



## HANOVER HIGH SCHOOL FIELD TRIP REQUEST FOR APPROVAL FORM

FORM 1

Today's Date 9/5/18Teacher(s) Shayle Emerson Grade(s)/Subject(s) 9, 11, 12 ScienceClasses Participating Any Field Trip Destination Dominican RepublicDate of Field Trip February/March 2020Time of Departure  
From School FridayTime of Departure  
From Field Trip Site SaturdayEstimated Time of  
Arrival Back at School \_\_\_\_\_

### COST OF FIELD TRIP

Number of Students 10+Cost of Transportation /  
Cost per Student \_\_\_\_\_Number of buses  
45 students per bus or  
Van (16 students per van) \_\_\_\_\_Cost of Admission of  
Fees / Per Student Fee \_\_\_\_\_Number of Teachers 1+

Any additional fees \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Chaperones 2-3  
(1 chaperone per 10 students)Total Cost Per Student \$3425 or \$222/15 monthsWill students be eating  
on the trip? ☒ Y ☐ N  
Where? \_\_\_\_\_Primarily indoor or  
outdoor? BothWill there be vigorous  
physical activity? ☒ Y ☐ NWill there be exposure to  
any animals? ☒ Y ☐ N

### **Field Trip – Relevance to Curriculum**

Field Trips should be designed and planned as one of an array of multiple and varied opportunities for students to gain and apply knowledge and understanding of contents, concepts and skills. Field Trips should be educational, academic experiences which:

1. Directly relate to the curriculum standards being taught;
2. Enhance learning;
3. Motivate and engage learners;
4. Enrich the curriculum;
5. Extend the learning;
6. Offer source of facts and new learning materials not immediately available in the classroom/school.

### **Field Trips – Safe and Valuable Experiences**

In addition to the obligation to plan educationally sound field trips, is the serious obligation to ensure that all field trips are safe, secure, and viable learning experiences. Field trips should be designed and planned to:

7. Begin and end within the limits of the times that the children who are participating would usually be in session in school to ensure safety.
8. Avoid potential risks;
9. Include a well-planned schedule of events;
10. Meet the learning needs, development levels, and learning profiles of students;
11. Include accommodations and/or modifications for those in need.

Field Trip Proposal:

EF Service tour to Dominican Republic

Relevance to Curriculum (reference criteria above) :

1-6

Plans for Involvement and Safety (reference criteria above) :

8-11

Signature of Teacher



Signature of Principal



Date

9/5/18

Date

9/6/18

Signature School Nurse



Date

9/6/18

**NOTE:** School Committee Approval is needed for all out of state travel. Out of state travel is approved no less than 30 days prior to the scheduled trip date. Out of country travel must be approved prior to the September of the school year in which the trip will take place. Please submit all out of country travel requests to your Principal by May 15 in the school year before the proposed field trip.

Date of the June School Committee Agenda

APPROVED

NOT APPROVED

## Hingham High student volunteers travel to Dominican Republic

**By Grace Ward HHS Class of 2017**

Posted Mar 17, 2017 at 11:22 AM

Updated Mar 20, 2017 at 10:12 AM

We entered the schools on Monday morning with lesson plans in hand and some nervousness in our hearts. We were met with ear-to-ear smiles and excited shouts, “Americanos!”

When I walked through the doors of Logan Airport at 2:45 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 18, the first Saturday of February vacation, I had absolutely no idea that I was about to have one of the most meaningful experiences of my life. I had been looking forward to my trip to the Dominican Republic for a few weeks, and I was excited to extend my community service experience beyond Massachusetts.

Admittedly, I’d be lying if I said I wasn’t also looking forward to the warm, sunny weather that awaited. But I did not expect the people that I would meet and the experiences we would share to profoundly change the way I saw myself and the world in which I live.

A group of 28 Hingham High School students and four chaperones embarked on a once-in-a-lifetime trip to Monte Cristi, which is on the northern coast of the Dominican Republic. We would spend the week teaching English in two elementary schools and learning about the rich culture within the Dominican Republic.

When we first arrived early Saturday evening, the striking beauty of Monte Cristi was apparent but, unfortunately, so was the poverty of its citizens. Most of the homes were the size of one room in many of our houses, with families of five or six living inside. However, even in the midst of all the poverty, every person we saw on the streets greeted us with the most welcoming of waves and a warm smile. Despite the lack of ideal living conditions, there was no lack of love from the citizens of Monte Cristi and its neighboring towns.

We entered the schools on Monday morning with lesson plans in hand and some nervousness in our hearts. We were met with ear-to-ear smiles and excited shouts, “Americanos!” The organization that helps to run the English instruction in the schools, Outreach 360, is based in both the Dominican Republic and Nicaragua. They aim to provide both educational and vocational training to students with the hope that they will have a better chance to escape the cyclical poverty of the area and gain an opportunity to get better paying jobs in the tourism industry or even in the United States.

We taught children from Pre-K to 5th grade, all of whom had a great eagerness to learn. Their attentiveness, love, and energy radiated throughout the day, both in and out of the classroom. In the classroom we immediately overcame the language barrier by singing songs about the weather and the days of the week. At recess we all danced along to the “Macarena” and “Watch Me (Whip/Nae Nae)” which was followed by contagious laughter and high fives all around.

I believe I speak for all of us when I say that when our final lessons came around on Thursday afternoon, it was by far one of the hardest things to have to say goodbye. I will forever remember the radiating love and appreciation which made our mission just that much more worthwhile. After endless hugs and waves, we turned and left with teary eyes but with great confidence that we had made a difference in these children’s lives, and that they had made an even bigger impact on ours.

