



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: Caribbean Service Adventure

Appreciate the beauty, history and people of the island as you support development efforts in rural communities.

OVERVIEW

On this program you will take in the island's lush interior and idyllic ocean vistas. The Dominican Republic is a travel destination famous for its resorts, but go beyond the tourist towns and you'll discover that much of the country is distinctly rural, and true beauty lies in everyday village scenes where local hospitality can be appreciated. 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.

10-DAY PROGRAM

June 18 – July 27
July 30 – July 9
July 12 – July 21
July 24 – August 2
August 5 – August 14

Tuition: \$2,499
Service Hours: 20
Language Hours: 0
Max Group Size: 30
Age Range: 14-19
Student-to-Staff Ratio: 8-to-1
Airport: POP

HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Build safer homes and community centers for underserved families
- ★ Hike Mt. Brisón to a remote village and learn about daily life on the mountain
- ★ Snorkel in the Caribbean among the multi-colored fish and diverse sea life
- ★ Learn about the complex division of the Dominican Republic and its neighbor, Haiti
- ★ Swim in the natural caves and cenotes of Dudu Lagoon

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. Construct community buildings, homes and schools using sustainable building materials and methods. You might also tackle other ongoing projects, such as improving families' health by replacing dirt floors with cement or planting trees for reforestation.

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



DAY 1: ARRIVAL & GETTING ORIENTED

Welcome to the DR! GLA staff will meet you when you land at the airport and take you to Home Base on the north coast of the Dominican Republic, about 45 minutes from Puerto Plata. A welcome fiesta will give you a taste of Dominican culture. Orientation to the program, staff and country will build a foundation for your work here in the Dominican Republic. Our group will discuss the goals of the week and dive into the topics of sustainability and human security.



DAYS 2 - 3: COMMUNITY SERVICE

We'll spend a few days doing service work in surrounding communities, which are of both Haitian and Dominican descent. You'll notice that many families in the area live in cardboard and corrugated metal shacks with dirt floors. Sleeping directly on moist ground can lead to major health issues due to the spread of fungal bacteria. By moving families into real homes with raised, concrete flooring and insulated walls, we help give them better shelter and safer living conditions. Learn an innovative building method that reuses plastic water bottles and chicken wire to provide effective insulation. You'll be helping a family relocate into a weatherproof and healthy home, built in a low-cost and sustainable way.

Each evening, program staff will share documentaries and presentations with you that shed light on the issues facing Dominican communities. Tonight we'll continue to process our experiences and consider our personal goals for this trip and beyond.

DAY 4: CABARETE CAVES

Visit the caves of this national park and learn about the conservation and reforestation efforts of the park. You'll explore the park and cool off in the crystal clear water of the caves.

Later we'll hear from a member of the local community to understand what daily life is like in this coastal area and what are the challenges of this population.



DAY 5: DUDU LAGOON

Adventure day! Explore this freshwater lagoon—a local favorite—which looks like a turquoise crater and is considered one of the most gorgeous *cenotes*, or sinkholes, in



the world. There are multiple natural pools and underwater caves you can swim in, volleyball sand pits, hammocks and open space.

DAYS 6 - 7: SERVICE & LEARNING

Over the next few days you'll roll up your sleeves and continue building a bottle home that benefits a family in the community and revolves around the concept of sustainable development. Meet the family who will move into the home and have contributed to the project by collecting hundreds of plastic bottles that will become part of their future home. An added benefit to bottle building is that it can better withstand turbulent Caribbean weather.

DAY 8: HIKE MT. BRISON

Today we'll hike to the summit of Mt. Brison, a scenic high point that some Dominican rural families call home. You'll hike with locals who have to climb this mountain every day to access basic needs while learning about the impacts of deforestation on many rural communities in the country. Enjoy the peaceful, panoramic vista at the top with lunch, and on the way back down, you'll have a chance to purchase locally-made handicrafts and souvenirs from mountain residents.

DAY 9: SNORKELING ADVENTURE

Enjoy a boat ride in the warm, tropical ocean to a spot where we'll anchor and go snorkeling. Our staff and guides will show you the damage to the coral reefs from unchecked development, and we'll see the beautiful fish population that is at risk as a result. On our last evening in Las Canas, we'll have a farewell party and dinner. Time to put your dancing shoes on—we're learning *merengue* and *bachata* tonight!

DAY 10: DEPARTURE

After breakfast and final goodbyes, we'll travel to the airport to board our flights home. At the airport, the GLA team will help you check in and see you off on your return journey. ¡Adios!



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 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.