



Please see the **NOTICE ON PROGRAM UPDATES** at the bottom of this sample itinerary for details on program changes.



DOMINICAN REPUBLIC: Caribbean Sea Conservation Project

Explore the rich biodiversity of the Dominican Republic as you become a steward and advocate for marine conservation.

OVERVIEW

On this program, you will take in the wonders of the Samana Bay, where humpback whales come to have their babies each year. Work alongside marine conservationists and community members to restore this natural habitat and its surroundings through coral reef restoration, beach clean-ups, trail maintenance, and species identification. Learn how the ocean can be protected with governmental, organizational, and community action. Revel in the natural beauty of the Dominican Republic as you explore hidden beaches and snorkel in crystal-clear waters. Get ready to go outside your comfort zone with high-adventure activities like ziplining and speed boating. In just a short amount of time, Samana will come to feel like a home away from home.

HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Conserve biodiversity and protect humpback whales' habitat through coral reef and mangrove restoration
- ★ Zipline between treetops among lush forest
- ★ Visit indigenous Taíno caves on a high-speed boat adventure
- ★ Snorkel in the aquamarine waters
- ★ Explore the historical center of Santo Domingo

PROGRAM SNAPSHOT

14-Day Program

June 12 - June 25, 2024

June 28 - July 11, 2024

July 14 - July 27, 2024

Tuition: \$4,699

Service Hours: 30

Max Group Size: 30

Age Range: 14-18

Student-to-Staff Ratio: 6-to-1

Airport: Santo Domingo (SDQ)



SPOTLIGHT ON COMMUNITY SERVICE

During your time, you'll work alongside biologists and conservationists from a local nonprofit, and engage with active citizens, and scuba divers that focus on marine habitat protection. Plant coral reefs that will attract sea life and promote biodiversity. Restore mangrove forests, which shield the Dominican shoreline from the effects of climate change and erosion. Work on a permaculture demonstration site that serves as an example of how our sustainable habits on land also protect the sea. Lastly, work to protect the natural spaces that surround Samana Bay through trail maintenance and beach clean-ups.



SAMPLE ITINERARY: DAILY BREAKDOWN

Actual schedule of activities will vary by program session. The information detailed here is typical for what you can expect to experience; however, service work and activities vary depending upon the needs of our local community partners, various celebrations and customs, and the weather and specific needs of the student group.



DAY 1: ARRIVAL DAY: ¡BIENVENIDOS!

Arrive in Santo Domingo and head to a nearby hotel where you will meet your fellow travelers. Drop off your bags, eat a light Dominican lunch, and use the afternoon to get settled into the Caribbean pace of life. We'll get to know each other better in the evening with icebreaker activities.

DAY 2: ORIENTATION, DRIVE TO SAMANA, DANCE LESSONS

On our first full day, attend a program orientation to learn the expectations of our hosts while in the country. In the afternoon, we'll head about three hours north to the province of Samana, our home for the rest of the program. After settling into the Home Base, put on your dancing shoes to learn some Dominican bachata, merengue, and salsa. Immerse yourself in some of the sounds of the Caribbean!



DAY 3: INTRO TO CEBSE, WHALE MUSEUM, SERVICE ORIENTATION

Today, you will meet several representatives from the Center for the Conservation and Ecological Development of the Samana Bay and its Surroundings, better known as CEBSE. CEBSE has been working for over thirty years to develop ways for conservation and tourism to work hand in hand to maintain Samana Bay. CEBSE works closely with community members, fishermen, tour operators, local governments, and other stakeholders to ensure that these protected areas are respected.

The first half of the day will be dedicated to learning about the work CEBSE is doing and the projects we will be working on. Visit the Whale Museum located on the CEBSE premises, where you will learn why the Dominican Republic's northeastern coast is one of the world's most important humpback whale sanctuaries.

In the afternoon, participate in your first community service project with CEBSE, addressing a conservation-based need that CEBSE identified.

DAY 4: MANGROVE RESTORATION & TRAIL MAINTENANCE

Spend the morning working on mangrove restoration with CEBSE volunteers along the coastline of Samana Bay. Mangrove trees are nature's barrier against storms and hurricanes that pass through the Caribbean Islands yearly. After a morning of service, enjoy a hearty Dominican lunch at a restaurant located in the picturesque marina. After lunch, explore a local nature reserve as you work with local volunteers from CEBSE to maintain its many trails. Watch for the colorful endemic species that make this special place their home.





DAY 5: PERMACULTURE SERVICE

Students will learn about permaculture principles (a sustainable agriculture practice) and their benefits to the surrounding environment and waterways. Discover how our food production, home building, and lifestyle on land impact the health of our seas and corals. This service is about developing a sustainability demonstration site that serves as a place for community members to learn techniques for developing their own land in a way that is better for the planet.