Throughout the week, we were also lucky enough to have three very unique but incredibly insightful and inspirational guest speakers. The first was Osvaldo (Ozzie) Virgil, a native of Monte Cristi, who became the first Dominican to play major league baseball when he joined the New York Giants in 1956. His story was one of triumph and success. It was amazing to hear him talk about his baseball career and his love both for the sport and for his home, Monte Cristi.

The second speaker was Mr. Rodriguez, a one-time political dissident who helped to topple the Trujillo dictatorship in the early 1960s. He spoke about the part he played in the “June 14th movement,” and it was so inspiring to meet someone who played such a crucial role in making history in the Dominican Republic.

Finally, my personal favorite was the Pre-K teacher from Baya Vista Elementary School who we invited to join us for pizza on Thursday night. We saw how hard she worked in the classroom throughout the week and asked that she give us her insight on being an elementary

school teacher in Monte Cristi. She was eager to join us, and her story truly opened my eyes about the importance of dedicated teachers who truly care about the education and well being of their students, both in the Dominican Republic and around the world.

She concluded her talk with a heartwarming prayer for both America and the Dominican Republic, and she wished us all the very best. Her compassion and love was extraordinary, and it truly made me reflect on the things we take for granted every single day.

When we weren't teaching and dancing in the schools or listening to the amazing speakers, we spent our time learning about the culture and communities in the Dominican Republic. We toured the salt flats, as salt production is an important industry in the Dominican Republic. We visited a local painter who was incredibly hospitable and painted several beautiful paintings for us to bring home as memories of our trip. We even stopped at a local ice cream shop after a long, hot day and indulged in some of the most delicious ice cream I've ever had.

On our final day we traveled 45 minutes to Dajabon Market on the border of Haiti and the Dominican Republic. We observed as Haitians crossed over a bridge, or sometimes waded through the river to spare just 2-3 crucial minutes, carrying hundreds of pounds of goods on their heads to sell to the Dominicans in the market in exchange for food or other necessary items.

They aim to make up to 30 trips across the border on the days the market is open in order to make as much money as possible to bring home for their families in Haiti. It was heartbreaking to watch the extreme measures people just like us are forced to take in order to provide for their families. It is certainly an image I will carry with me for a very long time.

Throughout the week in Monte Cristi, we learned, we taught, we sang, we danced, we laughed, and sometimes we even cried. As cliché as it sounds, the 31 other travelers, who at first started out as mere acquaintances, became somewhat like a family to me. It is incredibly difficult to capture just how meaningful and fulfilling the experience was in a short summary, as I could go on about it endlessly.

However, I have the utmost confidence in saying that the children we bonded with throughout the week made a world of difference in our lives, just as we did in theirs. I will strive to be able to communicate the same love and appreciation for life demonstrated effortlessly by all the citizens of Monte Cristi each and every day.

## Dominican Republic: Marine Conservation

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### Focus of the tour

- Students will learn about the impacts of overfishing
- The role climate change plays on coastal ecosystems and local communities
- Promotes ecotourism that minimizes ecological impact while building cultural and environmental awareness.
- Learn how to conduct field research
- Identify marine species of fish, invertebrates, corals and seaweed/algae
- Learn onsite data recording, interpretation and presentation techniques

### Why we would like to run the tour

- Increase interest in STEM fields and courses at HHS
- Increase in student requests to take courses in Environmental Science
- AP Envi Sci allows students to learn rudimentary knowledge about environmental issues but students need on site hands-on experiences
- Encourage students to look beyond the classroom and Hanover to see the impacts of climate change and the affects that humans have on their environment
- There were 8.6 million STEM jobs in 2015, these jobs could increase by 26% by 2024. Offering these global education and service tours help students achieve these careers
- Students will experience solutions to environmental issues, coral ecology, sources and utilization of renewable energy, natural resource management, biodiversity and wildlife conservation, development economics, social justice, and global issues.
- Hanover's mission statement includes: together, the administration, faculty, and staff create opportunities for students to acquire the skills, knowledge, and work ethic to be responsible and productive members of a changing society.



***Educational Tours***

# GLOBAL EDUCATION PROGRAM 2019-2020

*Marine Conservation in the Dominican Republic*

Prepared for: |Shayle Emerson  
Hanover High School |



## *Your partner in global education*

As the **World Leader in International Education**, we've partnered with educators around the world for over 50 years to help students gain new perspectives and build skills for the future through experiential learning. We provide a range of travel programs—Educational Tours, Language Immersion Tours, Service Learning Tours, Global Student Leaders Summits and Custom-Designed Tours—that provide in-depth exploration, authentic connections and hands-on experience. Every EF global program is designed to:

- Explore international destinations to gain awareness of global perspectives and connections
  - Promote international understanding, respect for different cultures, language learning and global citizenship
  - Align with school curricula to bring subjects, people, places and events to life
  - Provide global settings to sharpen key 21<sup>st</sup> century skills—critical thinking, problem solving, communication, collaboration and global competence
  - Develop interpersonal and leadership skills necessary to navigate new experiences with confidence and adaptability
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## *What we'll cover in this document*

### **PAGE**

1	Your partner in global education
2	EF History and reach
3-4	Our commitment to education; credit opportunities
5	Our commitment to safety
6	We'll handle the details
7	A day-by-day look at your tour
8	What your hotels will be like
9	What your meals will be like
10	Price details
11	Important final details

This proposal is property of EF Education First and the educator/school for which it was intended. Distributing, copying and/or sharing it are prohibited. The proposal, including pricing, is valid for the educator, tour and date(s) specifically mentioned herein. For additions, subtractions or modifications, please contact your EF Tour Consultant.

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## *EF's History*

### **Fifty Years of Experience**

For over 50 years, we've proudly partnered with educators to transform the way students look at the world—and themselves. That passion has grown our family-owned company into the world leader in international education with more than 1 million students experiencing our programs every year.

