

6-DAY PROGRAM



GLA GROUP TRAVEL SAMPLE ITINERARY

EXAMPLE ITINERARY ONLY: DURATION, DATES, COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS AND LEARNING OBJECTIVES ARE CUSTOMIZABLE



DOMINICAN REPUBLIC: Batey Life

This customized program dives into complex themes surrounding migration, displacement, history and prejudices, with a focus on solutions and hope for a better future.

OVERVIEW

Experience life in the bateyes, traditionally communities of sugar-cane workers, through this service-learning experience. You will join the effort to improve the living conditions of mostly Haitian and Haitian-descent people living in the Dominican Republic through infrastructure rehabilitation, agricultural work, health initiatives, or education projects with local children. As you learn about the social challenges and struggles for justice that permeate batey life, you will also partake in the solution-making for a better, more just future by collaborating with grass-roots community organizations.

THIS ITINERARY INCLUDES:

- **6 days / 5 nights of accommodation**
- 18 community service hours
- 1 free chaperone per 10 students
- 2 expert GLA staff members
- Medical & evacuation insurance
- 12-30 students (price is per student)

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS:

- ★ Work to improve the living conditions of Haitian migrants
- ★ Deepen your understanding of the complex social issues facing people living in bateyes
- ★ Collaborate with grass-roots organizations for a better future
- ★ Immerse yourself in the culture of San Pedro de Macoris, Dominican Republic
- ★ Relax after hands-on service by enjoying a white-sand beach

SPOTLIGHT ON COMMUNITY SERVICE

During your time in the Dominican Republic you will work in a nearby “Batey,” a rural community of predominantly Haitian migrants. These settlements, which can be found across the DR, are among the most impoverished areas of the country, lacking access to the most basic services such as safe housing, sanitation, and healthcare. You will contribute to an ongoing community development initiative that seeks to improve living conditions through infrastructure-based projects. Contribute to locals’ long-term health through the installment of cement floors and latrines. When not working, you’ll meet inspiring local residents and leaders who are forging change in Bateyes through community-led action.

SAMPLE ITINERARY: DAILY BREAKDOWN



DAY 1: ARRIVAL DAY

Arrive in Santo Domingo (SDQ), drop off your bags at the hotel and head out for your first night in the Dominican Republic. Walk through the cobble streets of the Colonial Zone of Santo Domingo, the historic walled quarter and UNESCO World Heritage site that is rich with food and music. Old colonial buildings have been converted into coffee shops, restaurants, and community arts spaces, and the weather allows for a blossoming bohemian scene at night where the La Zona Colonial’s plazas and squares become centers for artistic, folkloric and cultural expressions. On a guided tour, start to understand how colonialism’s complex history still affects the people of this island, both Haitian and Dominican.



DAYS 2-4: COMMUNITY SERVICE & CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

We head to our Home Base at Centro Kellogg in the town of San Pedro de Macorís. We settle-in, then jump right into meaningful community work, spending three days alongside local partners helping with infrastructure projects designed to increase the standard of living in the batey.

Projects include the construction of homes, which could consist of digging foundation, mixing cement, laying cinder blocks, plastering and/or painting. Other projects include building latrines, cementing floors, and educational exchanges with local youth.



In the evenings, engage in learning about the country, the intersection of DR and Haiti, the fusion of culture and your own leadership styles. Through lectures, interactive demonstrations (cooking course, dance classes, etc.) you’ll gain a deeper understanding of the local culture and have a blast doing so!

DAY 5: CATAMARAN ADVENTURE

Wake up early and board the bus to Bayahibe; a beautiful coastal town with white sand beaches and turquoise waters. We get on a catamaran and cruise over the beautiful Caribbean water, stopping to enjoy the views of the national Park Cotubanamá, and even getting a chance to go snorkeling. Have a savory Caribbean lunch as you enjoy the beach and unwind.



DAY 6: DEPARTURE DAY

Say goodbye to your new friends and to the beautiful DR. You will be taken to the airport for your departure as you say goodbyes and reflect on your adventure.

TRAVEL TO THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

GLA Home Base | Home Base is a conference center operated by the Episcopal Church. Activities are non-religious, and everyone is welcome. 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 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, 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.

Flights | Fly into Santo Domingo (SDQ). Most group travel clients opt to travel together on the same flight, whether that be a group booking or individually-purchased tickets. GLA's partner travel agency, StudentUniverse, can be a helpful resource in finding and booking flights that meet the groups' budget and logistical requirements.

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 group's daily experience to the desired degree. 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

GLA 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.

OUR EXPECTATIONS

Be present

Our mission at GLA is “to inspire the next generation to realize their potential to transform the world and their unique 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. Students may get hot, dirt, and bug-bitten along the way, but their contribution can be transformative to both the community and themselves. 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 staff.

Flexibility & Program Changes

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 or various cultural celebrations and holidays. We expect participants to be open-minded and flexible, and willing to embrace the experience when plans

change. GLA will communicate adjustments to group leaders with advance notice whenever possible and work together with custom group leaders to reschedule or replace activities if needed.

Mentorship & Health

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 all participants should be physically and mentally healthy. Each student and staff member will undergo a self-reported medical screening process that includes a physician sign-off to ensure that our program can safely accommodate everyone's physical and mental health needs.