum here.

In Newcastle in the North of England, a bike recycling scheme welcomes Servas travellers for an observation visit to learn more about the project. There could also be possible opportunities to be a volunteer for a longer time.

<http://recyke-y-bike.org/>

In Bradford, Yorkshire there is an opportunity for an observation visit to our national Peace Museum. It has an outreach education programme in what is a diverse multi-ethnic community. <https://peacemuseum.org.uk/>

There may also be possibilities to volunteer at the museum for short and longer periods if planned well in advance.

For those interested in environmental issues there is a chance to meet Servas hosts involved in the Extinction Rebellion movement since its foundation in the UK in 2018. <https://rebellion.earth/>

## **BELGIUM & LUXEMBURG**

Contact Benedicte at [belgium@servas.org](mailto:belgium@servas.org) and Rosi at [luxemburg@servas.org](mailto:luxemburg@servas.org).

We are ready to receive requests from Servas members who are interested in longer stays in our countries. We can help them find hospitality with our hosts and possibilities for voluntary work as well as opportunities for language learning with social and cultural activities.

In Belgium we speak French and Dutch and we are the centre of the European Community, very close to the Netherlands and France. In Luxemburg at the German border, the official language is German.

## **CZECH REPUBLIC**

Contact us at [czechrepublic@servas.org](mailto:czechrepublic@servas.org)

Servas Czech Republic is interested in offering Servas travellers opportunities to experience the language and culture of our country. Contact us for more information.

## **FRANCE**

Contact us at [france@servas.org](mailto:france@servas.org)

Servas France can offer possibilities to take part in language, artistic and cultural projects.

Many hosts in various regions of France offer longer stays for both adults and young people. Servas members are involved in festivals, art exhibitions, sport events and do volunteer work for all sorts of associations; many would be very happy to share their experience and activities. Contact us for more information.



## GEORGIA

Contact us at [georgia@servas.org](mailto:georgia@servas.org)

Servas Georgia would like to offer travellers of all ages an opportunity to explore the culture, diversity and heritage of Georgia, whilst also having a chance to participate in small local projects. So far, we have welcomed young people from Italy, Czechia and Sweden for work/visit programs.

## HUNGARY

Contact Miklós Bodrogi at [hungary@servas.org](mailto:hungary@servas.org)

We can offer our warm hospitality to any Servas traveller that would like to have an extended stay or explore a particular interest whilst visiting Hungary.

## IRAN

Contact Amir Asadi at [iran@servas.org](mailto:iran@servas.org)

These days, Iran/Persia is considered as a hot destination to visit, while looking at travel guides of Iran you will be amazed to find in the top of the list of "must to do" in Iran: people, and it is the pure truth.

Interaction with local people while you are enjoying your trip in Iran will be a different experience compared to others you may have in the rest of the world. SERVAS Iran would like to invite you to discover the real face of Iran and we are here to help you get the best out of your journey.

A vast country with amazing nature, culture, history, art, ... which looks like an endless festival for food. Come to Iran and experience it as locals and remember it forever.

Useful to mention:

- Iranian government made a progressive step and now issues e-visa and removes the stamp of visa from passports.

- Attention: Servas members of Canada, United States and Britain cannot visit Iran without guides. Servas Iran can assist them to find the guide as well.

1. Having more depth knowledge about Persian Culture, One of the Servas Iran members performs free walking tour in Tehran 3 times per week. She empowers you with new mindset and provides hints for cultural adjustment, which enriches your trip to the fullest. So far, Servas members of Portuguese, Spain and Germany participated in this tour. This tour will be in English and German.

2. A Certificated and local guide based in Kashan which is Servas member as well. She has different tours around Iran (Kashan, Isfahan , Shiraz, Yazd ,Kerman, ...) . She can organise whatever you want, from a total package, luxury or budget, or just transfers or accommodation. As a local she knows tourist attractions plus hidden spots. To visit Festival of Rose water each year in May she can assist, already some Servas members enjoyed her tour in Kashan.

3. If you want to see the Harvest of Saffron, the most expensive spice, there is a Servas member who is a tourist guide in South Khorasan Province. He can offer you private accommodation for travelers in Qaen, the hometown of Saffron. An event like picking Iranian barberry (Zereshk)is interesting in the fall (November).

4. If you travel to Iran you can not miss Kurdistan, amazing nature, culture and events all year along, Servas member which is an experienced traveler by himself knows Northwest of Iran very well and can introduce touristic sites of Kurdistan or accompany his guests.

## ITALY

Contact us at [italy@servas.org](mailto:italy@servas.org)

Servas Italy has experience of offering language experiences for several young people. We would also like to offer the possibility of a cultural and language experience for members over 30.

