



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



## DOMINICAN REPUBLIC: Island Service Adventure

Realize why they say "The Dominican Republic has it all" as you explore pristine beaches, lush jungles, amazing freshwater swimming holes, and the DR's distinct culture while contributing to a meaningful service project in a rural Caribbean community.

### OVERVIEW

Discover yourself through meaningful service within a rural Dominican community. You will help local people with infrastructure projects and efforts for local children. You will learn how service, when led by locals and supported by you, can be a monumental part of the upliftment of a community. The hard work on this program is rewarded with adventures through some of the DR's most pristine paradises. You will explore the jungle, spend time on hidden beaches, snorkel in tropical blue water, and stay the night on a small isolated island in a national park. Every step of the way, you will feel the Dominican culture calling you to dance, indulge in amazing new foods, play baseball, and soak in the centuries of history.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Live in a coastal village
- ★ Volunteer on community development projects
- ★ Explore underground lakes
- ★ Engage with locals, practice Spanish, play baseball, eat your heart out
- ★ Snorkel at a hidden beach
- ★ Spend the night on Saona Island and assist with turtle hatchlings, if we're lucky

## PROGRAM SNAPSHOT

### 10-Day Program

June 14 - June 23, 2024

June 27 - July 06, 2024

July 10 - July 19, 2024

July 23 - August 01, 2024

**Tuition:** \$3,199

**Service Hours:** 24

**Max Group Size:** 30

**Age Range:** 14-18

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

**Airport:** Santo Domingo (SDQ)



### SPOTLIGHT ON COMMUNITY SERVICE

At the heart of every Global Leadership Adventures program is service. Make a genuine connection with one of the small communities near the island town of Bayahibe. The program jumps right into 3 full days of meaningful service, where you and your peers will work within the community, fully immersed in a project alongside locals. The activities will vary based on the community's request, but be ready for conservation, education or infrastructure projects! Take time after service to play with local kids, share a coffee with neighbors, or learn what living and working in the local community is like. Explore the town, eat delicious Dominican food, and learn all about regional music and history. Discuss your service experience focusing on responsible travel and environmental preservation.





# 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: ¡BIENVENIDOS A REPÚBLICA DOMINICANA!

Arrive at Las Americas International Airport. GLA staff will meet you at the airport and escort you to your hotel to check in. Join your group for your first local dinner and an introduction to local culture. ¡Bienvenidos!

## DAY 2: LOS TRES OJOS

First thing in the morning, head to Los Tres Ojos National Park, home to a network of underground freshwater lakes surrounded by lush vegetation. You'll visit three main underground caves known as "The Three Eyes." Each of the caves is filled with crystal-clear turquoise water. You'll also have the opportunity to take a guided boat tour across one of the caves, giving you a unique perspective of the stunning rock formations and the park's natural beauty.



After your visit to Los Tres Ojos, drive two hours east to the beach town of Bayahibe. A fishing town at its core, Bayahibe is also the epicenter of tourism to nearby Isla Saona, a beautiful island paradise. Settle into your new Home Base and join your group for orientation on local norms, safety, and the week's upcoming activities

## DAYS 3 - 5: COMMUNITY SERVICE

Spend these days working on conservation, education, or infrastructure projects. Take time after service to play a pickup game of baseball with the local kids, share a coffee with neighbors, and get to know the local community. Explore the town, eat delicious Dominican food, and learn all about local music and history. Discuss your service experience focusing on responsible tourism and environment preservation.



## DAY 6: PLAYA MAGALLANES AND HOYO CLARO

After breakfast, walk over to Playa Magallanes, a small hidden beach with a beautiful view of the Caribbean Sea. The waters of Magallanes Beach are calm and clear, making it an ideal spot for snorkeling. You'll see a variety of colorful fish, coral, and other marine life as you explore this unique corner of Bayahibe.



After snorkeling, head to a local restaurant for a hearty Dominican lunch, then hop on a bus and drive east to Hoyo Claro. This stunning natural swimming hole is located in the middle of the jungle, surrounded by lush vegetation. The water is crystal clear and cool, making it a refreshing spot to take a dip. Relax and enjoy the tranquil surroundings.



## **DAYS 7-8: ISLA SAONA**

Wake up early and prepare for a little adventure. Ride a speed boat to Isla Saona and arrive in time for lunch by the beach. Explore the small island village of Mano Juan and learn about the grassroots turtle conservation efforts that the community has taken on. Step out of Mano Juan to enjoy the pristine, picturesque beaches. Spend the night on Isla Saona stargazing and participating in a night walk to assist with any turtles that may come to hatch.

Wake up to the sounds of birds chirping and beautiful views of the Caribbean. Not many travelers get to spend a night on Isla Saona. Enjoy your last morning swim before heading back to the mainland.



## **DAY 9: SANTO DOMINGO**

Head back to Santo Domingo, settle in your hotel, and spend the rest of the afternoon exploring the Colonial Zone's architecture, chic modern restaurants, and galleries of Afro-Caribbean folk art. 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, head to a special dinner and dance show at a typical Dominican restaurant, maybe going out for one last evening on your last night in the DR.

## **DAY 10: ¡BUEN VIAJE!**

The GLA team will escort your group to the airport in private transport. We hope you enjoyed your stay in the Dominican Republic!





### 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 a boutique hotel in Bayahibe. Students stay in gender-segregated rooms with bunk beds, AC, and shared bathrooms. During excursions, students stay in other local hotels and lodges.

**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](http://www.experiencegla.com/enroll).

