

*In partnership with people of diverse cultures, GCN promotes cross-cultural understanding and interconnectedness through authentic immersion experiences.*

## **Xukuru Community of Brazil**



The state of Pernambuco is one of nine that make up the Northeastern region of Brazil, an area commonly referred to as the *Nordeste*. The area's abundant natural resources and beauty make it an ideal place to inhabit. The region is home to Brazilians whose identities intertwine as a mix of Portuguese, African and indigenous roots. The Xukuru people live in the hills of Serra do Ororuba, in the municipality of Pesqueira, in the state of Pernambuco. They have farmed and lived in villages on the land for over 300 years. Through the years, the Xukuru worked very hard for very little, serving the area's large estate owners. In 1988 the Brazilian government declared that the land belonged to the Xukuru, but it took over 10 years until the Xukuru people left the villages and occupied the farmland. In 2001, after years of organized protest and legal efforts demanding that the law be implemented, the title to the land was officially transferred from the large land owners to the Xukuru nation.

Today the estimated 10,000 members of the Xukuru nation are in the process of organizing their community within the land that they have loved, for their generations to come.

## **Our Partnership with the Xukuru People**

The Xukuru people, led by their head Cacique Marcos Xukuru have invited GCN to collaborate with them in the growth of their nation. Potential projects may include adding wood windows to two large rooms, converting one room to a recording studio, extending the building's roof to shelter the exterior walkway, and finishing the amphitheater behind the community center with cement work and adding a roof.

The Xukuru land is made up of 23 villages. Trip participants will have the opportunity to live in home stays with members of the community, learn about traditional farming practices, visit community schools and participate in the daily life of the community.



## **Travel Itinerary**

Team members will arrive at Recife International Airport (REC) and drive by bus to the community site in Pernambuco. Team members will live and work with the people in this scenic community for 7 days, with the potential for a break in the middle and/or end of their stay, before returning to the Recife Airport for the flight home.

## PERNAMBUCO, BRAZIL

### Accommodation and Meals

GCN is hosted in Pernambuco by the Xukuru Community. Team members participate in home stays in the community. Electricity, running water and flush toilets are likely, but not guaranteed. Food is plentiful and varied, and local cooks will prepare meals.

### Time to Explore

The GCN experience is time in the host community, which allows for plenty of time to get to know the local community in your own way. There is much to explore in and around Recife. In the immediate area are the beautiful beaches of Recife. The city of Olinda, located just north of Recife, was named a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1982 for its historic value.

### Health and Safety Issues

Participants are required to be in sound health. Potential participants with significant physical limitations are encouraged to check with their physician and discuss the situation with GCN staff beforehand. Some inoculations may be required.

Check with your local travel clinic or the Center for Disease Control <http://www.cdc.gov/travel/> for accurate information.

Brazil is a developing democracy, and its political situation is stable. The United States State Department web site <http://www.state.gov/travel/> is a good place to get updated on travel advisories in Brazil and other countries.

### Dates:

**May 19-June 8, 2012**

*\* Trip dates subject to change – check with GCN office to confirm details*

*\* Special trips can be arranged for an intact group of 6 or more*

### Program fee: \$2,150 USD

Program costs cover on-site accommodations (lodging and meals), in-country travel, training materials, donation to the project, emergency medical and evacuation insurance, t-shirt, and a portion of the team leader's expenses. Airfare to Brazil, and costs relating to activities outside of the village, are additional and the responsibility of the individual participant.

All trip related costs are **tax-deductible** in the U.S.

**Discounts available.** One per person/group:

\$50 returning participants

\$50 early registration (application in at least four months prior to the first date of the trip)

Youth rates for ages 8-15

**Groups:** Four participants, one person goes half-price. Eight participants, one person goes free.

### Contact us for further information:

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