



## Educational Tours



### MEANINGFUL. SUSTAINABLE. UNFORGETTABLE.

Dive into island life in the Dominican Republic, from Santo Domingo to the central mountains to the northern coast. You'll experience the vibrant local heritage as you explore historical museums and celebrate traditional customs with locals. While you become immersed in the culture, you'll journey deep into the central and northern regions for a few days where you'll work together with community members to address environmental, conservation, and education challenges through a series of small service projects.

8

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:

- Dominican culture
- Environmental conservation
- Education

# CULTURE AND SERVICE IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

8 days, estimated 8 service hours

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## What to expect on this Service Learning Tour

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### 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 ecotourism to help support local economic and conservation efforts
- Helping to improve education and schools for local youth
- Planting vegetable gardens to provide food sources for a nearby community

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### CULTURAL IMMERSION

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

#### Activities include:

- Visiting with local community members to learn about local customs and practice your Spanish
- Braving the rapids on a whitewater rafting trip
- Exploring the historical center of Santo Domingo, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, with your local guide

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### LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

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

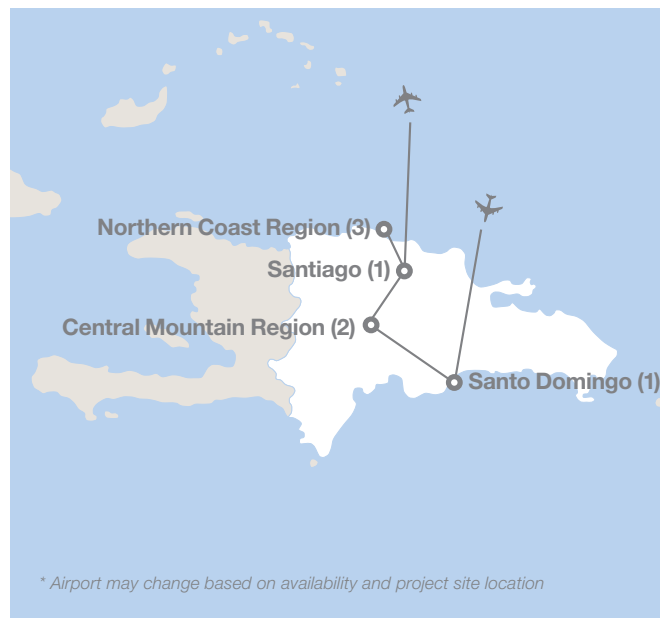
#### Exercises include:

- 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

Students play an afternoon game of dominoes with local kids



Students take a quick break and enjoy a few laughs





Community members share cultural insight with students, adding context to their service projects



## 8-DAY ITINERARY

### Day 1: Arrive in Santo Domingo

Meet your Field Director at the airport. After you arrive at your accommodations, settle in and meet your group for the country orientation and safety overview.

### Day 2: Santo Domingo

Take a guided tour of the Colonial Zone, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Then, take a scenic ride through the central mountain range to your service project location.

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

### Day 3: Service Project—Central Mountain Region

As communities evolve, so do their needs. We'll work closely with area non-profits and community members 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, begin your environmentally focused service project in a nearby village.
- Spend afternoons immersed in cultural activities.
- Evening are a chance to reflect, discuss events as a group, and draw connections between the day's work and relevant global issues.

### Day 4: Santiago

On your way to the north coast, spend the day immersed in local culture as you explore the 15th-century city known for its cathedrals, architecture, and museums.

- Create your own ceramics with local artisans.
- Visit the Centro León museum and learn about Dominican history.
- Get a firsthand look at a variety of native crops at a farm in La Cumbre.

### Days 5-6: Service Project—Northern Coast

Focus your efforts on an education-themed service project in a northern coast community.

- You also have the option to add a surf lesson with a local expert.

### Day 7: National Marine Park and Mangrove Tour | Santiago

- Take a guided tour of a national marine park where tropical plants and pristine beaches abound. Enjoy a naturalist tour of the lagoon.
- Explore the mangroves by boat with your expert local guide.
- Transfer to Santiago, where you'll enjoy a delicious dinner.

### 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



**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



View of a beach on the north coast



The town mural comes together as students and community members work side by side beautifying the area



An impromptu song and dance break gives students a rest from their lesson plan

## *Your partner in global education*

### **EF EDUCATIONAL TOURS**

For over 50 years, EF has worked with educators across the world to help millions of students become citizens of the world through one global mission: Opening the World Through Education. 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