## POLAND

Contact us at [poland@servas.org](mailto:poland@servas.org)

If you are a Servas traveller interested in visiting Poland for an extended stay or have a particular interest you would like to explore, please contact us to discuss.

Marietta Milewska-Moult a host says:

We are a Polish/English-speaking couple, living in Poznań. We can offer support, hospitality, bike access, practice in English, connections with students of school age attending our English language school. We are outdoor lovers, mountain walkers, climbers, cyclists etc. We're open to new ideas and connecting with people. For more information you can contact Marietta at [poland@servas.org](mailto:poland@servas.org).

Another host, Dariuz Deckert, is offering support and advice to anyone wanting to explore their family origins in Poland. Contact him at [poland@servas.org](mailto:poland@servas.org).

## ROMANIA

Contact Bogdan Ionescu, national secretary at [romania@servas.org](mailto:romania@servas.org)

There is an opportunity to help construct an eco-house whilst also finding out about life in the Romanian countryside and its environment.

## RUSSIA

Contact Julia Mezenina [@russia@servas.org](mailto:@russia@servas.org) for more information

Julia Mezenina would like to invite you to consider some possibilities for an extended stay in the Urals region of Russia. She says:

1. I live in the Urals, in the Krasnoufimsk district (the nearest airport in Yekaterinburg, the town has a railway station). Five times I have received guests and been able to introduce them to the different nationalities that live in my area: Tatars, Maris, Russians. We went to the national villages, got acquainted with culture, traditions, ate the national dishes, visited Orthodox churches and mosques. My guests liked this program. I can extend it, because in my area Tajiks, Bashkirs also live. So, it is possible to create a cultural and educational tour and meet with five nationalities.

2. Also nearby a group of nuns have been working to restore an Orthodox convent. Of course, they need the strong hands of assistants, especially men. Servas travelers can come and live and work at the convent and connected monastery from a few days to several months. They can provide food and a place to sleep. The convent and monastery are situated near a village 40 km from the city of Krasnoufimsk, where a host lives.

In the summer there is a children's camp. Travelers can help run the programme. They can also help with building work, with gathering herbs and berries or growing vegetables.

The official website of the monastery is <http://сарсы.рф/фото-и-видео.html> (although no English translation).

From there you can visit the nearby interesting towns: Ekaterinburg (the capital of the Ural), Kungur (<http://kungurcave.ru/>), Verkhotur'ye ([Верхотурье](#))

## SPAIN

Contact us at [spain@servas.org](mailto:spain@servas.org)

Members of Servas Spain are keen to experiment with possibilities to bring hosts and travellers together with these suggestions:

1. Language Experiences for all ages.
2. Language friends: Even if you cannot visit Spain you build your Spanish language skills through making a Skype language friend.

If you would like to find out more or if you have other ideas you would like to explore for a visit to Spain, please contact us.

### 1. A LANGUAGE EXPERIENCE:

Joaquim de la Mata says:

Servas member from Girona, Catalonia, Spain. Girona is the capital of the province right above Barcelona, situated just 60 minutes by car north from Barcelona. I'm 65 and retired. I'm living with my wife Carolina in this wonderful city of Girona.

We offer you many things to do here, cultural or activities, including a language exchange Spanish/Catalan – English. If you would decide to come and stay with us, I can offer you also some sportive activities in natural surroundings: walking, cycling and play pitch and putt. Also I would show you the two-thousand-year old city of Girona: Roman City and walls, Mediaeval Quarter, Jewish Quarter... For more information contact Joaquim at [spain@servas.org](mailto:spain@servas.org)

### 2. AN ARTISTIC EXPERIENCE

Pilar Gutierrez Beired (you will find me also in Facebook): I have a painting STUDIO, and I can offer during your stay some Artistic leisure time.

**3. SERVAS SPAIN IS CREATING A TEAM TO PRACTICE SPANISH** with our Servas friends all around the world:

1 Pilar Beltran Zuñiga (teacher from Servas in Madrid)

2 Lucia Peralta Mungia (family doctor in the north coast of Spain - near Santander)

3 Jesus Tabares (retired teacher 15 km south of Madrid)

If you would like to practice your SPANISH so you do not forget it or want to improve your language skill, please contact our GRUPO DE ESPAÑOL para Servas del mundo at [spain@servas.org](mailto:spain@servas.org)

## **SWITZERLAND**

Contact us at [switzerland@servas.org](mailto:switzerland@servas.org)

Welcome as a Servas guest in Switzerland!

If anyone wants to have an extended stay or a more in-depth visit in Switzerland, our responsible person can clarify and search for possible hosts who are able to accommodate visitors for a longer period of time.

