



House Building Programme

Introduction

Most families participating in the “*Family Development Through Savings Program*” are able to save enough money to buy land and the materials to build a house. However, some very poor families cannot save all the money required for land and a house – for example, widows, single mothers, landmine victims, people suffering from HIV/AIDS, etc.

As Tabitha is working with a whole community, community elders and Tabitha staff select the neediest families to receive a house. Each family will contribute their savings from the “*Family Development Through Savings Program*” – often this buys the land where the house will be built. Most recipients of a house will contribute US \$20 towards the cost of materials.

Tabitha Cambodia brings international volunteer building teams to Cambodia to supply the additional money that has not been able to be saved (US\$980/house plus US\$250/well) and work under the direction of Khmer builders to complete the simple houses.

The program year runs from Sept through to August in the following year. In the 2016-2017 program year, our goal is for at least for 1,100 houses to be constructed by international building teams.

Frequently Asked Questions

Does Tabitha Foundation Singapore (TFS) arrange House Building trips?

- All house building groups actually make all arrangements directly with Janne Ritskes, Director of Tabitha Cambodia.
- For liability reasons, TFS does not arrange or sponsor house building trips.
- TFS can provide general advice only.

What is a typical Tabitha Cambodia house-building trip schedule?

Tabitha Cambodia has developed a very successful “formula” for house-building trips. Typically, this includes:

- Day 1: Split into 2 half days :
 - Tabitha Cambodia with an “orientation” briefing by Janne Ritskes.
 - Visits to Tuol Sleng Prison (S-21) and The Killing Fields (Cheong Ek).
- Day 2: Travel day (if building away from Phnom Penh)
- Days 3 & 4: Building houses
- Day 5: Travel back to Phnom Penh. End of trip.



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Does the team need experience building?

Tabitha building teams do not actually “build” houses. Instead they “complete” the houses by nailing on the walls and floors. Prior to the team’s arrival, a Cambodian builder, under contract to Tabitha (the “Contractor”), builds the foundations, frame and roof of each house. Your team needs a mix of builders, some of whom are practical and can hit a nail. The contractor (and the families) will guide and correct you!

When to go?

Tabitha can accommodate building teams at any time of the year except:

- Between Dec 15 and Jan 15th
- Khmer New Year (usually the holiday is around the week of April 12-18th)

Tabitha Cambodia will be closed for other specific public holidays such as Pchum Ban (October) and the Water Festival (November)

What arrangements will Tabitha Cambodia make for you?

- Buses to site
- Hotels if staying outside Phnom Penh
- Bread for lunch (your team will have to purchase everything else for site lunches)
- Water at site.

Hotel bookings in Phnom Penh

Teams either:

- Make their own bookings directly with their selected hotel, OR
- Use Amary Travel (www.amarytravel.com) to make the booking. These are used and recommended by Tabitha Cambodia’

The Hotel most commonly used is:

Golden Gate Hotel

<http://www.goldengatehotels.com/>

How many people can be in a team and how many houses can my team build?

Teams build between 6 and 40 houses depending on:

- Size of the team
- The amount of fund-raising the team can do
- The length of the trip

Travel to Cambodia is relatively expensive and when teams have been anticipating the trip for months, it is important to ensure that the team members feel as though they have worked hard each day. It is disappointing to the team to finish building too early in the day.



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Moral: make sure that you are building enough houses to keep the team busy.

Due to the shortage of wood in Cambodia, the walls of all houses are now made from a thin corrugated iron. This material is very sharp, so all volunteer builders should wear protective gloves. Nailing on this corrugated iron is quicker than nailing on the wooden planks previously used for the walls. This means that teams can now build more houses than when the walls were constructed of wood.

Rough guide:

- Team of 10: 10-15 houses
- Team of 15: 20-30 houses
- Team of 20: 25-35 houses

How much do the houses cost?

- Each house costs US\$1500, inclusive of well and development programme

Payment MUST be made directly to Tabitha Foundation (Cambodia) 8 weeks before the trip and will immediately be used for the purchase of material and for the construction of foundations, frame and roof.

What are the additional costs?

Budget for:

- Airfares to and from Cambodia
- Accommodation and meals in Cambodia
- Transport to the site – van / bus
- Travel and accommodation before and after the house building trip

Fund Raising - Important Notes

Tabitha is bound by strict rules about fund raising for its overseas cause. Please note that it is essential that, if you wish to fund-raise in order to meet your required contribution to house building, it must be through family and friends only and on a private basis.

Tabitha (whether directly or through you) cannot be seen to be advertising publicly in any way and this includes websites and using mailing lists. As there would be sanctions for Tabitha Singapore for contravening the rules set by the Charities Commission, we ask you to please abide by them carefully.



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Other Administrative Requirements

Medical recommendations

- All members of all teams should see a doctor prior to travel.
- All teams should have a first aid kit, and, if possible, a person trained in first aid, a nurse, or a doctor.
- International SOS runs an international standard medical clinic in Phnom Penh

Travel Insurance

- All team members must have travel insurance.

Obligations

Each building team must nominate a 'team leader', who will be the primary contact with Tabitha. The team leader is obliged to:

- Confirm dates, number of houses and itinerary
- Co-ordinate payments to Tabitha.

Next Steps

Contact Lisa Newman at housebuilding@tabithasingapore.com, who will then coordinate with Janne Ritskes (Tabitha Founder and Director) to arrange a building date and program.

You will need to confirm the following:-

- Date of arrival
- Team size and composition (adults / children / males / females)
- Number of houses to be built

Tabitha Cambodia has over 65 international building trips per year so:

- Plan 6-12 months ahead
- Try to be flexible with dates, if your preferred date is already taken.
- NOTE : There will be no house-building activity on Sundays.

Contact Information

Contact: Lisa Newman

Email: housebuilding@tabithasingapore.com

Mobile: +65 9825 4901 Phone: +65 6732 2107

Tabitha: +855(0)23 721038

Remember: Tabitha Foundation (Singapore) is staffed by volunteers – no remuneration is received. All funds raised for house-building are sent to direct to Cambodia.