



BUILDING BLITZ 2010

ITINERARY

WHAT TO EXPECT

A **Building Blitz** provides an amazing opportunity for people from all walks of life to work in another country and culture, and make a difference through bricks and mortar.

Building houses in another country is an experience which will stay with you for the rest of your life. It will allow you to see firsthand the extreme poverty and appalling conditions our **global neighbours** are forced to endure.

The pride you will feel at the end of the week stirs a range of emotions and the friendships you make will last a lifetime. We have volunteers who have returned year after year since we began this journey in 2002 and if you decide to start this journey with us we will be friends for life.

“No human being deserves to live in a shack, every child deserves a house they can call a home”

Niall Mellon.

Day 1: SATURDAY

International Departure

All our volunteers will depart from Ireland for Cape Town, South Africa. Our staff will be at Dublin, Cork and Belfast International Airport to assist you with the beginning of your journey. Make sure to wear your name badge so you are easily identified to your fellow volunteers. Wear comfortable clothing as it's a long trip. Some flights will depart through Abu Dhabi, Frankfurt and Amsterdam, please remember to change your watch on arrival in these airports to connect to the next flight.

Day 2: SUNDAY

ARRIVAL, WALK IN, BUILD

On your arrival in Cape Town, our staff will be there to greet you at the airport and a coach will transfer you to your hotel. You will check in, collect your kit and change for site. All coaches will depart for the site that afternoon.

An orientation/briefing meeting for all volunteers will take place at HQ on site. This is an essential part of the Blitz as we will outline what is expected from you the volunteer and what a difference your week will make as you are introduced to beneficiaries and hear their stories.

During the briefing/orientation meeting the Blitz team will run through the week ahead, what to expect health and safety, medical and introduce to your Foreman and Team Leaders.



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Everyone will be provided with a map and key areas will be pointed out, HQ, Med HQ and Bus Stops. It's very important to familiarise yourself straight away and **never walk alone on site.**

After the briefing meeting, you will walk with your team to your Team Base which will be painted your team colour. Here the Foreman, Team Leaders and Medics will introduce themselves to you. They are key team members and if there is ever an issue or if you are unsure of a task allocated or anything at all please speak to any of these teams members. Also all our Blitz full time staff are in white t-shirts and will gladly assist you in any way we can.

Day 3 – 6

8am – 5pm

Building Homes Changing Lives

Breakfast is served from 6.00am to 7.30am every morning in the main hotel dining area. Please be on time as coaches will depart from the hotel at 7.30am sharp and will not wait if you are late. Please have **your Name Badge clearly visible** as you will be scanned on to the coach every morning for safety reasons; safety is a priority for us.

The day is long as we finish at 5pm each day, we provide a very substantial packed lunch, bottled water and there is a tea / coffee facility in each Team Base. We have a tea break at 10.30am, lunch at 1pm and an afternoon tea break. It's important that all dietary requirements are

communicated before departing Ireland. All volunteers are responsible for their own evening meals.

On arrival on site your Foreman will delegate duties out to the team. It's important that you work within your own fitness level and if you feel out of your depth please speak to a member of staff or your Team Leader, also if you feel you could do more speak to your Foreman and he will allocate duties. It's important that you feel comfortable and enjoy the week.

During the week your team will have an opportunity to meet a beneficiary family living in a shack. Your Team Leader will have been given allocated time slots for visits so please ensure to familiarise yourself with these as they are limited in number. Visiting a family in their shack will demonstrate the huge impact your work and fundraising is making to these people, it's a memory that will stay with you for a long time and is often very emotional. Each group is small so you will have an opportunity to ask questions and understand the daily challenges of life in a township.

You will also have an opportunity to visit a local school which is very uplifting experience as the children are very excited and are all aware that the Irish are in their township. Many of these children will be beneficiaries to our houses



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Day 7

Friday – Handover Day

Friday on site is a little different, we will start work as normal at 8am but you will finish up at 2pm. Your team will have an opportunity to hand over one of the houses you have built to a local beneficiary family. This is a very emotional day for the family and the volunteers, as you are making a huge change to the life of someone. Also, you will make incredible friendships through a very unique experience. It's a day that is hard to describe boiling over with emotions, warmth, giving and solidarity with our South African neighbours.

We will depart site around 3pm and that evening we will have a celebratory dinner to mark the work and emotional journey you have just completed.

Day 8

Departure Day

A timetable detailing transfer times to the airport will be placed in the hotel lobby on Thursday afternoon. Please familiarise yourself with the times as there will only be 1 departure per flight.

Please ensure to put your own luggage on the coach as we have asked the hotel porters not to be involved as it causes confusion with such a large number of people departing at the same time.

Day 9

Ireland

You will arrive back in Ireland today.