



EF Experiential Training Tour: Service in the Dominican Republic

EF is committed to safety and support and we make it our priority to ensure that educators are fully prepared to lead educational tours. During an EF Training Tour, Group Leaders will collaborate and learn from peers along with EF staff and experienced EF Group Leaders to cover a wide range of important topics such as tour safety, traveller engagement, and on-the-ground logistics. By exploring a new destination and experiencing an EF tour first-hand, Group Leaders develop the skills and practical know-how to handle any situation and will be ready to confidently lead a safe and successful tour.

What you'll experience on an EF Training Tour

Experiential learning

This Training Tour is a simulation of what you will experience with your students on tour. Experiencing an EF tour first-hand will not only help prepare you to lead students, but will also foster confidence as an educator and Group Leader.

Connection

Engage in thoughtful discussions with new and experienced Group Leaders as well as EF staff. Discover new ways of connecting your tour to the curriculum—and bring your classroom to life.

Reflection

Get insight into how to better engage your students in reflection exercises that connect on-tour learning with classroom lessons to encourage students' personal growth through travel.

Building perspective

Group Leaders will build a richer understanding of what it means to lead a tour and gain a better perspective of a tour experience from a student's point of view.

Service in the Dominican Republic

EF Experiential Training Tour

Day 1: Arrive in Santo Domingo

At the airport, you will be greeted by your Tour Director and EF staff who remain with you for the duration of the tour. While waiting for your fellow educators to arrive, take the time to stop at the ATM, freshen up in the restroom, or buy a water.

Guided sightseeing of Santo Domingo: Time permitting, take a stroll through the Colonial Zone to see sites like the oldest cathedral in the New World, Christopher Columbus' fort, and the Alcázar de Colón—the seat of the Colonial Government of Hispaniola.

Welcome dinner: Become acquainted with your colleagues, experienced EF Group Leaders, and EF staff members as you enjoy a typical on-tour meal.

Key learnings:

- Experience international travel while considering the logistics of airport security, customs, and potential delays—and learn how to navigate each with your group
- Check into a standard EF hotel property and practice organizing rooming and managing your group at the hotel
- Learn how to safely move as a large group in a major city
- Experience a typical on-tour meal with your group

Day 2: Experiential Learning

Instituto del Ambiente: Depart Santo Domingo and continue into the Central Mountain Range to Jarabacoa. Arrive at the Instituto del Ambiente, the National Environmental Institute, which teaches young adults from the Dominican Republic and other Caribbean nations about forestry and environmental sustainability. After orientation and lunch, explore the work of former EF students before engaging in your own small project that models the service and reflection you and your students will experience.

Workshop session 1: In this first seminar, we will have a group meeting to identify specific questions and needs you have in preparing to lead your upcoming tour. This session also offers the opportunity to hear from our experienced Group Leader about the on-tour experience with EF. In a panel discussion, review best practices and collaborate in small groups on a range of important topics, such as curricular alignment, student-driven learning, and engagement.

Waterfall hike and dinner: Enjoy a waterfall hike and an optional swim next to the Environmental Institute campus. Afterwards, enjoy dinner.

Key learnings:

- Familiarize yourself with the pace of a student tour
- Collaborate with experienced Group Leaders on how to best maximize student engagement during long bus transfers
- Discuss safety on tour as it applies to your role as a Group Leader, as well as EF's approach to safety
- Gain a better understanding of EF's worldwide presence
- Hear from experienced Group Leaders on how to facilitate tipping local guides, bus drivers, and your Tour Director on tour
- Learn how reflection plays a key role in the student Service Learning experience

Day 3: Experiential Learning

Angostura: This morning, depart for Angostura, a community whose residents promote sustainable energy use and production through green cooking methods and hydroelectricity. Enjoy food cooked by local families involved in our service learning projects.

Global Connection Exercise: Participate in an interactive lesson to connect topics from these project sites to your local and global community.

Workshop session 2: Return to the Environmental Institute where you'll have the opportunity to reflect on lessons you can implement in your classroom. Discuss best practices for creating a sustainable program at your school as you consider how to help your students get the most out of their Service Learning experience. From here, split up for a more in-depth look at the projects and itinerary of your destination. Afterwards, enjoy dinner.

Key learnings:

- Collaborate with fellow educators and staff on EF's learning outcomes
- Understand how to best prepare yourself and your group for departure meetings
- Learn creative ways to generate student excitement and promote your tour
- Discuss best practices on how to build a sustainable travel program in your community
- Understand how Global Connection exercises play a role on Service Learning tours

Day 4: Experiential Learning

Pottery workshop: Head north and get your hands dirty on a visit to a local artisan cooperative to sculpt your own clay model of a Dominican national symbol, the faceless doll. Afterwards, enjoy a traditional lunch in Santiago.

Cabarete: Continue north to the Atlantic Coast to take a refreshing swim in the area's picturesque waters. Enjoy a bit of free time.

Final wrap-up: Come together as a group to share learnings from the past few days. Share knowledge and advice with your new friends from across the country as you prepare for your trip ahead. Ask any last questions and visualize your upcoming tour.

Farewell dinner: Reflect on what you've learned during your last evening in the Dominican Republic at tonight's farewell dinner.

Key learnings:

- Practice engaging your students in reflection exercises to connect on-tour learning with classroom lessons
- Learn how to best set expectations and provide structure during free time on tour

Day 5: Return home

Your Tour Director will facilitate your transport to the airport, where you will check in for your return flight home.

Please note: Itinerary subject to change. Accommodations and flight details to be announced approximately 14 days prior to departure.

EVERYTHING YOU GET



Full-time Tour Director with EF staff



Guided sightseeing



Entrances to select sites and attractions



Training workshops with EF and experienced Group Leaders.



Key learning opportunities:

Every EF Training Tour has been designed to provide enhanced key learning points each day of the program—to ensure Group Leaders are fully prepared to lead a tour with students.



Round-trip flights on major carriers; hotel accommodations; comfortable motor coach; breakfast daily and additional meals as specified.



Not included: Global Travel Protection Plan; activities during free time; select meals as per itinerary; customary gratuities for your Tour Director and driver



The tour was absolutely amazing and prepared me to travel with students. No other preparation would ever have been able to do that.

Neisha U.

1-800-387-1460 | eftours.ca/trainingtour