Viagra River Nighttime railroad bridge crossing (Inight) Unity Island Vive office appointment (3-4 weeks) FORT ERIE Peace Bridge BUFFALO Lake Erie Lisa Schroer. Sources: Natural Earth, GIS NY, The New Yorker

THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD FOR REFUGEES

At a safe house in Buffalo, asylum seekers from around the world prepare to flee the U.S. for Canada.

More than 100,000 refugees from 100 different countries have passed through Vive's doors since its founding in 1984. The safe house has become a penultimate stop along a modern version of the Underground Railroad. During the 19th century, just 20 miles north of Vive, Harriet Tubman led groups of fugitive slaves to Canada accross a suspension bridge that spanned the Niagra River gorge.

Today, refugees come to Vive before crossing into Canada, where they have a better chance of being granted asylum than in the United States. Vive's doors are always open, and the staff never turn away guests who cannot pay the suggested accommodation rate of 100 dollars per week.



