



SERVAS CANADA

OPEN DOORS AROUND THE WORLD - PORTES OUVERTES DANS LE MONDE ENTIER



Welcome to homes throughout the world

One of the most exciting experiences a traveller can have is to live with a family in a foreign country. For those who cannot travel, the next best thing is to bring the world into your living room by inviting a foreign traveller to stay with you. SERVAS, an international, non-profit, inter-faith and interracial system of hosts and travellers makes these visits possible.

SERVAS hosts or day hosts (people who are interested in meeting travellers but do not provide accommodation), can now be found in over 100 countries. All members still espouse that simple aim that Robert Luitweiler and his friends developed 40 years ago: to build peace, goodwill and understanding between people of different nations by providing opportunities for deeper, more personal contacts between people of different backgrounds and cultures.

SERVAS invites you to be a traveller

When travelling, have you ever wished you could get beyond the tourist attractions and see how people really live? SERVAS travellers live exactly as the host family does.

SERVAS travellers plan their own trips using host lists of the region where they wish to go. They do not expect the best accommodation, nor do they expect to be entertained. Rather they hope to share in the everyday family life of the host. Usually, travellers stay only two nights with a host family, unless specifically invited to stay longer. SERVAS does not want freeloaders, only people who are genuinely interested in promoting peace and understanding between people of different cultures and backgrounds.

In order to apply, please contact the SERVAS representative nearest you (To find out your closest or most convenient interviewer, please send an email to canada@servas.org). You will be asked to prepare a letter about yourself and your travel plans, and to supply two letters of reference, at least one of which must be from someone who knows you in a professional or educational capacity. You will also be asked to arrange for an interview. Be sure to allow time to complete these arrangements well before you plan to start your trip.

As SERVAS is an organization formed entirely of unpaid volunteers, with no external source of financial support, all travellers are asked to contribute a small fee to cover expenses for printing the hosts lists, postage, supplies, etc. Travellers are encouraged to remain part of SERVAS by becoming hosts or helping in other ways at the end of their trip.

Some hosts may have the time to show you the sights. Others may just have time for conversation after work. But all hosts want to do what they can to increase international understanding.

SERVAS invites you to be a host

At present, Canada has over 750 hosts, some in every province and a couple in the territories. The host is the key to the success of SERVAS. It is both exciting and enlightening to meet people from other countries and discover how the world looks through their eyes.

Hosts are not expected to provide elaborate meals or luxurious accommodations - a sofa and pot luck supper with the family is fine. SERVAS travellers want to meet you, and to become, for a brief time, a part of your family. They are not looking for luxuries.

Travellers are expected to arrange the visit beforehand by email, telephone or letter. Unless you invite them to stay longer or agree to a one night stay, travellers will stay for two nights.

To become a host, you must agree to accept travellers of any race, creed and nation, and you must support the aims of SERVAS. Hosts are never obligated to take people if a visit will be inconvenient. Please feel free to discuss any concerns you may have about these conditions with your host coordinator.

All SERVAS travellers carry a personal Letter of Introduction validated by a SERVAS representative. This is your guarantee that they have been interviewed and approved as SERVAS travellers. It also helps you get acquainted.