We ask you to make an *early request* for a longer stay.

## **TURKEY**

Contact us at [turkey@servas.org](mailto:turkey@servas.org)

We would like to be involved in Making Connections. Contact us if you are a Servas traveller and planning an extended visit to Turkey.

For several years Servas volunteers have been involved in running a Peace School/ Summer children's camp in Antakya. Contact us for more information about future events.

## **AFRICA**

### **BOTSWANA**

Contact Keletso Mompoti, national secretary at [botswana@servas.org](mailto:botswana@servas.org)

We invite Servas travellers to visit our country. There are NGO organisations, schools, hospitals that you can visit and also opportunities to be a volunteer such as in teaching.

We can also offer a cultural exchange and visits, so you can know more about our Botswana. A visit could be for few days or longer if staying with more than one host or perhaps elsewhere.

Travellers would need to cover some of their own costs including transport. Some projects are outside the main town. We use our local language and English.

## KENYA

Contact Philip Olero. National secretary at [kenya@servas.org](mailto:kenya@servas.org)

Servas Kenya invites all Servas members to Kenya. Those who are willing to travel to our country either for a short or longer stay are welcome. There are several possible activities - volunteering as a teacher in local schools with children of different ages; time at a children's orphanage where you could help with practical tasks such as cooking or washing; exchanging ideas with hosts who share your interests, skills or profession.

## MALAWI

Contact Demelza Benbow, national secretary, at [malawi@servas.org](mailto:malawi@servas.org)

Over a number of years Servas Malawi has offered a language and cultural experience that is open to Servas members of all ages.

Country: MALAWI - Southern Africa area. Length: 1 month.

Programme includes:

- On arrival stay 2 days with National Sec then 2 nights each with 5/6 Blantyre hosts. Hosts will:- a) Take you to work with them for a day. b) Orientate you to taking minibuses etc. c) Help you study Chichewa.
- A longer-stay with hosts while completing voluntary work with an allocated NGO's which could be:- Queens Hospital – accountancy, finances; Namasimba Day Centre – teaching 3-8yrs.; Open Arms Care of babies/feeding/play; Chichiri Prison – Ladies section – English.
- 2 weeks self-funded travel around Malawi finishing with debrief

Requirements:

You must: be 18y+ and a 'model' Servas-traveller; have experience as a Servas traveller/host; be able to communicate well/ok in English; cover cost of travel to Malawi; have sufficient funds to cover cost of lunches and local travel, Chichewa language lessons, travel insurance, pocket money; give a PowerPoint presentation about your life and country; buy food and cook dinner each week for your 'long-stay' hosts.; have funds to travel in Malawi in your last week.

## **RWANDA**

Contact us at [rwanda@servas.org](mailto:rwanda@servas.org)

Servas Rwanda hosts welcome Servas travellers and would like to offer opportunities for them to experience and understand the culture, history and environment of Rwanda.

Servas Rwanda also provides other opportunities for internship and volunteering with its partner civil society organizations working in the following areas:

1. Gender equality, women's empowerment, violence prevention and male engagement
2. Youth engagement
3. Education
4. Vocational training

## **TANZANIA**

Contact Lourance Gonsalves, national secretary, at [tanzania@servas.org](mailto:tanzania@servas.org)

Servas Tanzania invites Servas travellers to consider being a volunteer during an extended visit to our country.

1. We use Swahili language but support of an English translator can be available.
2. A financial contribution is expected from the Servas traveller to cover some of the cost of activities.
3. A Swahili language learning experience can be organized for a day or two if required.
4. The usual duration of the opportunity would be 5 – 10 days. If you want extend this for up to a month / 30 Days, we can consider your request.

Possible opportunities include:

### **1. Volunteering in a conservation outreach programme in communities close to Serengeti National park.**

Experience dancing in a community which dedicates time and energy to protect wildlife. Traditional dance and songs are used to promote the anti-poaching message. Traditional dance is very famous in the community. In September each year dancing groups and volunteers come together for a competition singing songs with messages to discourage communities from colluding with poachers to destroy wildlife.

After volunteering there would be chance to visit the Serengeti National park to see the wildlife.

### **2. Addressing Human-Wildlife Conflict**

Assist in beehive manufacturing, distribution and installation in the buffer zone of Kijereshi Game Reserve, as part of beehive fencing to address human-elephant conflict and elephant crop raiding.

