



GLA GROUP TRAVEL SAMPLE ITINERARY

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



DOMINICAN REPUBLIC: Island Service Adventure

Realize why they say "The Dominican Republic has it all" as you explore pristine beaches, lush jungles and the DR's distinct culture while contributing to a meaningful service project in a rural Caribbean community.

OVERVIEW

Discover yourself through meaningful service within a rural Dominican community. You will help local people with infrastructure projects and efforts for local children. You will learn how service, when led by locals and supported by you, can be a monumental part of the upliftment of a community. The hard work on this program is rewarded with adventures through some of the DR's most pristine paradises. You will explore the jungle, spend time on hidden beaches, snorkel in tropical blue water, and stay the night on a small isolated island in a national park. Every step of the way, you will feel the Dominican culture calling you to dance, indulge in unique new foods, play baseball, and soak in the centuries of history.

HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Live in a coastal village
- ★ Volunteer on community development projects
- ★ Explore underground lakes
- ★ Engage with locals, practice Spanish, play baseball, eat your heart out
- ★ Snorkel at a hidden beach
- ★ Spend the night on Saona Island; assist with turtle hatchlings if lucky

THIS PROGRAM INCLUDES:

- 10 days / 9 nights of accommodation
- 24 community service hours
- 1 free chaperone per 10 students
- 2 expert GLA staff members
- Medical & evacuation insurance
- 12-26 students (price is per student)

SPOTLIGHT ON COMMUNITY SERVICE

At the heart of every Global Leadership Adventures program is service. Make a genuine connection with one of the small communities near the island town of Bayahibe. The program jumps right into 3 full days of meaningful service, where you and your peers will work within the community, fully immersed in a project alongside locals. The activities will vary based on the community's request, but be ready for conservation, education or infrastructure projects! Take time after service to play with local kids, share a coffee with neighbors, or learn what living and working in the local community is like. Explore the town, eat delicious Dominican food, and learn all about regional music and history. Discuss your service experience focusing on responsible travel and environmental preservation.

SAMPLE ITINERARY: DAILY BREAKDOWN

Actual schedule of activities will vary by program session. The information detailed here is typical for what you can expect to experience; however, service work and activities vary depending upon the needs of our local community partners, various celebrations and customs, as well as the weather and specific needs of the student group.



DAY 1: ¡BIENVENIDOS A REPÚBLICA DOMINICANA!

Arrive at Las Americas International Airport. GLA staff will meet you at the airport and escort you to your hotel to check in. Join your group for your first local dinner and an introduction to local culture. ¡Bienvenidos!

DAY 2: LOS TRES OJOS

First thing in the morning, head to Los Tres Ojos National Park, home to a network of underground freshwater lakes surrounded by lush vegetation. You'll visit three main underground caves known as "The Three Eyes." Each of the caves is filled with crystal-clear turquoise water. You'll also have the opportunity to take a guided boat tour across one of the caves, giving you a unique perspective of the stunning rock formations and the park's natural beauty.



After your visit to Los Tres Ojos, drive two hours east to the beach town of Bayahibe. A fishing town at its core, Bayahibe is also the epicenter of tourism to nearby Isla Saona, a beautiful island paradise. Settle into your new Home Base and join your group for orientation on local norms, safety, and the week's upcoming activities.

DAYS 3 - 5: COMMUNITY SERVICE

Spend these days working on conservation, education, or infrastructure projects. Take time after service to play a pickup game of baseball with the local kids, share a coffee with neighbors, and get to know the local community. Explore the town, eat delicious Dominican food, and learn all about local music and history. Discuss your service experience focusing on responsible tourism and environment preservation.



DAY 6: PLAYA MAGALLANES AND HOYO CLARO



After breakfast, walk over to Playa Magallanes, a small hidden beach with a beautiful view of the Caribbean Sea. The waters of Magallanes Beach are calm and clear, making it an ideal spot for snorkeling. You'll see a variety of colorful fish, coral, and other marine life as you explore this unique corner of Bayahibe.

After snorkeling, head to a local restaurant for a hearty Dominican lunch, then hop on a bus and drive east to Hoyo Claro. This stunning natural swimming hole is located in the middle of the jungle, surrounded by lush vegetation. The water is crystal clear and cool, making it a refreshing spot to take a dip. Relax and enjoy the tranquil surroundings.

DAYS 7 - 8: ISLA SAONA



Wake up early and prepare for a little adventure. Ride a speed boat to Isla Saona and arrive in time for lunch by the beach. Explore the small island village of Mano Juan and learn about the grassroots turtle conservation efforts that the community has taken on. Step out of Mano Juan to enjoy the pristine, picturesque beaches. Spend the night on Isla Saona stargazing and participating in a night walk to assist with any turtles that may come to hatch.

Wake up to the sounds of birds chirping and beautiful views of the Caribbean. Not many travelers get to spend a night on Isla Saona. Enjoy your last morning swim before heading back to the mainland.

DAY 9: SANTO DOMINGO



Head back to Santo Domingo, settle in your hotel, and spend the rest of the afternoon exploring the Colonial Zone's architecture, chic modern restaurants, and galleries of Afro-Caribbean folk art. So much of the vibrancy of the Colonial Zone comes from the respect and adoration for the country's rural towns and nature, and you'll see that resonate in the art and food now that you're back in the city.

In the evening, head to a special dinner and dance show at a typical Dominican restaurant, maybe going out for one last evening on your last night in the DR.

DAY 10: ¡BUEN VIAJE!

The GLA team will escort your group to the airport in private transport. We hope you enjoyed your stay in the Dominican Republic!



TRAVELING TO THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

GLA Home Base | Home Base is a boutique hotel in Bayahibe. 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 chicken, rice, beans, vegetables, plantains, and fresh fruit staples. Home-based 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, which is hot all year round. There is a rainy season from April to October and a dry season from November to March.

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 daily experience on our programs. 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

Global Leadership Adventures 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.

