

## **Dominican Republic: Spring Break Service Adventure**

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## Dominican Republic: Spring Break Service Adventure

Spend your Spring Break doing meaningful community service in the Caribbean!

The Dominican Republic is home to the world's most enchanting beaches, and is well known for its friendly and passionate people.

You'll spend the week helping impoverished rural communities and also enjoy some fun in the sun hiking to waterfalls, riding a catamaran in the Caribbean, snorkeling through crystal blue waters and coral reefs, and relaxing on pristine white sand beaches.

### Community Service

Students will volunteer in rural and urban communities working on sustainable projects such as reforestation, construction of biomass stoves, and installation of water systems. Students will also work with local children at refugee camps, sharing their talents doing arts and crafts, playing sports and games, and teaching basic conversational English. Most importantly, you will be a friend and role model to young children who have limited exposure to the rest of the world.

### Learning

Sustainable development has become a necessity for all of humanity. We must learn to live in harmony with our environment. Through the service work and seminars, you will learn for yourself how to envision and think about the home and life of your family. While living sustainably we will work to empower all of us to become more sustainable in our practices. You will also learn about the vibrant Dominican culture through the music and dance and interactions with locals living in the villages and in ocean communities.

### Exploration

We'll get out and explore the tropical countryside through long hikes out to a chain of hidden waterfalls, zip lining through the lush rainforest, go on a catamaran on the ocean, and check out the pristine white sand beaches.

### Lodging

The GLA Home Base is a group of chalets on a beautiful semi-private Caribbean beach. The lodge is located in a village approximately 35 minutes east of the town of Puerto Plata. Students will be staying in gender segregated chalets and be able to cool down after a day of work in our swimming pool or on the beach. The GLA Home Base is used exclusively by our staff and students. Food will be hearty and healthy, locally grown food that consists of meats, beans, rice, vegetables, and fruit.

### Quick Facts

- Duration: 8 days
- Tuition: \$1695
- Community service hours: 20
- Max. group size: 30 students
- Location: 35 mins east of Puerto Plata
- Airport: Puerto Plata, DR (POP)

### 2011 Dates

- 16-April to 23-April
- 23-April to 30-April
- *Saturday to Saturday*





## Program Schedule

*Disclaimer: Actual order of activities may vary from this schedule.*

**Day 1:** You will arrive at the airport in Puerto Plata where you will be met by a member of our staff and be taken to the GLA Home Base. After a welcome fiesta to give you a taste of Dominican culture, our group will discuss the goals of the week and dive into the topic of sustainability.



**Day 2:** Wake up to the sounds of a tropical and lush rainforest with gorgeous views of the ocean. You will be greeted with a hearty breakfast and have an orientation to the program, staff, and country. We will hike to a chain of spectacular waterfalls and meet the people of these impoverished communities. We will return to our lodge for lunch and learn about the local cuisine. After dinner we will have a speaker discuss environmental sustainability before having time to relax.

**Day 3:** After breakfast, we will work with a local non-profit group to do a reforestation project in one of our neighboring communities. Although it is a lot of hard work, students will be able to see the fruits of their labor and the link between a healthy environment and a healthy community.



**Day 4:** After breakfast we will hike up a mountain to an isolated village to help install biomass stoves and make friends with local children. After dinner we will discuss the various forms of sustainable energy and watch a film regarding the role of oil in our life followed by a guided discussion.

**Day 5:** Today we travel to a village to help install a water system in the community. We'll have a chance to interact with locals in the community, and even play a baseball game with Dominican youth. After dinner we will discuss the role of culture and consumerism in society before preparing for our group projects.

**Day 6:** Today we volunteer with the children in a refugee camp and witness firsthand the effects of urban poverty. After playing with the local children and organizing games, our group will spend some time in the sun and enjoy the ocean breeze while reflecting on the day's service. Tonight we break into groups to discuss the future of sustainability in our lives and ways that we can empower change in the world.



**Day 7:** We will begin our morning with a catamaran ride on the ocean, where we will discuss what resources the ocean offers us. After lunch we will visit a local farm and learn about sustainable agriculture, irrigation and various food systems. In the evening we will wrap up our final group projects and work on setting personal goals.

**Day 8:** After breakfast and final goodbyes, we'll travel to Puerto Plata to board our flights home.

## About Global Leadership Adventures

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Global Leadership Adventures, established in 2004, is the premier international community service-learning program for high school students. Students come back transformed.

GLA is unique because of its focus on leadership development and first-hand learning about global issues. Students learn first hand from social pioneers around the world who are creating positive social change in their communities.

Students are taught to use their heart, as well as their head, to become agents of positive change across borders.

GLA has been featured in

**The New York Times**

**The Boston Globe**

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**BALTIMORE TIMES ONLINE**