

Dominican Republic: Beachside Service Adventure

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 sustainable development projects

Dominican Republic: Beachside Service Adventure

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 refurbish schools, build schools and homes in impoverished villages as well as work on reforestation and vegetable gardens in refugee's camps. 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.

10-day Program

June 25 - July 4, 2012
 July 7 - July 16, 2012
 July 19 - July 28, 2012
 July 31 - August 9, 2012

Duration: 10 days

Tuition: \$2,199

Max. group size: 30

Service hours: 25

Location: Playa Las Canas

Community Service

Students will volunteer in a rural community to build a school out of discarded plastic bottles which are being picked up by village locals. The completed building will become a school for the 250 village children that previously did not have one. The facility will have compost toilets, an organic garden, and a biomass stove to cook lunches. The afternoon will be spent playing various games with the village children. In addition to the school-building project, we will help create a community vegetable garden at a Haitian refugee settlement where malnutrition is prevalent. By growing their own vegetables, the hope is that malnutrition will decrease.

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 tourist tax, souvenirs, snacks, laundry, phone calls, or medical expenses.

Program Schedule

Disclaimer: Actual order of activities will vary by program session. The day by day itinerary detailed below is typical for what you can expect to experience, but not set in stone as work and activities vary depending upon the needs of our local community partners, various celebrations and customs, as well as the weather. This itinerary is designed to give you an example of what a day to day schedule would look like and provides a clear idea of the program experience. It may be changed during the summer as staff see fit and on the ground circumstances and opportunities change our course. The Dominican Republic will challenge you as students are expected to work hard and really be present for all that we do. You will get hot, dirty and bug bitten along the way, but your contribution to the rural community and to each other will positively impact everyone involved.

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 beautiful beach chalets at Las Canas. 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: You will wake up to the sounds of crashing waves and wildlife that call Las Canas their home. You will be greeted with a hearty breakfast and have an orientation to the program, staff, and country. We will hike the infamous mountain of Brison and visit a wonderful remote mountain community to get a glimpse into daily life in the countryside. We will have lunch in the community and learn about the local cuisine. After the long hike down, we will return to Las Canas to swim, relax and have dinner. After dinner we will begin the educational element of the program followed by group discussion and team/leadership building games.

Day 3: After breakfast we will travel to the Haitian refugee settlement called "Ascencion" to work on the community garden that we are building in conjunction with the local population. The work will include organic gardening, development of food production facilities for rabbits, chickens and goats. The afternoon will be spent playing with the local Haitian children and visiting various parts of the camp. We return to Las Canas for dinner, relaxation and a continuation of our educational element of the program. The evening will include group discussion then "Movie Night".

Day 4: Today, we'll hike to twelve waterfalls of Rio Damajagua! Nestled in the rolling hills of the Northern Corridor mountain range and behind the long stalks of sugar cane lays a treasure you won't find anywhere else in the world. Mother Nature has crafted awe-inspiring pools, etched out of limestone that you can climb up and slide down. We return to Las Canas for dinner, relaxation and a continuation of our educational element of the program.



Day 5: After breakfast, students will travel back to Ascencion to complete our project. After lunch in Ascencion, the students will travel to Cabarete for souvenir shopping and an opportunity to mingle with locals and tourists from other countries. We return to Las Canas for dinner, relaxation and a continuation of our educational element of the program. Dinner will be followed by group discussion and team/leadership building games.

Day 6: We'll spend the entire day in a rural community building a school out of discarded plastic bottles. We'll take a packed lunch with us and keep working all afternoon.

Day 7: 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 8: We'll continue work building the school. 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: We'll work all day building the school and also say our farewells to the community. For dinner we will have a farewell barbeque when we will have a discussion and reflect on our entire experience, and present group and individual projects. Farewells at the on the beach with a bonfire.

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



seventeen

The Boston Globe