### **Our Mission**

Opening the World Through Education

Educational Tours is only a small part of EF. **EF is the largest educational organization that includes schools, programs, and partnerships** such as:

- **Language schools** and courses all around the world
  - EF is the Official Language Supplier of the Language Training for the Olympic and Paralympic Games
  - The 2016 EF EPI is the world's largest ranking of English skills, featuring ranking and analysis of 72 countries and territories.
- **Undergraduate, MBA, and Executive Education**
  - Hult International Business Schools
- **EF Academy** International Boarding Schools – USA, United Kingdom
- **EF Gap Year**
- **Academic Year Abroad**
- **High School Exchange**
- **The EF Research Network**
  - The EF Research Network consists of top universities that are working with EF to fundamentally improve the way students learn languages. The network covers a broad range of disciplines from linguistics, pedagogy, educational technology, and language assessment to cultural immersion.
- **The EF Global Classroom Foundation – Nepal**
  - This foundation has helped rebuild an elementary school in one of the areas most affected by the earthquake



## *Our commitment to education*

We believe the best way to help students gain new perspectives and build skills for the future is through experiential learning.

### **Accreditation**

EF is accredited, just like your school, and recognized by the following regional, national and international organizations: Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools (MSA-CES); Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC); Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS-CASI) North Central Association (NCA-CASI); National Council for Private Schools Accreditation (NCPSA); and Accreditation International (AI).

### **A standard of excellence**

Our educational travel programs bring to life the knowledge and skills that are called for in many education initiatives, including:

- Partnership for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills (P21)
- International Baccalaureate – PYP, MYP, Diploma, IBCC
- Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts and Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science and Technical Subjects
- Global Competence Criteria—defined by the Asia Society and Council of Chief State School Officers
- Global Connection Standards in the National Curriculum Standards for Social Studies
- Culture and Connections Standards in the Standards for Foreign Language Learning
- Standards of Professional Learning—defined by Learning Forward

### **weShare, A More Engaging Learning Experience**

You know students learn on a deeper level when what you're teaching connects to their own lives. That's why every tour comes with weShare, a personalized learning experience powered by your students' curiosity. Using EF's guided learning model, students use their strengths to investigate an issue or topic that inspires them. They reflect on what they've learned through a post-tour project that gives even more meaning to travel—and can earn them academic credit.

### **Earning credit**

Students can earn credit by traveling on an EF tour and completing required coursework. We offer choices, so you can find the credit option that best fits you and your students' needs.

- Students in grades 7-12 can earn elective credit for completing assignments before, during and after their EF tour, setting themselves apart from other college applicants.
- Students can earn college credit through our partnership with Southern New Hampshire University.

### **Accredited by:**





## Educational Tours

Opportunities to earn credit with EF

### For students

#### 1. High school credit

<b>COURSEWORK</b>	Students can earn high school credit with weShare, EF's personalized learning experience, by developing an essential question to investigate on tour and <b>creating a post-tour project</b> .
<b>ELIGIBILITY</b>	U.S. students in grades 6–12 taking an EF tour are eligible for credit.
<b>CREDIT</b>	Successful course completion will earn students <b>0.5</b> elective high school credits. After submitting their projects, students can email <a href="mailto:education.department@ef.com">education.department@ef.com</a> for their transcripts.
<b>COST</b>	Tuition is free and there are no fees.
<b>DEADLINE</b>	Students must enroll no later than 7 days before leaving for tour.
<b>LEARN MORE</b>	Visit <a href="http://eftours.com/weShare">eftours.com/weShare</a> .
<b>REGISTER</b>	Contact our Customer Service team at <b>800-665-5364</b> to enroll in weShare.

#### 2. Undergraduate-level college credit

<b>COURSEWORK</b>	Students can earn college credit by completing a series of assignments and a final research project with EF's university partner, Southern New Hampshire University.
<b>ELIGIBILITY</b>	U.S. students in grades 9–12 taking an EF tour are eligible for credit.
<b>CREDIT</b>	Successful course completion will earn students <b>3.0</b> university credits.
<b>COST</b>	Tuition is <b>\$215</b> for all tours departing before September 2020.
<b>DEADLINE</b>	Students must enroll no later than 21 days before leaving for tour.
<b>LEARN MORE</b>	Email <a href="mailto:education.department@ef.com">education.department@ef.com</a> with questions.
<b>REGISTER</b>	Visit <a href="http://eftours.com/snhustudent">eftours.com/snhustudent</a> to register for your course. You must already be enrolled on tour.

### For educators

#### 1. Professional learning hours/points

<b>COURSEWORK</b>	Educators can earn professional learning hours/points through experiential learning research, reflection, and unit planning.
<b>ELIGIBILITY</b>	All educators travelling on an EF tour are eligible to enroll.
<b>CREDIT</b>	Successful course completion will earn educators <b>45</b> professional learning hours/points.
<b>COST</b>	Tuition is free and there are no fees.
<b>DEADLINE</b>	Educators must enroll no later than 7 days before leaving for tour.
<b>LEARN MORE</b>	Email <a href="mailto:education.department@ef.com">education.department@ef.com</a> with questions or to get started.

EF also offers Professional Learning Tours for educators. Visit [pd.eftours.com](http://pd.eftours.com) to learn more.

#### 2. Graduate-level university credit

<b>COURSEWORK</b>	Educators can earn graduate-level university credit through research, travel, and reflection with EF's university partner, Southern New Hampshire University.
<b>ELIGIBILITY</b>	All educators travelling on an EF tour are eligible to enroll.
<b>CREDIT</b>	Successful course completion will earn educators <b>3.0</b> or <b>6.0</b> graduate-level university credits.
<b>COST</b>	Tuition is <b>\$285</b> per 3.0 credit course and <b>\$450</b> per 6.0 credit course.
<b>DEADLINE</b>	Educators must enroll no later than 21 days before leaving for tour.
<b>LEARN MORE</b>	Email <a href="mailto:education.department@ef.com">education.department@ef.com</a> with questions.
<b>REGISTER</b>	Visit <a href="http://eftours.com/snhueducator">eftours.com/snhueducator</a> to register for your course. You must already be enrolled on tour.