DAY 6: EL VALLE ZIPLINING ADVENTURE

Wake up to an early morning breakfast and travel to El Valle. Get ready to fly 350 feet above the jungle as you zip your way through the 12 lines at Samana Zipline. After an adrenaline-filled morning, have a warm Caribbean lunch and spend some time at Rincón Beach, a stunning white sand beach that boasts an impressive 3 miles of pristine, undeveloped coastline. Soak in the calm turquoise waters of the bay, or read a book under a shady palm tree before heading back to the Home Base for a good night's rest before another big day of service!

DAY 7: MANGROVES & UPCYCLING ART WORKSHOP

We start the day off by learning more about the importance of mangroves, and how they protect local communities from storms. With warmer ocean temperatures, storms are more intense and the season lasts longer. Learn how mangroves make island communities more resilient to these changes. Discuss what conservation tactics have worked, and brainstorm solutions with your peers.

In the afternoon, take a moment to nourish your artistic side! We will participate in an upcycling workshop where you'll turn discarded glass into marine-themed art.



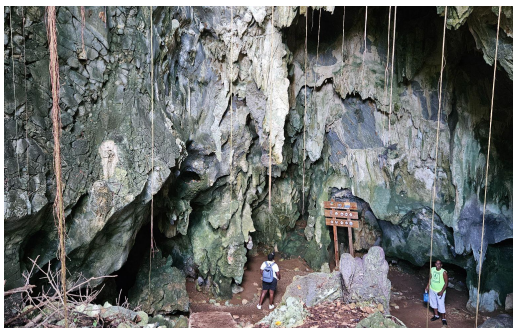
DAY 8: CORAL PLANTING IN LAS GALERAS & LEARNING ABOUT TURTLE NESTS

Participate in a coral restoration project, where you will assist in creating and maintaining coral nurseries along the local coastline. Coral reefs are essential to marine ecosystems – they are home to many fish species and protect coastlines from storm surges and erosion. This project will help increase the resilience of corals in disturbed environments and safeguard coral species threatened with extinction.

You will also learn more about sea turtles today! An expert will show us how they build their nests on the beach and what is being done to protect their fascinating reproduction process.

DAY 9: SIETE PLAYAS HIKE

Explore seven hidden beaches as we hike along the virgin coast of Rincón Bay. Our hike starts by entering an impressive cave containing paintings and structural remnants of the Taíno Nation, the first people to inhabit the island of Hispaniola. Lunch will be a picnic with stunning views of the bay, jungle, mountains, and white sand.





DAY 10: KIDS CONSERVATION CAMP & FISHERMEN TALK

In the morning, you will share with local children some of the conservation techniques and facts you learned on this program. Engage them in various activities focused on marine conservation.

In the afternoon, we will have a seminar with local fisherfolk. Their perspective on conservation is crucial. As the ocean is their livelihood, no stakeholder has more to gain or lose from successful conservation. You will get to listen to them, ask questions, and present your ideas.



DAY 11: REFLECT ON OUR TIME IN LAS GALERAS AND CROSS SAMANA BAY TO SABANA DEL MAR

It's time to say goodbye to the Home Base community in Las Galeras. We will start the day with some activities and reflections, giving some proper closure to this amazing chapter of our experience.

We journey onward to the port in the town of Samana. From there, we take a private boat across the impressive bay, watching wildlife on the way - perhaps flying fish skipping through the wake of the boat or pelicans diving for fish. Take in the panoramic views of the bay and the green mountains surrounding it. We will arrive at our excursion Home Base in the afternoon, where we will have some time to enjoy the pool and appreciate the equestrian-themed Rancho Don Rey.



DAY 12: SPEED BOAT RIDE IN LOS HAITISES NATIONAL PARK

Today, we explore Los Haitises, one of the most important national parks in the country and a UNESCO World Heritage site. Upon arrival at the park, you'll load onto a speedboat that will take you through a vast mangrove forest and past unique limestone formations to a hidden beach only accessible by boat. You'll board kayaks to paddle to a nearby cave containing ancient indigenous Taíno pictographs. You'll return to the speedboat to visit another cave before returning to land, where a hearty meal awaits you. There will also be some free time to continue enjoying our stay at Rancho Don Rey.



DAY 13: SANTO DOMINGO COLONIAL ZONE

On our final day in the Dominican Republic, we'll drive back to Santo Domingo to spend the afternoon exploring the Colonial Zone's chic modern restaurants and galleries. So much of the vibrancy of the Colonial Zone comes from the respect and adoration for the country's rural towns and nature, and you'll see that resonate in the art and food now that you're back in the city. In the evening, celebrate your time in the Dominican Republic in style with a special dinner and dance show.

DAY 14: ¡BUEN VIAJE!

And just like that, our Dominican adventure has come to an end! Head to the airport today with memories that will last a lifetime and a deeper understanding of marine conservation. Staff will assist with checking in and accompany students until they have safely departed for their gates.

