

6-DAY PROGRAM

## GLA GROUP TRAVEL SAMPLE ITINERARY

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



### DOMINICAN REPUBLIC: Service & Jewish Values

Meaningful service. Tropical countryside. This is travel with a purpose.

#### OVERVIEW

The Dominican Republic is home to some of the world's most enchanting beaches and unique local cultures. See beyond the country's well-known tourist destinations by working to help improve life in impoverished communities, and connecting with and learning about the history of the Dominican Jewish community. Participate in solution-making through a range of community service projects. This experience will be contextualized through the lens of Jewish values through daily group reflections and discussion.

#### HIGHLIGHTS:

- ★ Work to improve the living conditions of Haitian migrants
- ★ Discuss the complexities of displacement and resettlement in the context of the Dominican Republic
- ★ Visit sites that have contributed to Jewish-Dominican history and culture
- ★ Snorkel over coral reefs in the Caribbean Sea
- ★ Learn to dance merengue and bachata from Dominican locals

#### THIS ITINERARY INCLUDES:

- **6 days / 5 nights of accommodation**
- 8 community service hours
- 1 free chaperone per 10 students
- 2 expert GLA staff members
- Medical & evacuation insurance
- 12-24 students (price is per student)

## SPOTLIGHT ON COMMUNITY SERVICE

Work alongside the Sarteneja Alliance for Conservation and Development (SACD), an organization committed to protecting the Corozal Bay Wildlife Sanctuary through marine research, surveillance, conservation education and community development initiatives. Accompany rangers as they monitor the 178 thousand-acre Corozal Bay by boat and track marine life in the wild. Learn how to identify migratory and native species and contribute to long-term conservation research. Get your hands dirty as you transplant mangrove seeds and restore forests essential to the coast's protection and biodiversity. Connect with locals through beach and trail clean-ups and facilitate conservation-based activities for primary school students.

## SAMPLE ITINERARY: DAILY BREAKDOWN



### DAY 1: WELCOME TO THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC!

Arrive in Santo Domingo, drop off your bags at the hotel, and head out for your first night in the Dominican Republic. Welcome to Quisqueya!

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.



End your first day with dinner at Maison Kreyol, the most famous Haitian-Caribbean restaurant in the Dominican Republic - a staff favorite for cozy dinners, on a street with lots of local flavor.

### DAY 2: CENTRO ISRAELITA & INTRO TO SERVICE

After breakfast at the hotel, head to the Centro Israelita, the most important synagogue in the Dominican Republic. This synagogue brings together a small Jewish community, made up of inhabitants of Sephardic origin who arrived in the Dominican Republic a few decades ago.



Head to the beach town of Juan Dolio and have a hearty dominican lunch at your homebase for the next couple of days. After lunch head to the bateyes that surround the nearby town of Consuelo. The Bateyes are traditionally communities of sugar cane workers and their families, and are among the most impoverished areas of the country. Spend the afternoon working alongside our partner community on infrastructure projects designed to increase the standard of living in the batey. Projects include building latrines, cementing floors, and educational exchanges with local youth (depending on the local need).



In the evening learn about Dominican history focusing on the different waves of immigrants that have influenced Dominican culture. Finish the night practicing your dance moves and learn the basics of Merengue and Bachata, the two most important music genres of the Dominican Republic.

### DAY 3: COMMUNITY SERVICE IN BATEYES





Spend the day working on service projects. Explore the ongoing challenges facing the bateyes, barracks originally built for migrant sugar cane workers, and now settled as permanent housing for families and entire communities, typically with substandard living conditions..

After returning to the base students will have the chance to shower, before having dinner onsite. After dinner we would have our evening discussions, guest speakers, and/or documentary showing.

#### DAY 4: SOSÚA JEWISH MUSEUM & SYNAGOGUE

After an early morning breakfast, take a four-hour bus ride to the coastal town of Sosúa. This was officially founded by Jewish settlers who were fleeing from Nazi Germany. At the 1938 Evian Conference, dictator Rafael Trujillo offered to accept up to 100,000 Jewish refugees; about 800 German and Austrian Jewish refugees received visas issued by the Dominican government between 1940 and 1945 and settled in Sosúa. The government provided the settlers with land and resources with which they created a food factory and company named Productos Sosúa still in existence today.

You will arrive at Sosúa around noon and have lunch at a local restaurant. After lunch you will head to the Jewish Museum and Synagogue where you will learn more about this community and their history. After visiting the museum, if time permits, you can relax and enjoy the Sunset at the beautiful beach of Playa Alicia.

#### DAY 5: SNORKELING ON THE AMBER COAST

Have a well deserved rest and enjoy breakfast by the ocean. After breakfast at the hotel, hop on a boat, head out into the ocean and snorkel on beautiful coral reefs.

After your snorkeling adventure, head back to the hotel for a quick shower and prepare for the bus ride back to Santo Domingo. In the evening, head to a special dinner and dance show at a typical Dominican restaurant, as you enjoy one last evening in the DR.

#### DAY 6: ¡BUEN VIAJE!

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.



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## TRAVELING TO THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

**GLA HOME BASE** | Home Base is a rustic ecolodge built from local materials in the style of the Taíno people. The beach is just a short walk away, and students have access to a swimming pool onsite. Students will share rooms with roommates, and have Western-style bathrooms with cold-water showers. Food will be healthy and locally sourced, including meats, beans, rice, vegetables and fresh fruit.

**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, 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 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.