## *Our commitment to safety*

Our demonstrated commitment to safety and risk management is proven with our preventative procedures and extensive measures taken to ensure each traveler's safety.

### **Worldwide presence**

As the largest international student travel organization, we have 500 schools and offices in more than 50 countries worldwide. With 43,000 EF staff and teachers around the globe, we're accessible wherever and whenever you need us.

### **General Liability Policy**

- All EF Group Leaders and schools are automatically insured under our \$50 million General Liability Policy, regardless of whether or not the tour is considered a school event.
- This policy safeguards Group Leaders and schools in case of claims from on-tour incidents, such as personal injury and provides a legal defense and covers all associated legal fees.
- EF's Commercial General Liability Insurance is provided by nationally recognized insurance companies with A.M. Best Ratings of A-.
- All customer payments are protected by a \$1 million customer protection plan.
- EF's General Liability Policy allows for schools and districts to receive a certificate of insurance that names you or your school as a certificate holder. To receive a certificate of insurance that details coverage, talk to your Tour Consultant.

### **Global Travel Protection Plan**

Designed specifically with EF travelers in mind, all travelers have the option to purchase the Global Travel Protection Plan. This plan helps travelers protect their investment from common claims, including: flight delay, loss of job by a parent, death or illness of a family member, and medical coverage on tour in case of sickness or an emergency. While this plan is not required, many Group Leaders choose to make this comprehensive and affordable protection plan mandatory for their travelers.

### **EF's Peace of Mind Program**

At EF, we understand that plans can change due to unforeseen circumstances. EF's exclusive Peace of Mind Program ensures:

- Teachers can work with EF Educational Tours to change their tour's travel dates, modify their tour plans, find an all-new tour or cancel their tour up until 45 days prior to departure. If unforeseen circumstances cause you to cancel within this time period, all travelers will receive a transferable travel voucher.
- With 44 days or less left until departure, teachers may still choose any of the above options if a formal Travel Warning is issued by the US Department of State for any country on your itinerary.

### **Highly respected in the industry by:**



## *We'll handle the details*

As your educational travel partner, we work with teachers, students and parents to ensure a seamless experience—before, during and after tour. In other words, we're with you every step of the way.

### **BEFORE TOUR**

#### **Support Team and resources**

Dedicated Tour Consultants guide teachers through the planning process, while Local Representatives from your area work face-to-face to provide support. We give teachers their own personal tour website with helpful tools to share tour information, manage deadlines and more. In addition to online resources, we also provide an array of printed materials for teacher, students and parents.

#### **International Training Tours**

Ensuring teachers are fully prepared to lead an EF tour is our commitment to your school community. Through our blended learning model, all first-time EF Group Leaders receive complimentary international training. Conducted by EF personnel and experienced EF Group Leaders, the program includes online, classroom and experiential learning components. In the event a Group Leader cannot attend one of these complimentary tours, we offer live webinars to prepare them and answer questions before they travel.

#### **Traveler account management**

Our knowledgeable and friendly Customer Service Representatives help travelers and their parents with all billing transactions, protection plans and tour activity questions. We also offer flexible and convenient payment options that allow parents to choose when—and how—they want to pay.

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### **WHILE ON TOUR**

#### **Everything is included**

This all-inclusive global experience makes it easy for teachers and students to explore the world. From flights and hotels to most meals and experiential activities, we take care of every detail so travelers can focus on the experience.

#### **Guided travel**

A personal bilingual Tour Director stays with your group 24/7. They handle every on-tour detail to ensure a smooth travel experience while also providing unique local insight. Expert local guides, meanwhile, share their knowledge of history, art, architecture and more during guided tours.

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### **AFTER TOUR**

#### **Program development**

We'll work with you to build a travel program at your school so even more students have the opportunity to experience the world.



*A day-by-day look at your tour:* This is the itinerary page that students and parents will see in their tour itinerary guide. It's just one of the many resources they'll receive in preparation for your tour.

## MARINE CONSERVATION IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

*8 days, estimated 18 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:

- Learning about biology and restoration practices
- Attaching coral reef fragments to new sites
- Cleaning trash and debris from the shoreline

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#### CULTURAL IMMERSION

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

#### Activities include:

- Meeting with a community association to learn about the evolution of fishing and ecotourism
- Discussing the importance of environmental and marine conservation

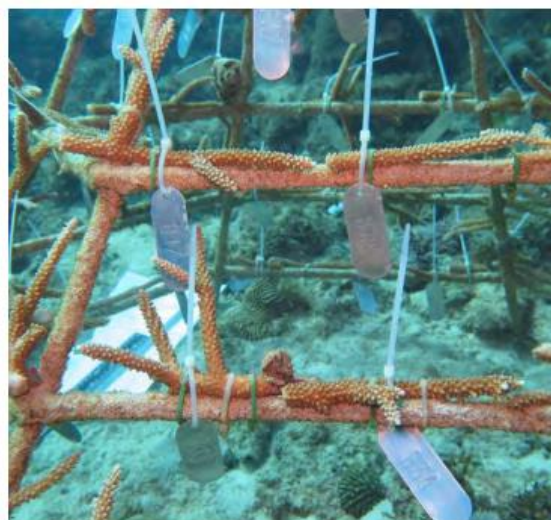
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#### LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

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







## 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 an orientation and safety overview.

### Day 2: Service Project — Southeast Coast Coral Conservation

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

- Transfer to Boca Chica.
- Meet EF's partner organization and learn how it is working to improve the state of coral reef in the Dominican Republic.
- Discuss coral reef biology and restoration practices.
- Practice snorkeling techniques as you learn how to identify local species of fish and gather scientific data within marine ecosystems.

