



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

Please note that program activities may change in order to adhere to COVID-19 regulations.



Dominican Republic: Building a Sustainable World

Volunteer on critical projects that tackle global issues at the local level for Dominican families and their community.

OVERVIEW

On this program you will see a side of the Dominican Republic that most will never experience. To most visitors, the DR is a travel destination famous for its resorts, idyllic beaches and warm Caribbean waters, but if you look more closely you may discover that much of the country is distinctly rural, and true beauty lies in everyday village scenes. Volunteer with families who have shown grace and resilience in the face of natural disasters and political unrest, and learn the challenges they still face in accessing basic human necessities.

21-DAY PROGRAM

July 10 – July 30

Tuition: \$4,999
Service Hours: 60
Language Hours: 0
Max Group Size: 30
Age Range: 14-19
Student-to-Staff Ratio: 8-to-1
Puerto Plata (POP)

HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Work on projects that promote sustainability of the environment and the people.
- ★ Tour the capital city of Santo Domingo
- ★ Go on a white water rafting adventure
- ★ Visit Dajabon Market
- ★ Go for an ocean boat ride and snorkel in crystal blue waters
- ★ Learn about the US Peace Corps in the Caribbean and visit a local Peace Corps site

SPOTLIGHT ON COMMUNITY SERVICE

Beyond its beach resorts lies a very different Dominican Republic—beautiful, but full of need. Much of the DR isn't developed sufficiently, revealing gaps where volunteers are needed to accelerate initiatives for bettering life in underserved neighborhoods. During your time in the Dominican Republic, you will focus on the construction of a home or community center using sustainable building materials and methods. This process helps rid 30,000 plastic bottles from the landfill and supports eco-friendly building methods for the long term health of the community. You may also plant trees to support a reforestation project or put efforts into a food sustainability project.

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, as well as the weather and specific needs of the student group.



DAY 1: WELCOME TO THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Welcome to the DR! GLA staff will meet you at the airport in Puerto Plata (POP) and take our group to Home Base a 30-minute drive away. We'll get settled in, have our first Dominican meal together and begin orientation. Team building activities help us connect, and your staff will open up conversation about major topics we'll be learning about over the next two weeks.

DAYS 2 - 4: COMMUNITY SERVICE

This program is one of GLA's most service intensive! Roll up your sleeves and get ready to kick off your program with full days of service. We will begin our project by working on the construction of a home or community center using a unique sustainable building model; using plastic bottles! Single-use plastic bottles are frequently found along the side of the road, scattered along the beautiful beach fronts and in landfills. This project seeks to get the bottles out of those beautiful places and into home -- it's a win-win situation for both the environment and the people who live there. You will help with framing, mixing cement and placing the bottles as this home progresses each day. Your group will get to interact with the family for whom you're building--in fact, they have collected the plastic bottles that you'll use in construction!



DAY 5: SNORKELING IN SOSUA!

Relax today with a snorkeling adventure in the crystal-clear ocean waters. We'll take a catamaran out onto the sea. Spend the day swimming in warm, inviting water, and post up on the beach for a well-deserved nap. Look at the natural scenery around you, and the resources that it provides us humans. How can we preserve these pristine places and take only what we need?



DAYS 6 - 7: COMMUNITY SERVICE CONTINUES

We'll continue our work on the building project, picking up where we left off on day four. We will spend the afternoons relaxing by the pool at the Home Base or walking along the beach and taking in the relaxing sounds of the ocean waves.



ADVENTURE OVERNIGHT

DAY 8: VISIT SANTO DOMINGO

Santo Domingo is the capital of the Dominican Republic and one of the Caribbean's oldest cities. We'll take a walking tour of its walled, cobblestoned historic core, the *Zona Colonial*, which has buildings that date to the 1500s, including the cathedral, which was the first built in the New World. In the afternoon we'll meet with representatives of a national or international development organization such as the US Agency for International Development or the Instituto Dominicano de Desarrollo Integral.



Get the basics on what goes into successfully intervening to address a large-scale poverty challenge. What kind of projects get funding? How do we stay ethical and respect the dignity and culture of the communities being helped? You worked on some community development projects over the last week, and now have the unique opportunity to hear from and ask questions to the leadership of development projects in the Dominican Republic.

DAYS 9 - 10: HIKING & WHITEWATER RAFTING

We'll spend two days in the incredibly scenic mountain community of Jarabacoa, which is a favorite among Dominican locals for its cooler temperatures and panoramic views. Adventure seekers, this is your weekend! We'll visit the highest peak in the Caribbean, Pico Duarte, and go whitewater rafting!



