

Dominican Republic: Caribbean Community Development

Be part of sustainable solutions to rural poverty on this Caribbean island



Highlights

- Learn first hand about sustainable rural development
- Hike through lush hills to hidden waterfalls
- Snorkel among multi-colored fish
- Ride a catamaran over crystal blue waters
- Volunteer to implement ecologically sustainable projects



Dominican Republic: Caribbean Community Development

The Dominican Republic is a Spanish-speaking country on the Caribbean island of Hispaniola. You'll spend ten days helping impoverished rural communities and also enjoy the natural wonders of the island. We will help build water systems and homes for mountain communities as well as work on reforestation of lowland areas.

The island maintains a vibrant culture encompassed by its traditional dances, folklore and love of baseball. You will become part of the fabric of this rural, impoverished community and discover the spirit and strength that Dominicans exhibit in every aspect of life. This is a meaningful and high impact teen community service program.

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 filtration 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.

Hands-on 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 each other to become more sustainable in our practices. We will also learn about the vibrant Dominican culture - a mix of indigenous, African, and European - through music and dance and interactions with locals living in the villages and coastal communities.

Adventure

We'll get out and explore the tropical countryside through long hikes out to a chain of hidden waterfalls, ride a catamaran over the blue Caribbean Sea, and check out the pristine white sand beaches and remote mountain villages.



Lodging

The GLA Home Base is a gorgeous beachfront cluster of chalets around a swimming pool. There is a thatched roof dining area. The GLA Home Base is on an almost private beach called Playa Las Canas, approximately 30 minutes east of the town of Puerto Plata. Students will share a bedroom with one other student. Each bedroom has a private bathroom. Food will be hearty, healthy and locally grown organic food consisting of meats, beans, rice, vegetables, and fruit.

Tuition

Tuition includes all in-country expenses including lodging, meals, transportation, all activities and entrance fees, community service materials, all excursions, backup medical insurance, and experienced program leaders.

Tuition does not include the following: international airfare, \$10 airport departure tax, souvenirs, snacks, laundry, phone calls, or medical expenses.

Quick Facts

Program Details

- Duration: 10 days
- Tuition: \$2,195
- Max. group size: 30 students
- Community service hours: 30
- Location: Playa Las Canas
- Airport: Puerto Plata (POP)

2011 Dates

- June 30 - July 9, 2011
- July 12 - July 21, 2011
- July 24 - August 2, 2011
- August 5- August 14, 2011

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 a rural village where our mountain lodge awaits. Remember to bring 10 USD for the visitor fee which will be collected before baggage claim and customs. After a welcome fiesta to give you a taste of Dominican culture and meet the community, 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 bay. 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 explore some of the rural villages to get a glimpse into daily life in the countryside. 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 hike to an isolated mountain 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 4: After breakfast, students will travel back up to the mountain village to complete the construction of the biomass stoves. We'll have lunch up in the community and keep working in the afternoon until the work is done. That evening we'll learn more about water systems and the global water crisis.

Day 5: Today, we'll explore the coast with a visit to a fishing village where we will have the explore the amazing white sand beaches while taking part in a beach clean up campaign. Although a lot of hard work, you will be able to see the fruits of their labor and its vitality to the survival of the community. After lunch in the fishing village, we will volunteer with the children in a refugee camp to 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.

Day 6: We will begin our morning with a catamaran ride on the ocean, where we will discuss what resources the ocean offers us. We'll have lunch on the boat and the afternoon will be free to snorkel and view some amazing coral formation and schools of brightly colored exotic fish. In the evening, we'll discuss sustainability and how it relates to the oceans.

Day 7: We'll spend the entire day in the coastal town of La Cienega where we'll help rebuild simple shack homes so the residents can have a more secure and solid place to live. We'll take a packed lunch with us and keep working all afternoon. That night, we'll reflect on the differences between rural and urban poverty.

Day 8: We'll continue work on the housing project in La Cienega. After lunch we will play a baseball game with the local youth. Baseball has become a very important part of Dominican culture. After dinner we will discuss the role of culture and consumerism in society before preparing for our group projects.

Day 9: After a hearty breakfast we will travel to the beach and spend the day relaxing, snorkeling, and hiking. We will have lunch at a local restaurant and sample local fare. After dinner we will have a farewell barbeque when we will have a discussion and reflect on our entire experience.

Day 10: After breakfast and final goodbyes, we'll travel to Puerto Plata to board our flights home.

About Global Leadership Adventures

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

seventeen

BALTIMORE TIMES ONLINE