### Day 3: Southeast Coast

- Process scientific data gathered during a coral reef restoration campaign.
- Explore a mangrove ecosystem.

### Day 4: Southeast Coast

- Meet a community association to learn about their transition from fishing to ecotourism as you explore the social dynamics of marine conservation.
- Explore a coral reef nursery and participate in local ecotourism activities, such as kayaking.
- Continue your coral reef restoration service project through activities that may include a mangrove restoration, waterfront cleanup, or data collection, depending on the community's needs at the time.

### Day 5: Southeast Coast

- Continue your coral reef restoration project by studying a unique coral species.
- Participate in a meet and greet with marine biologists.

- Discover what a career in marine conservation could mean for you.

### Day 6: Central Mountain Region

- Explore the importance of environmental conservation in the country's mountain region.
- Participate in a white water rafting excursion or learn about regional mountain ecosystems on a nature trail hike.

### Day 7: Catalina Island

- Travel by boat to Catalina Island.
- Enjoy a relaxing day snorkeling and observing local coral reef, a beautiful example of successful conservation efforts within the Dominican Republic.

### Day 8: Depart for home

Return to the airport and board your flight home.



## LOCAL INSIGHT AND SUPPORT

Your Field Director deepens your connection to the land, people and indigenous 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; round-trip flights on major carriers; daily breakfast, lunch and dinner in the Dominican Republic; local ground transportation; Full-time Field Director; sustainable service project; service hours that count towards academic credit; sightseeing tours led by expert guides; entrance fees and excursions per the itinerary

## MEANINGFUL. SUSTAINABLE. UNFORGETTABLE.

Journey to the Dominican Republic to discover the wonders of marine life—and what you can do to help preserve it. Here, you'll learn about the effects of overfishing, tourism and climate change on coral reef in the Caribbean before joining the movement to support its restoration. Working together with community members, you'll collect fragments of naturally broken coral and transplant them back into the reef, and do your part to preserve this important ecosystem. As you foster meaningful relationships within the community, you'll celebrate customs and help continue conservation efforts for generation to come.

18

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
- Responsible Tourism
- Cultural Immersion and Diversity

## *What your accommodations will be like*

A good night's sleep is important, so you can count on safe, clean and comfortable accommodations with private bathrooms. We use all locally owned accommodations and hotels in the D.R. to ensure sustainable tourism on our service learning programs.

### **SERVICE LEARNING SAMPLE ACCOMODATIONS IN DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**

*North Coast, Central Mountain Range and Santo Domingo*

Here are some examples of the types of lodgings travelers will stay in on a Service Learning Tour. We personally inspect every property we use to ensure that it's safe, clean and comfortable. Every room includes a private bathroom, but it's not customary for rooms to have air conditioning or a television.



**North Coast**  
**Marina del Mar**  
Monte Cristi

<http://www.marinadelmarhotel.com/>

This small, family run hotel is just across from one of Monte Cristi's beautiful beaches. The hotel has 21 rooms, a restaurant, and a large meeting space on the third floor with 360 degree views of the beach and surrounding neighborhood. Rooms also have high powered fans.



**Central Mountain Range**  
**Casa Tranquilla**  
Jarbacoa

<http://casatranquilla.com.do/>

Casa Tranquilla is just a 5 minute drive to the service site where students will be working. This small, family run hotel also has a restaurant, pool and basketball court. There is also a meeting room where the group can do reflection exercises and relax in the evenings.



**SANTO DOMINGO**  
**Hodelpa Caribe Colonial**  
Santo Domingo

<http://www.hodelpa.com/en/hotels/santo-domingo/hodelpa-caribe-colonial/general-information.html>

This modern hotel, located in Santo Domingo's colonial zone, is walking distance from the villa Alcazar de Colon and even has its own restaurant. Rooms also have air conditioning and phones. The lobby also provides WiFi and serves as a great meeting space.



## *What your meals will be like*

These are examples of the types of meals you and your students will be served on tour.

### **SAMPLE MENUS: LATIN AMERICA**

Discovering new foods can be one of the best parts of traveling. The sample menus below are just a few examples of the types of traditional, local favorites you will have the opportunity to try on tour. Every meal will include table water (or bottled water if deemed necessary by locals) and you can usually buy other beverages if you wish. All meals are served as a group—not à la carte—and a vegetarian option will be available if requested in advance. Please notify EF of any other dietary restrictions or food allergies you may have. Enjoy!



#### **BELIZE**

Fish tacos  
Caramel Flan

#### **COSTA RICA**

Lunch and dinner  
Rice and beans  
Chicken/meat or sandwich  
Salad  
Fresh fruit juices

#### **DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**

Rice and beans  
Chicken/meat  
Stew  
Plantains

#### **ECUADOR**

Soup  
Roasted chicken with rice  
and vegetables  
Fresh fruit

#### **GALÁPAGOS**














Lunch and dinner  
Buffet with fish, chicken, rice,  
pasta, salad and fresh fruit

#### **PERU**

Soup  
Salad  
Chicken with fries  
Fresh fruit

## Price details

In addition to the support you receive before and after tour, along with the logistical support you receive on tour, your guaranteed lowest price covers all of the details.