BACK TO HOME BASE

DAY 11: VISIT AN ACTIVE PEACE CORPS SITE

What kind of commitment does it take to join the Peace Corps? Today we'll visit an active Peace Corps site and meet a volunteer who is dedicating two years of their lives to international development. Learn about their project and ponder your visions for your own impact on the world. On this program you'll meet local community organizers, international organizations, and both new and veteran Peace Corps volunteers. There are a thousand paths you could take to help—it's just a matter of picking the right one for the right time.



DAYS 12 - 13: COMMUNITY SERVICE

The bottle buildings are starting to take shape! A unique aspect of this program is seeing the whole process to complete one home for a family in need. Celebrate the final product and learn about the other projects completed by GLA participants in these communities over the years. In the evenings we will continue our discussions and reflections -- what have you learned so far and how has this impacted who you are as a leader?

DAY 14: HIKE MT. BRISON

Hike to the rural mountain community of Brison today to experience a more rural way of life. After a challenging trek with amazing views, our group will eat lunch with a local family. You'll also have the chance to purchase locally-made handicrafts and souvenirs on the way up.



DAYS 15 - 17: COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS CONTINUE

We will get involved in a reforestation project that has been ongoing by past GLA programs over the years. Many of the forests have been slowly cut down for cooking fuel, and our projects are working to introduce forests to decimated



areas.

DAY 18: EXPLORE PUERTO PLATA

We'll spend today exploring Puerto Plata, the city nearest to our community. There's no shortage of sights to see and museums to visit here. Today we'll visit a museum that showcases local precious stones such as larimar, a rare blue mineral found only in the Dominican Republic. Learn about the colonial history and architecture of this city on the sea.



DAY 19: DAJABÓN BORDER MARKET

Certain days each week, Haitians are permitted to cross the border into the Dominican Republic without immigration controls in order to trade at the Dajabón market. The market is a unique setting in which to absorb the interaction of these two cultures, which neighbor each other and share the same island, but have a complicated history of strained relations. On market days, cultural differences are put aside and visitors can observe an intercultural relationship on the mend. The market is a lively trading atmosphere that will awaken your senses!

DAY 20: DUDU LAGOON

After several weeks of hard work and service, unwind at Dudu Lagoon, a beautiful natural feature. The lagoon is shaped like a crater and considered one of the most gorgeous cenotes, or sinkholes, in the world. There are blue freshwater pools and underwater caves you can swim in, volleyball sand pits and open space to hang out with your fellow students and locals.

Tonight we'll have a celebratory farewell dinner, as well as presentations of our Capstone Projects, an ongoing group project that you and your peers have been working on. Where do you see an opportunity for you to help make the world a more equitable, healthy and sustainable place?



DAY 21: DEPARTURE

Alas, our Dominican adventure must come to an end! After breakfast and final goodbyes, we'll travel to the airport together where GLA staff will help students check in and see you off for your journey home. ¡Buen viaje!

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 2021, 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.

POSSIBLE CHANGES TO PROGRAM ACTIVITIES DUE TO COVID-19

Due to the global pandemic caused by COVID-19 outbreaks around the world, please note that program activities may change in order to accommodate COVID-19 regulations. In particular, service projects and other activities that typically involve close contact or engagement with members of the local community may be curbed, altered or skipped depending on staff evaluations on the ground and/or at the discretion of our Executive Director and Director of Program Operations & Risk Management. Every effort will be made to provide an exceptional experience on-location, at whatever level of community interaction is deemed safe at the time.

TRAVELING TO THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

GLA HOME BASE | Home Base is a rustic ecolodge built from local materials in the style of the Taíno people. The beach is just a short walk away, and students have access to a swimming pool onsite. Students will share rooms with roommates, and have shared bathrooms with cold-water showers. Food will be healthy and locally sourced, including meats, beans, rice, vegetables and fresh fruit.

FOOD | Dominican cuisine centers around staples of chicken, rice, beans, vegetables, plantains and fresh fruit. Home Base chefs will prepare a variety of local dishes for students to sample. Meals are generally hearty, 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 and Latin America. 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 will 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 will get hot, dirty and bug-bitten along the way, but their contribution will transform the community. The goal is for each student to return home with 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 well-thought-out programs crafted for high school students. Detailed planning and exhaustive communications with partners are indispensable parts of our program development process. Occasionally, however, service and activities are adjusted from session to session, due to weather, changing needs of our local community partners and 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 team of Enrollment Specialists are experts on our programs and happy to answer your questions. They have collectively visited, staffed, or sent their own teen to every one of our programs abroad, and have unique insights 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

Now is the best time to enroll! In fact, our most popular programs fill early every year, and many students end up on the waiting list for their 1st choice program. The best way to ensure you save your spot is to place your deposit and apply early. You can easily enroll online at www.experiencegla.com/enroll.