



## Educational Tours



### MEANINGFUL. SUSTAINABLE. UNFORGETTABLE.

Trek into the central highlands of the Dominican Republic where mountainous landscapes, coffee plantations and alpine pastures stretch as far as the eye can see. Explore the area's rich biodiversity while learning how reforestation and ecotourism efforts have significantly helped replenish the land. As you're immersed in the local culture, you'll work together with non-profits and community members to build sustainable solutions to the conservation, economic and social challenges they face.

20

Estimated  
service hours

#### YOUR SERVICE PROJECT THEMES

We work with local non-profits to better understand the needs of each community and then focus projects on those issues. Themes include:

- Environmental Sustainability
- Youth Development
- Responsible Tourism

# ENVIRONMENTAL CITIZENSHIP IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

8 days, estimated 20 service hours

## What to expect on this Service Learning Tour

### MEANINGFUL SERVICE

Working side by side with locals, you'll gain insight into the challenges they face and build lasting solutions to help empower the community.

#### Projects include:

- Promoting responsible tourism to help support local economy and conservation efforts
- Planting community gardens to improve food security
- Building trails for local community members

### CULTURAL IMMERSION

Live in the communities you serve—celebrating customs and forming lasting connections with locals.

#### Activities include:

- Practicing your Spanish with locals
- Braving the rapids on a white water rafting trip
- Learning Bachata and Merengue, two popular Dominican dances

### LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Your Field Director takes your global service experience even further, developing and strengthening leadership skills through activities and workshops.

#### Exercises include:

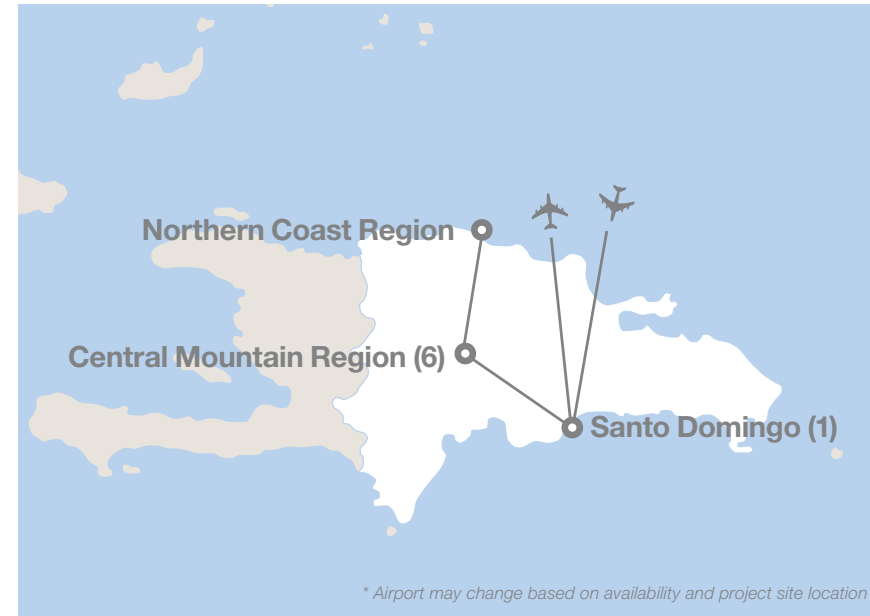
- Investigating global issues, exploring social justice and building leadership skills
- Contextualizing the day's events through thoughtful discussion and group dialogue
- Reflective journaling to deepen the service experience



Locals and students work together on a community garden



Environmental graduates work side by side with students planting seed beds



\* Airport may change based on availability and project site location



Students carry soil to their community garden project

### 8-DAY ITINERARY

#### Day 1: Arrive in Santo Domingo

Meet your Field Director at the airport and transfer to your accommodations to settle in.

#### Day 2: Santo Domingo

Take a guided tour of the Colonial Zone, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Then, enjoy a scenic ride to your service project location.

- Learn about your specific service work during your project orientation.
- Take a guided tour of the local community you'll be serving.

#### Days 3-6: Service Project—Central Mountain Region

As communities evolve so do their needs. That's why we work closely with area non-profits to better understand local challenges. Since projects are determined closer to your actual tour date, here's a glimpse at what a typical day might look like.

- Each morning, you'll begin your environmentally focused service project in a nearby village.
- Spend afternoons immersed in cultural activities.
- Evenings are a chance to reflect, discuss events as a group, and draw connections between the day's work and relevant global issues.

#### Day 7: National Marine Park—North Coast Region

Take a guided tour of a national marine park where tropical plants and beaches abound. Enjoy the turquoise waters and magnificent coral reefs as you snorkel your way around the park.

#### Day 8: Depart for home



### LOCAL INSIGHT AND SUPPORT

Your bilingual Field Director deepens your connection to the land, people and culture. With local perspective on community challenges and skilled training in service leadership, they'll provide insight and global context, as they:

- Lead skill-building workshops and meaningful group reflections
- Connect you with local non-profits and nearby villages
- Facilitate group orientation and safety training
- Handle all on-tour details, from meals to transportation

*"This trip was an insightful and inspirational journey that provoked both thought and awareness of the environment and the habitat you live in. Through amazing leadership of our tour guide, we felt immersed in the society in the Central Mountains."*

- Matthew H., Student, Cleveland, OH



**Everything you get:** 7 overnight stays in hotels; Round-trip flights on major carriers; Daily breakfast, lunch and dinner; Local ground transportation; Full-time Field Director; Sustainable service projects; Service hours that count towards academic credit; Sightseeing tours led by expert guides; Entrance fees



A student digs a latrine as part of her service work



A hard day's work comes to an end as students rest their shovels



Community members help transport soil to the project work site

## *Your partner in global education*

### **EF EDUCATIONAL TOURS**

For nearly 50 years, EF has worked with educators across the world to help millions of students become global citizens by breaking down barriers of language, culture and geography. With more than 500 schools and offices in over 50 countries, our staff can respond in person wherever you are, 24 hours a day. We're also an accredited educational institution, offering students the option to earn high school and college credit.

### **ABOUT SERVICE LEARNING TOURS**

On an EF Service Learning Tour, you and your students work side by side with locals on community-driven projects in Africa, Asia or the Americas. EF partners with established non-profits and NGOs—such as the Mariposa Foundation and Free The Children—to make sure your contributions are both meaningful and sustainable. Through hands-on work and deep exposure to the local culture, students learn vital collaboration and problem solving skills. They return inspired to make a difference at home, too.

#### **START PLANNING**

To enroll on this tour, ask your teacher for the tour number and visit [eftours.com/enroll](http://eftours.com/enroll) or call 800-665-5364