Dear all,

Camp with asylum seekers in Ragusa is going to start, and we are just finishing to organize everything in order to welcome as better as we can volunteers who will arrive from all over Europe and not only. In fact some volunteers will arrive also from Egypt!

Volunteers will cooperate with Saint John the Baptist Foundation operators, in the structures where they welcome asylum seekers arriving from northern Africa coasts and escaping from Nigeria, Ivory Coast Somalia...

Work at the structures is planned for 5/6 days per week, that is still to decide with the Foundation operators, so there will be one or two free days every week (maybe Saturday, surely Sunday). The first Monday in each turn we will visit the Foundation welcome structures, so that volunteers can decide where work during the three weeks. They will be sent by couples in just one centre, to better know people and better integrate in the team working there. Changes are permitted just for very serious reasons. They will help Foundation operators in their work and also animate laboratories. First of all volunteers are called to be close to the asylum seekers, to help them to accept their unusual condition of “non-citizens”, to hear them if they want to speak to them about their lives, but also to know and understand the reasons of their choice to leave everything to go away and look for a better future in Europe.

In the evening, after dinner, volunteers will join with the group guide and review the day, maybe sharing what most impressed them. It’s up to the guide decide how to handle this meeting moment.

In the free days volunteers can decide to go to the seaside (about half an hour by car) or to visit Ragusa and surroundings.

*Daily plan*

7:30 Wake Up

8:00 common prayer

8:10 breakfast

8:30 to 9:30 cleanings (rooms and common areas)

9:45 departure to the structures

activity

Lunch at the structure

activity

18:30 return

 Relax and cooking time

20:00 dinner

Review of the day with the group guide

To join Ragusa volunteers can arrive to Comiso airport (very close to Ragusa) or to Catania airport (about one hour and a half by car). Then they can take a bus and let Laura know when will be in Ragusa, so that she can pick up them.

From COMISO Airport there are two bus services provided by Azienda Siciliana Trasporti (AST) and Tumino.

AST leaves at 12:20 and at 22:50 and takes 30 minutes to reach Ragusa. Ticket cost is around 3,50€ one-way and around 6,00€ round-trip.

Tumino has the following timetable and tickets are sold on board

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | MON | MON | TUE | WED | WED | THU | FRI | FRI | SAT | SUN | SUN |
| Comiso airport | 14:45 | 17:10 | 14:45 | 14:45 | 17:10 | 15:00 | 14:45 | 17:10 | 14:45 | 14:45 | 20:20 |
| Ragusa | 16:00 | 18:25 | 16:00 | 16:00 | 18:25 | 16:15 | 16:00 | 18:25 | 16:00 | 16:00 | 21:35 |

If volunteers arrive in different time, they just have to let know it to Laura, so that someone will pick up them at the airport.

If they arrive to CATANIA airport there is also a bus service provided by Etna Trasporti that has this timetable

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | MON-FRI | SAT | SUN |
| Catania airport | 06:10; 08:10; 10:10; 11:10; 12:10; 13:10; 14:10; 15:10; 16:10; 17:10; 18:10; 20:10 | 08:10; 10:10; 12:10; 14:10; 15:10; 17:10; 20:10 | 08:10; 10:10; 15:10; 17:10; 20:10 |
| Ragusa | 07:55; 09:55; 11:55; 12:55; 13:55; 14:55; 15:55; 16:55; 17:55; 18:55; 19:55; 21:55 | 09:55; 11:55; 13:55; 15:55; 16:55; 18:55; 21:55 | 09:55; 11:55; 16:55; 18:55; 21:55 |

Ticket cost is 8,60€ one-way and 13,00€ round-trip.

Camp fee is fixed on 10,00€ per day (that is 210,00€ for the three weeks). It will cover the house costs, such as electicity, hot water, food and also an offer to the Jesuits hosting us. According to everyone’s possibilities, if someone can, we ask 15,00€ (instead than 10,00) to cover also unexpected expenses.

To pay there are two different ways:

* Cash at the arrival
* By bank credit transfer on Italian CLC account, n° 125472 c/o Banca Popolare di Novara – Ag. 36 (Via della Piramide Cestia) IBAN: IT23C050344234000000125472 in the name of “CVX Italia”, specifying in the reason: “quota iscrizione progetto migranti” + surname and name

For all other expenses it’s up to everyone to decide how much money to bring, considering that life in Sicily costs less than in northern Italy or Europe.

For the volunteers is provided an accident insurance.

They don’t need any particular vaccination, because when asylum seekers arrive to Italy are usually checked by doctors and in the Foundation they also are constantly under control. We recommend however to pay attention to what they do: not eating nor drinking by the same plate or glass or using the same cutlery with them.

Here you can find some organizational infos to better live together in Jesuits house in Ragusa, where volunteers will be hosted.

Linen is provided by the house, so they don’t need to bring it from home.

For the cleanings everyone will be responsible for his room, while there will be shifts for common areas (kitchen, dining room, etc). For washings there is a washing machine in the house.

Volunteers will have to provide to their food for breakfast and dinner, so they also will have to cook. They’ll do it all together, but there also will be a national evening for each of them in every turn, so we would be very pleased if they can bring some traditional food from their country to prepare and let taste to the others.

In the house there is internet connection, so they can use internet WiFi devices.

Summer daytime temperatures in Sicily are quite high and the sun is very hot, so it’s better to have light and comfortable clothing, but not too short or “hard”, specially for the girls, as volunteers will work also with Islamic people and will face different cultural habits. A hat and a suncream are recommended.

They can bring swimsuits, as it is possible to go to the seaside in the free days. If someone wants, they can also go and visit some place near Ragusa, such as Modica, Scicli, Noto or other villages thereabouts, so it’s good to have also comfortable shoes.

We already planned 5 turns(July 6th-26th, July 27th-August 16th, August 17th-September 6th, September 7th-27th, September 28th-October 18th). The three first turn are already full and for the fifth we still have just three places, so we decided that it is possible to extend the camp experimental phase until the end of the year, so we planned three more turns: October 19th-November 8th, November 9th-29th, November 30th-December 20th. We have to understand in Ragusa if it is possible a turn also in Christmas period, starting on December 21st and ending on January 10th. We also have to know by you if it would be interesting for the volunteers to participate in that period.