		YOUR TOUR	TEAM & SUPPORT
<div> <div>STUDENT</div> <div>\$3,425</div> <div>or \$222/ 15 mos</div> </div> <div> <div>ADULT</div> <div>\$3,875</div> <div>or \$252/ 15 mos</div> </div>			
Program Price	\$3,390		 Regional Meals
Weekend Supplement	\$70		 Field Director
Global Travel Protection	\$165		 10 Service Hours
Early Enrollment Discount	-\$200		 Volunteer and Leadership Activities
weShare – Personalized Learning	\$0		 Expert Local Guides
For every 6 paying travelers, 1 chaperone travels free.			 Continuous Support
			 Worldwide Presence
			 24-hour Emergency Service
			 Peace of Mind Program
		Adult supplement required for travelers age 20 and older at the time of travel.	
YOUR TOUR	TEAM & SUPPORT		
 Airfare & Transportation			
 Hotels			
 Guided Sightseeing			
 Entrances			

## *Important final details*

### **The EF Price Guarantee**

We're dedicated to making travel accessible to as many students as possible. Our unmatched global presence and longstanding relationship with airlines and hotels ensure you will always give your students the best experience at the lowest price, guaranteed.

What it means for you:

- The guaranteed lowest price—if you find a similar tour for less, we'll beat it.
- One simple price—no enrollment or departure fees.
- Once a student enrolls, their price will never change.

### **International Training Tours**

Through our blended learning model, all first-time EF Group Leaders experience a tour by traveling to the Dominican Republic, Paris, Rome, Madrid, Berlin or Beijing, enhanced with online and classroom components. In the event a Group Leader cannot attend one of these complimentary tours, we offer live webinars to prepare them and answer questions before they travel.

I hope that you've found this document helpful! Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions.



**Sincerely,**

***Maggie Lenahan***

Partnerships Manager

617-619-1218

**EF Educational Tours** – *The World Leader in International Education*

EF Boston Campus

Two Education Circle, Cambridge, MA 02141

### **Dominican Republic Service Learning Tour 2018**

Over Spring Break I took 25 students with four chaperones to Dominican Republic to partake in the marine conservation tour led by EF. We were extremely happy with our trip. Most days involved us driving about half an hour to the local nonprofit organization we worked with called Fundacion Verde Profundo in Boca Chica. The staff there were excellent and offered a high level of education alongside the kinesthetic tasks our students were fortunate enough to partake in. Typically we would start the day with a powerpoint presentation educating us on the local ecology and issues that the ecosystem were suffering from, as well as the solutions that were being attempted. Following these classes students were given instructions on the days tasks which included: learning how to snorkel safely; marine species identification and learning placement within the foodweb; gathering mangrove seedlings and learning about their life cycle; planting mature and acclimated mangrove saplings in shallow waters to rectify the beach erosion; trash clean-up of a mangrove stand alongside students from the local school; learning about parrotfish as keystone species which help maintain coral reef vibrancy; visiting La Caleta National Marine Park and learning about the triple bottom line of sustainable development by assisting fishermen in converting from livelihoods totally dependent on fishing to one diversified by acting as "water taxis" for eco-tourists who enjoy the biodiversity of the Marine Park; and of course, coral reef restoration by attaching living coral fragments to man-made structures which facilitate the regrowth of the coral reef.

EF did a wonderful job of mixing a great deal of educational content with fun, culture and other experiences. Half way through our week we visited Jarabacoa and went on a white water rafting trip, which gave us the opportunity to move inland and experience the mountain region of Dominican Republic. We also visited Isla Catalina, which is a healthy reef, so showed the students the full circle and what the aspirations of our labors were. During down times our field director, Luis, educated our students on dance moves and latin music, which was fun and acted as a great ice breaker.

As a teacher of biology and environmental science who traveled with 3 other science teachers, I can highly recommend our experience as one that was authentic, valuable and educational. I have led other service learning tours to Peru and Ecuador, Which were both outstanding, but this one had a higher degree of educational content. One AP student whose hobby is to propagate coral in his own personal tank said he learned a great deal on this trip, and another AP student decided to change his major at college to marine science due to his experiences during this week. Multiple students made WeShare projects and earned extra high school credit from EF, which is an accredited organization.

I have attached some quotes from my group which I gathered in our trip debriefing survey.

"The service learning really opened up my eyes to the problems even the most beautiful places face in terms of pollution. It really made me rethink how I use materials at home and motivates me to be as efficient as possible with my trash. I hope that I will be able to do something like this trip again because I learned a ton."

"They presented the information in a way where I was still interested and was able to have a hands-on experience not too long afterwards"

"It was so amazing to enrich my knowledge about science and I thought that I made a difference in my community."

"It was nice to have real life experience versus classroom notes"

"There was so much trash and despite the biodiversity of the Dominican Republic, many mammals are becoming extinct, as well as plants crucial for things like hurricane defense. Planting's 180 mangrove trees and watching all of the trash be shipped out really resonated with me and I felt like I made a difference. It was a very memorable experience."

"My attitude towards trash has become much more serious after seeing the mangrove island. I'm making a better effort to reuse and recycle as much as I can, as well as stop buying products that have these waste materials."

"I would definitely recommend this trip because I learned so many new things about marine biology, conservation, and the Dominican culture. It really opened my eyes to how different the world can be, and I think it's important that people can go out of their comfort zone to experience this amazing opportunity."

Hi all!

We are all turning in for the night after a very long travel day, but we made it with smiles on our faces and we were greeted by our field director, Gabriel, and our first beautiful DR sunset!

It was back to the hotel for dinner and a group photo! Cannot wait to send you all a long update of our first full day working on our service project in Boca Chica!

Until then, buenos noches!

Helen van Riel, Michelle Annunziato, and Michelle Marro

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Hello!