NOTICE ON PROGRAM UPDATES

Every year brings new and exciting opportunities for experiences we can offer students on our programs. While this program is being planned for 2024, some activities or details may change between now and the program start date. Please note that references from past participants and previously published information may not accurately reflect every aspect of this program. Refer to the sample itinerary above or to the GLA website for the most up-to-date version of program activities, and please note that further updates may be made between now and the program start date.

TRAVELING TO THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

GLA HOME BASE | Home Base is 3 or 4 homes that comprise a neighborhood in Las Galeras, all within a two-minute walk. When not being used by GLA, they are vacation rentals. Students stay in gender-segregated rooms with bunk beds, fans, and shared bathrooms. During excursions, students stay in Rancho Don Rey (an equestrian-themed resort) and Hotel Novus Plaza (a hotel in the heart of Santo Domingo's historic district). The last three nights of the programs have air conditioning because they are excursions. For the rest of the trip, AC is avoided due to ethical purposes associated with working on conservation and electricity consumption.

FOOD | Dominican cuisine centers around chicken, rice, beans, vegetables, plantains, and fresh fruit staples. Home Base chefs will prepare a variety of local dishes for students to sample. Meals are generally hearty, and healthy and source locally-grown ingredients.

CLIMATE | The Dominican Republic has a tropical climate, hot all year round, with a rainy season from April to October. As generally in the Caribbean, the rains occur mainly as brief showers and thunderstorms.

LEADERSHIP

Global Leadership Adventures started as an educational institute, so we continue to think and act like educators—not tour operators—as we deliver life-changing programs. We intentionally weave a leadership curriculum into the daily experience on our programs. Through group discussion, meaningful service, workshops, speakers and excursions, staff guide students to reflect on program events through the lens of leadership, and celebrate outstanding examples of leaders they encounter in the local community. Lending this context to the experience creates opportunities for students to dig deep into their vision, purpose and knowledge of themselves and the world.

ABOUT GLOBAL LEADERSHIP ADVENTURES

Global Leadership Adventures was founded in 2003 by Fred Swaniker, a native of Ghana, TED Fellow and educational entrepreneur whose work has been praised by Barack Obama. Born as a global extension of the revolutionary African Leadership Academy, Global Leadership Adventures now operates programs centered around leadership, sustainable community service projects, and meaningful travel across Africa, Asia, Europe or the Americas. Through life-changing adventures, we strive to inspire the next generation to realize their potential to transform the world and their role in it.

GLA HAS BEEN FEATURED IN:

The New York Times

 **USA TODAY**

 **NBC NEWS**

The Boston Globe
seventeen

OUR EXPECTATIONS

Be present

Our mission at GLA is “to inspire the next generation to realize their potential to transform the world and their role in it.” To that end, we expect GLA students to maintain high standards of personal behavior and to be open-minded. The culture may be different, sometimes shockingly so. GLA will challenge students as they are expected to work hard and be present physically and mentally for all activities. We also ask students to take a step back from regular use of technology - particularly their smartphones - so as to maximize their engagement with the program and their fellow participants. Students may get hot, dirty and bug-bitten along the way, but their contribution can transform the community. The goal is for each student to return home having had a life-changing experience.

No tolerance

GLA has a no-tolerance policy towards drugs, alcohol, tobacco and disruptive behavior. Those who violate or are suspected of violating this policy will be immediately dismissed from the program at the sole discretion of GLA staff.

Community-Led Experiences

GLA makes every effort to offer thoughtfully crafted programs for teens and young adults. Detailed planning and exhaustive communications with partners are indispensable parts of our program development process. However, occasionally service and activities are adjusted from session to session, due to weather, changing needs of our local community partners and/or various cultural celebrations and customs. We expect participants to be open-minded and flexible, willing to embrace the experience when plans change. GLA makes every effort to communicate adjustments to students and families with advance notice. We expect you to be open-minded and flexible.

Mentorship

GLA is not a therapy program. Our staff are highly skilled, professional, caring and fun, but they are not licensed therapists. GLA programs can be physically and emotionally demanding, and applicants should be in good physical and mental health.

WE'RE HERE TO HELP

Contact Us

Want to learn more about Global Leadership Adventures and our available programs? Our Admissions Team has expertise and insights into our slate of program offerings, and we're happy to answer any questions you might have. We have collectively visited or staffed many of our GLA programs around the world, and we have advice to share on everything from getting your travel documents together to what a typical day on a program is like. Call us at 1-858-771-0645 any time during office hours for assistance.

Enroll Now

We encourage you to enroll on your 1st choice program as early as you can! In fact, our most popular programs fill early every year, and many students end up putting off the quick and easy application process only to end up on the waiting list. The best way to ensure that you save your spot is to place your deposit and apply early. You can easily enroll online at www.experiencegla.com/enroll.



One of the impressive pools at Rancho Don Rey, where students spend two nights on their excursion.