



12-DAY PROGRAM

GLA GROUP TRAVEL SAMPLE ITINERARY

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



THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC: SPANISH IMMERSION

Immerse in mountain communities. Sun on the beach. Explore historic Santo Domingo.

OVERVIEW

Hone your Spanish skills with the perfect combination of formal classroom language instruction and practice with native speakers in a small Dominican community. This program will allow you to live in harmony with nature, explore the natural beauty of the Dominican Republic and experience life like a local on this diverse Caribbean island.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- ★ Spend four nights in homestays in a rural mountain community
- ★ Learn from experienced and skillful language instructors
- ★ Take in the stunning beaches of Juan Dolio
- ★ Explore the charming historic center of Santo Domingo

THIS ITINERARY INCLUDES:

- **12 days / 11 nights of accommodation**
- 20 community service hours
- 3 days of Spanish class + 3 evenings of practice in the community
- 1 free chaperone per 10 students
- 2 expert GLA staff members
- Medical & evacuation insurance
- 12-30 students (price is per student)

SPOTLIGHT ON SPANISH IMMERSION

The Spanish curriculum on this course is designed by Prof. Carolina Gordillo, a language teacher with over 30 years of experience, and two masters degrees in educational management. She has designed this course in a way that students study at their specific level, learning grammar and vocabulary in the morning classes, and then implementing those lessons with practice in the community in order to cement the learnings in the student's brain. Students that are dedicated and focused can expect a rapid improvement in their Spanish abilities, as they have fun opening new doors, establishing new relationships, and connecting to a new community.

SAMPLE ITINERARY: DAILY BREAKDOWN



DAY 1: WELCOME TO THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC!

Arrive at Las Americas International Airport (SDQ) in Santo Domingo and meet your guides, who will be with you for the duration of the program. Head directly to Jarabaco to settle in and relax after your long day of travel. Join the group for an orientation discussion about the week ahead, where we'll go over expectations for your adventure and get an introduction to the local culture. Have a hot, local dinner and rest up—tomorrow we'll hit the ground running!



DAYS 2 - 4: JUMPING INTO SPANISH CLASSES

The next few days will give an overview of Dominican history, culture and language. You will spend your mornings and afternoons taking Spanish classes, where you will work on grammar & vocabulary at your Spanish level. You will also get to learn about Dominican culture and language particularities, including colloquialisms.

On Day 4, to celebrate the end of your last formal class, take a day trip hike to Salto Baiguate, a stunning waterfall cascading jade colored waters. End your afternoon sipping on a fresh tropical fruit juice in the town of Jarabacoa.



DAY 5: CAMPING AT SPIRIT MOUNTAIN

Today we'll journey north to the mountain town of Manabao. Tour the local ecolodge and familiarize yourself with the flora and fauna of the mountains to prepare yourself for your trek. Meet your nature guides and hike up to the campsite at Spirit Mountain. Enjoy the stunning views and fresh mountain air, then enjoy some s'mores by the bonfire as you practice your Spanish with the mountain guides and local staff.

DAYS 6 - 9: COMMUNITY SERVICE AND HOMESTAYS

Head through the foothill region of La Angostura where you will



meet your new host families. You and a roommate will join a local family for the next three nights. Spend the evening getting to know your hosts and learning about life in La Angostura. The next day, after breakfast with your host family, head further up the mountain to begin your service projects. Work alongside local farmers and volunteers on projects geared toward environmental sustainability and improving village infrastructure.

DAY 10: BEACH DAY IN JUAN DOLIO

Wake up early in the morning, and head to the dreamy beach town of Juan Dolio. Spend the day relaxing on the beaches of the South Coast. Have some lunch and swim in the turquoise water of the Caribbean, soaking up the sun after a week of hard work.



DAY 11: EXPLORE SANTO DOMINGO

Head back to the capital for a tour of the Colonial Zone of Santo Domingo. This is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and is home to the first university, cathedral, and hospital in the Americas. Tour the walled city and learn about the deep history of the first European settlement in the Americas. Enjoy a special dinner and dance show at a typical Dominican restaurant.



DAY 12: ¡ADIÓS, REPÚBLICA DOMINICANA!

And just like that, our time in the Dominican Republic has come to an end. Say goodbye to your local guides and head to the airport, where staff will help the group check in for flights. Safe travels!

TRAVEL TO THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

GLA Home Base | Students stay in gender-segregated rooms and have access to shared bathrooms in both the Homestays and Home Base. Homes do not have AC, so please keep in mind that it can be quite warm!

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 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 | 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.