Today being our first full day here in the Dominican Republic, we were ready to get to our service learning site and see our new surroundings for the week. This morning had us refueling and packing up for the day with a great breakfast at Hodelpa Garden Suites and a short drive over to Fundación Verde Profundo where we met our team of marine biologists, environmental conservation experts, and life guards! This beautiful facility is a combination of a hotel/restaurant and site of the non-profit. It opens right up onto the beach where the mangrove and marine grass species are being cultivated by the brilliant staff at the Fundación.

We had a short introduction to the wildlife we should expect to see and time to acclimate to our snorkel and flippers in the water. The morning had gotten off to a rainy start but as we continued to swim and to identify species in our morning session, the skies cleared and we enjoyed a spectacular view. The area we were snorkeling is separated from the open ocean by a rock wall so it was calm and made exploring a lot of fun.

We got out of the water for some more refueling and had an amazing meal. Most opted for the typical Dominican-style meal, and locals say that having these meals mean that you're "eating the colors of the flag" to represent the typical sides of red beans and white rice. The sun that was now out was so welcome and we all could not get over the beach and water that surrounded us.

In the afternoon we took a short boat ride to another piece of the protected inlet and got in the water straight from the boat. This time, we practiced with our underwater field guides by identifying ecosystem life and recording it. Tomorrow, we will be collecting data and inputting it into the Reef Check database.

After our PM snorkel, and along with our guides, we researched the new fish and reef life we saw throughout our swims. We made our way back to our hotel and had some time to hang out before dinner. There were some wonderful highlights that were shared among our group in our first field director-led reflection. Students shared goals that they have for the week going forward and we are so humbled and excited to see each student work towards their own personal goal.

Hope you enjoy some pictures of our first day! We cannot wait to get back to our beach and continue our work in this special part of the world.

Buenos noches,

Helen van Riel, Michelle Marro, and Maria Annunziato

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Hi all!

We packed so much into our next full day in the Dominican Republic! The day began with breakfast and our short trip over to our service learning site in Boca Chica. It was like returning to old friends this morning because our guides and marine biologist team are so professional and helpful that they make us feel at home!

We began the day learning about the coral restoration project that the team is currently working on and then it was out into the water to work in teams and attach coral pieces that will hopefully thrive over time and begin to grow new polyps and ultimately a new reef. We covered two hexagonal structures and ID tagged them. We'll get to follow these structures over time and watch them grow with updates from the crew here at the Fundación.

We also got to tour the growing mangroves that the team is building and we are all amazed at how diverse this ecosystem is.

Afterwards we went back out on our boat with the team to snorkel and continue identifying species. A giant rain cloud came over us and it was a fantastic view of seeing above and below water with the life underneath and the rain meeting the water.

Our lunch of either spiced pasta or German schnitzel (the head chef of the restaurant is an expat from Germany) was followed up by an afternoon of crafting with local artists who are also passionate about marine conservation. A couple of years ago, the Dominican Republic voted to ban fishing of the parrot fish and many other marine species. This team of artists wanted to honor this decision and create mementos of the parrot fish. They had cutouts for us that we could each turn into our own works of art! It was relaxing and an awesome way to spend the afternoon at our service site.

We returned to our hotel for some time to hang out and have dinner, and then we reflected on the United Nations' Millenium Global Plan begun in the year 2000. We assessed how far we've come, how far we still need to go, and how we can be a part of the solution. We are so proud of the students and how they have a vision for their place in the world.

Tomorrow we are off to the Central Mountain Region with our team! Excited to see how this area contrasts the coastlines of the Dominican Republic.

Buenos noches,

Helen van Riel, Michelle Marro, and Maria Annunziato

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Hi All!

We're writing you from our drive back from Jarabacoa and the Central Mountain Region! As I type, there's a sing along happening, which is one of several today! Our crew is so lively and supportive of one another and people who had not spent much time together before this trip have fast become friends! And the charisma is contagious – guides have given our students many compliments to how inquisitive, friendly and outgoing they are!

The day began early with breakfast and departing our hotel by 7am so that we could spend some time in Downtown Santo Domingo on our way to the mountains. We did a short walking tour of the Colonial part of the city, it had beautiful terraced shops and restaurants and also the oldest cathedral in the Americas.

We continued on our journey to Rancho Bayguate. It is a popular ecotourism reserve that leads many outdoor adventures. We had a lunch at their outdoor restaurant and our tour director, Gabriel, informed us as we were finishing up lunch that one of the past Dominican Republic presidents from the 1990s had just walked in with his family! He took some photos with our kids and was happy to greet us.

Then it was time to get fitted for our gear before we went on our river rafting adventure! The ride over on our truck with the crew was a lot of fun and we went in boats down this amazing river full of rapids, waterfalls, and breathtaking green jungle around us. It was extremely surreal and completely awe-inspiring! We were all so pumped up after our adventures, and we were sad to leave. As we made our way down the mountain we stopped for some local, homemade arepas and coconut brittle. The arepas reminded us of a pumpkin bread and it was freshly made and the perfect snack for our journey home.

We'll have dinner once we get home and will reflect on the day before we wind down and gear up for our adventure tomorrow!

All our best. Thanks for all the well wishes so far!

Helen van Riel, Michelle Marro and Maria Annunziato

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Hello!

Our next full day on the Galápagos Islands is in the books! It began with breakfast at the hotel and a short ride up to Volcano Sierra Negro, currently the tallest active volcano in the world. Our tour guides led us up a hike to the point where we could see the crater and it was spectacular. The crater is four miles across and we could see it from multiple vantage points. Next we headed back to town to grab our swimming gear and get in our lunch in town before going out on our first snorkeling excursion. We cannot believe the amazing animals that we saw. The boat tours took us along the coastline rock formations and we saw blue-footed boobies, pelicans, and tropical penguins. We walked across a small island called Tintarerra which had so many marine iguanas on it, creating burrows for their eggs and protecting them from the hovering Frigate Birds and native Gulls. Then we grabbed our snorkel gear and got into the beautiful water (since we're all from New England, anything warmer than Cape water is a win!) where groups saw sea lions, massive sea turtles, sting rays and a lot of diverse sea life on the surrounding coral.



