

<p><b>Welcome</b></p>	<p><b>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. Our community engagement program includes projects in sanitation, reforestation, housing repairs and youth mentorship and education. 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!</b></p>	
<p><b>Day One- Santo Domingo</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-You will be met at the airport by BTC staff with a Bridges to Community sign</li> <li>-Transport on a private bus to the hotel in Santo Domingo for the night</li> <li>-Tour the Colonial Zone, the first settlement established by European explorers</li> <li>-Dinner at a local restaurant of typical Dominican food</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Day Two: Travel to Community</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-After breakfast, receive an orientation to review what to expect for the week</li> <li>-Travel to the San Juan province on a private bus, stop for lunch on the way</li> <li>-Settle into the dorm accommodations for the week, meet the local work team and take a tour of the community</li> <li>-Have a Dominican dinner prepared by trained, local cooks</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Day Three-Five: Work on Service Project</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Begin the projects in the community. Projects and programs are chosen and designed by community leadership and may vary depending on need and schedule throughout the year</li> <li>-Break for lunch and an early afternoon siesta</li> <li>-In the afternoon, return to the project site for a few more hours</li> <li>-Evening reflection to meditate on our purpose, history, and topics of the DR</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Day Six: Explore Your Surroundings</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-In the morning, take a guided hike for spectacular views in the nearby mountains</li> <li>-In the afternoon, have lunch and spend the afternoon at a pool to rest, refresh and relax</li> <li>-Evening reflection</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Day Seven- Eight: Continue Service Project</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Continue working on and wrap up the community development project and activities</li> <li>-Celebrate the conclusion of a great work week with a drum presentation from local musicians playing traditional palos and songs</li> </ul>	 
<p><b>Day Nine:</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-After breakfast, head in a private bus to a hotel on the beach for some well-earned rest and relaxation.</li> <li>-End 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>	
<p><b>Day Ten: Departure</b></p>	<p>Our time together has come to an end! You 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>	

## Cultural Immersion

- Live and work in a rural community
- Participate in exchanges and activities
- Explore the surrounding environment
- Enjoy meals of local cuisine
- Practice Spanish

## Education

- Teach classes and host workshops
- Apply your skills and knowledge
- Participate in impactful programs
- Support youth mentorship

## Service Learning

- Learn about local history, environment, and culture
- Reflect on your experience through guided activities
- Challenge yourself to analyze new perspectives

## Community Development

- Participate in projects designed by community leadership
- Work side by side with local experts
- Empower local groups
- Make a real impact

## Dominican Republic Data



**Location:** The DR is located on the island of Hispaniola in the Caribbean Sea

**Population:** 10.7 million

**Poverty Rate:** Over 60% of rural families live below the poverty line

**Community Types:** touristy coastal towns, rural farmland, and bustling cities. The biggest cities are Santo Domingo and Santiago

**Climate:** Tropical rainforest on the coasts and low lands, drier and cooler climates in the mountains

**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.

**Computer and Art Classes:** Access to computers in rural areas in the DR is low, but the BTC computer lab allows volunteers to teach the highly valued skill of computer literacy to local kids. Participate in art classes to help them express their creativity and improve mental and emotional health.

**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.

**Construction and Material Distribution:** Sanitation and water system infrastructure is integral to community hygiene. Volunteers will work alongside masons to build complementary projects of 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.