### **3. Soccer for Conservation**

Across Tanzania sport can be a popular way to engage youth and others in conservation action. Soccer (football) tournaments can be a focus to share conservation information and recruit support for action across rural communities that live alongside wildlife. This can include addressing issues like illegal wildlife poaching, in which youth and other community members may take part. Soccer tournaments are held annually between July-August, organized in part by PFC. These not only brings communities together but also gives an opportunity to raise awareness, foster good stewardship attitudes and behaviours including addressing elephant, giraffe and other human-wildlife conflict and coexistence issues across the region.

The program is organised from 10 to 30 July each year.

### **4. Volunteering at Baobab House**

Finally, Servas member invites travellers to consider being a volunteer at Baobab House, a project she runs in Bagamoyo:

Welcome to The Baobab Home. Since 2004, we have been helping children and families affected by HIV/AIDS and poverty. We are located on a solar-powered, biogas-fuelled small farm sustained by 35 milk cows. We have a small rice farm here. We have a small sweet-potatoes farm too. There are orange trees and pineapples too.

Children's Home - our family-style home for orphaned and vulnerable children  
Steven Tito Academy - our English-medium primary school is a day school with about 150 pupils



Stronger Together - our psychosocial support group for HIV+ children

Breakfast Program - our breakfast program providing food for HIV+ patients at our local hospital

As a holistic, community-based organization, we also run an Outreach program.

Whenever we can, we offer educational and medical support to those who can't afford it.

The Baobab Home is a registered 501(c) (3) organization in the USA and a registered foreign NGO in Tanzania. We invite you to check out our work online [www.tzkids.org](http://www.tzkids.org), or to visit us in person in Tanzania!

*Servas volunteers are welcome to come to Tanzania for short - or long-term stays (from one to six months). We prefer that volunteers have a defined skill set (e.g. marketing, farming, building, teaching, healthcare, art) or come with the funds to do their own projects. Volunteer positions are entirely self-funded.*

The most recent history has it as a terminal point on the coast for Arab trading caravans. It was also used as a holding point for slaves brought from the interior mainland and awaiting transportation to Zanzibar island. During German colonial times, Bagamoyo was the economic and administrative capital of German East Africa. Later the capital was moved to Dar Es Salaam. Also the Arabic influence on local architecture is very significant.

The Baobab Home is located 60 kilometres north of Dar-es-Salaam city, it is 5 kilometres from the Indian Ocean beaches.

The most spoken language is Swahili; but English is also used in the Baobab's community and at our English medium school.

## **UGANDA**

Contact us at [uganda@servas.org](mailto:uganda@servas.org)

Servas Uganda would like to be involved in the Making Connections project by offering Servas travellers possibilities for a cultural programme, a Servas language experience for all ages and opportunities to understand tourism diversification, hospitality, gender equality.

# OTHER MAKING CONNECTIONS OPPORTUNITIES

## SERVAS ARTISTS

A shared network to bring together all Servas members with an interest in the creative arts:

For more information contact Jean-Luc TURLURE at [artists@servas.org](mailto:artists@servas.org)

SERVAS ARTISTS is multicultural. It includes all the artistic media and traditions:

- authors and poets.
- visual arts: painters, sculptors, photographers, filmmakers, video artists, etc...
- writing, music, dancing, singing, etc...

But also:

- craftsmen, performers of music, song, gesture, dance....
- journalists, cultural historians, art critics, curators, gallery owners, music lovers, collectors, teachers, etc...

SERVAS ARTISTS aims to connect SERVAS members through artistic expression to exchange, communicate, present and thus work for Peace in the world.

Look at our website at <https://www.art-and-peace.org/>

In the spirit of Servas, we are open to all proposals for cultural events, artistic activities, workshops... Join us, together we will be stronger!

E mail : [artists@servas.org](mailto:artists@servas.org) +33 (0)6 83 73 73 13 09

FaceBook : Servas artists - WebSite : <https://www.art-and-peace.org/>

## SYLE (SERVAS YOUTH LANGUAGE EXPERIENCE)

The SI youth committee is responsible for SYLE as a separate project.

Contact us at [youth@servas.org](mailto:youth@servas.org) for more information and instructions about how to apply for a language experience.

SYLE is a programme for Servas members between 18 and 30 years old. It aims to provide opportunities for in-depth language learning and cultural awareness through living within a family whilst participating in a programme based, wherever possible, on a young person's personal interests.

Arrangements vary from country to country but young people usually stay with one or more Servas hosts for up to one month. Participants are encouraged to explore issues around cultural difference, human rights and peace through the activities on offer during their stay.

These programmes give young Servas members an opportunity to extend their knowledge of a language through immersion in a culture other than their own. Hospitality is offered by Servas hosts so young people can be involved in daily life in their family and local community with the chance for enriched cultural and travel experiences. They are organised in the spirit of generosity and cooperation between Servas groups in different countries.