Afterwards, we came back to town and visited a flamingo feeding ground and spent some time watching the sunset again before getting ready for dinner at our new favorite restaurant, where they cooked our group a barbecue dinner.

We are all so tired but so in awe of how we were able to get so close to these local animals and be a part of it all. Tomorrow we are heading back to the Santa Cruz Island for a morning at the Galápagos' most famous beach and then visiting the Darwin Research Center in the afternoon. We promise to send photos as soon as we can, but wifi is making it hard to compile them!

Best,

Michelle Marro, Helen van Riel, Maria Annunziato, Joanne Coffman, Camille Paolini, and Dan Makrinos

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Hello!

We are all exhausted but so happy after our next day doing important work here in the DR. After a bit of a later start (most welcome by all!) we arrived at Parque Nacional Submarino de La Caleta. It is a long expanse of National Park that includes both the land and the ocean. Since 1972, the park space has been used by both fishermen and marine conservationists. They ensure that the coral reefs are safe without putting fishermen out of work. And they also began offering scuba diving trips out to dive sites as a supplemental income for the fishermen which has been extremely successful and a way to increase sustainability of the Parque.

We spoke to a local fishermen as well a Reef Check biologist and learned about the environmental, economic and social aspects of sustainability. They explained directly how our work will help them in their missions and livelihoods, and then we went to work volunteering in the morning and afternoon. We painted a boat for one of the fishermen and we helped create a buoy out of bottles we collected on the beach and in our hotel all week. The buoys will go out to a nearby dive site in the Parque and give a place for boats to stay anchored so that they won't drop anchors on the coral reef below. It was amazing to do work and see exactly how it will impact the community.

During our break, Gabriel taught us how to play a traditional Dominican backyard game which got really competitive, then we had another awesome lunch of La Bandera (colors of the flag) and after we finished our volunteering, we had some time to visit Los Tres Ojos, a series of semi-underground caves with 3 lakes, hence the "three eyes"! It was another great view at a different landscape than what we've seen on the beaches. We also chose to do our reflection here and it was a very emotional conversation about who inspires each of us. I know that many of you reading this were a part of our conversation. Gabriel is such a wise individual and important piece of our tour because he reminds us constantly about why our work here is so imperative.

We had time to spend together before and after dinner and many of us sat outside journaling, star gazing and playing "Mafia". We are excited for our day back at Boca Chica tomorrow and cannot believe we have to say goodbye to our team and friends here in this beautiful part of the world.

Speak to you then! Buenos noches.

Helen van Riel, Michelle Marro, and Maria Annunziato

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Hi everyone,

It is with a weary but very full heart that we write our last installment of our tour. We had such a full day with many celebrations and many partings (hopefully not goodbyes but see you later!)!

We left the hotel after breakfast this morning and made our way back to Fundación Verde Profundo one more time. We were greeted like old friends and we had a presentation about the mangroves which we would be visiting and also planting in the sheltered beach area in the afternoon. We boarded our boat and made a short trip over to anchor offshore of an island made of red mangroves.

Some of the many amazing things about mangroves is the number of marine and land animals that they support, and the amount of carbon dioxide they harness from the atmosphere.

We waded over with our guides – full disclaimer, mangroves do not smell good at all (one student described it as egg salad) and unfortunately, due to pollution, there is trash everywhere. It is a sad reminder of what humans are doing to such important ecosystems. Once on the island, we were taught how to locate the sapling-type of the red mangroves to pick and store on the boat. It was a quick learning curve to identify the best ones, and to avoid ones that were fed on by crabs and other animals. Afterwards, we swapped our water shoes and gloves for flippers and snorkel gear and had an amazing view of the fish that live around the mangroves!

After our snorkel, got back on the boat and returned to the Fundación for lunch (we are going to miss the view and the meals here)! After having time to rest for a bit, we went back out on the to a site right along the rock barrier between the inland beach and the open ocean. We split up into groups and we got to plant our mangrove saplings in PVC tubing and ID the tubes as our own. The mangroves will hopefully grow above the tubing and many years from now come to be similar to the mangrove island we visited. The benefits are unlimited to the coastline and all of the organisms that live there.

We came back to shore to change and have our much anticipated dance class with our Fundación leader, Tasha, and her family and team! It was a blast and we learned merengue, salsa, and bachata. We then taught our Dominican friends some typical line dances from celebrations at home. And after some shopping, it was sadly time to say our farewells. I know that many hope to visit this beautiful place again and see how the Fundación continues to make this world a better place to live.

The reflections at our final group gathering after dinner were about what the ultimate goal from this trip was and what we each achieved. Achievements ranged from becoming a more humble person and discovering you want to study biology after high school to having gone out of your comfort zone by making new friends and learning about the local Dominican culture here. It is a wonderful feeling knowing this experience is shared by 20 other people and that we'll always have these moments to take with us.

We'll post plenty of pictures tomorrow when we are en route back to Easton! And we'll keep parents updated about our ETA as we continue our travels. Until then, muchas gracias for being a part of the journey and in your own way making it possible!

Helen van Riel, Michelle Marro and Maria Annunziato

Student thank you:

There are no words to express our gratitude to Ms(s). A, vR, M for your time and dedication to this trip. We are amazed at how much learning, service and fun was wrapped into such a short period of time. It has been an amazing experience for all, we're sure. We cannot wait to hear all about it. We appreciate your daily blogs and pictures. We looked forward to them every day. We felt like we were experiencing this trip along with you. Enjoy the rest of your vacation. Thank you for returning everyone home safely. ❤️❤️❤️