

**Dominican Republic Itinerary**  
**Community Engagement- 1 week**

bridgestocommunity.org | (914) 923-2200



**Welcome**

Thank you for choosing Bridges to Community for your Service Learning experience! We are excited to host you in the Dominican Republic, where you will support our mission to alleviate poverty in some of the poorest communities of the DR. Community development projects range from sanitation, reforestation, housing repairs and youth mentorship. On your trip, we invite you fully immerse yourself in the daily life of the Dominican people, empower a community in need, learn about another country and culture, and to practice your Spanish!

**Itinerary  
At a  
Glance**

- DAY 1:** Arrive in the Dominican Republic, travel to Santo Domingo and Colonial City tour
- DAY 2:** Orientation, travel to the community, settle in and welcome ceremony
- DAY 3:** Workday, evening reflection
- DAY 4:** Workday, evening reflection
- DAY 5:** Workday, evening reflection
- DAY 6:** Workday, farewell activity
- DAY 7:** Leave community, rest and relaxation at the beach
- DAY 8:** Travel home

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<b>Day One</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Your group will be met at the airport by BTC staff with a Bridges to Community sign</li> <li>-Our private bus will transport us to our hotel in Santo Domingo, where we will stay the night</li> <li>-Tour of the Colonial Zone, the first city founded in the "New World" by European explorers</li> <li>-Dinner at a local restaurant in the area</li> </ul>
<b>Day Two</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-After breakfast, we will have orientation to review and guide you in what to expect for the week</li> <li>-Travel to the community in a private bus, stopping for lunch in the town of San Juan. Once we reach the community, we will settle into our dorm accommodations for the week, meet our local work team and take a tour of the community</li> </ul>
<b>Day Three</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-In the morning, we will begin the projects in the community. Depending on BTC's programming plan, this may include latrines, pouring floors, reforestation and youth exchange activities.</li> <li>-In the afternoon, we will work for a few more hours. The afternoon will provide time for recreation playing with the local children in the youth center. After dinner, we will have a reflection to meditate on our purpose, history, and related public health topics in the Dominican Republic</li> </ul>
<b>Day Four</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-In the morning, we will continue working on the community development project</li> <li>-In the afternoon, we will continue working on the project. After dinner, reflection.</li> </ul>
<b>Day Five</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-In the morning, we will continue working on the community development project</li> <li>-In the afternoon, we will continue working on the project. After dinner, reflection.</li> </ul>
<b>Day Six</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-In the morning, we will continue working on the community development project</li> <li>-In the afternoon, we will continue working on the project. After dinner, reflection.</li> <li>-This evening we will have a special gathering and musical presentation to say goodbye to the community and our new friends</li> </ul>
<b>Day Seven</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-After breakfast, we will head in a private bus to a hotel on the beach for some well-earned rest and relaxation.</li> <li>-We will wrap up our week with a Final Reflection to conclude our week together, and discuss how we can all continue to be Agents of Change in our own and global communities</li> </ul>
<b>Day Eight</b>	<p>Our time together has come to an end! Your group will be accompanied to the airport by BTC staff. Thank you for your traveling with Bridges to Community, we hope your experience was rewarding and enjoyable!</p>



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### Sample Program Activities

**Youth Exchange:** Mentoring youth is a key component to keeping kids in school and on track. Volunteers will have the opportunity to meet local youth from the community, learn their stories and exchange culture, language and fun with them during the week.

**Housing Repairs:** Low incomes and high expenses often force families to prioritize basic needs such as food and clothing, and forego what is considered as an extra cost of maintaining a house. Most families in the communities have dirt floors in their homes. Volunteers will support family hygiene by pouring sturdy, cement floors and will paint the walls to provide an aesthetic that will bring pride to the whole community.

**Home Visits:** Volunteers may participate in home visits to community members to conceptualize living conditions, providing depth and background to community need. Visits may include exchanges in a local kitchen preparing local food and working in a family garden.

**Computer and art classes:** the BTC youth center, built in 2015, is home to ongoing program that provides kids a safe place to learn and study. Volunteers will host art classes to allow children to explore their creativity and support in computer classes teaching kids computer basics of typing, using Microsoft, how to search the internet, etc.

**Construction and Material Distribution:** Sanitation and water system infrastructure is integral to community hygiene. Volunteers will work alongside masons to build complimentary projects to public health objectives, such as latrines and water systems. Other projects include distribution campaigns of supplementary materials for families to put their new knowledge into action at home. All construction and material distribution are accompanied by workshops to educate about the importance of the project, it's proper use and it's role in the prevention of sanitation-related disease and illness.

**Reforestation:** wood burning stoves are the norm in the Dominican Republic communities, contributing to respiratory illnesses as well as regional deforestation. Trash disposal options are usually by burying or burning. Volunteers will provide workshops that explain the effects of smoke on the lungs and resulting illnesses, the importance of forested areas on the environment, and will provide alternatives to trash burning. Volunteers will also help in reforestation initiatives in an attempt to mitigate complete deforestation and climate change in the region.