

WHAT TO EXPECT

WHAT A TRIP LOOKS LIKE

Your Team Coordinator will be in frequent contact with you helping prepare for your trip. Most GO Ministries mission trips last for 8 days, from Tuesday to Tuesday in the summer and Saturday to Saturday in the Winter, Spring and Fall. You will spend the first day traveling to Santiago, the second largest city in the Dominican Republic or to Santo Domingo for teams working in the Bateys.

GO STAFF IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Our North American missionaries and Dominican Local Leaders will meet you at the airport. They will serve as your facilitators for the remainder of the week.

TRAVEL

Your team will travel via the GO Ministries 26-passenger bus or one of our 15-passenger vans.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Each of our dorms in all of our hubs, have a separate sleeping area for men and women. There are bunkbeds with mattresses and indoor plumbing. There is a common eating area where your team will share meals together.

FOOD

Three hot meals will be provided each day to team members. Local leaders will prepare the meals complete with fresh Dominican fruit. The meals are buffet style and you can expect an array of delicious chicken, rice, beans, bread, and fruits. All food is prepared with purified water and bottled water will be available in the dormitory, at the work site, and at all meals. Small corner stores sell bottled soft drinks and snacks as well.

MINISTRY ACTIVITIES

You will work with your team coordinator to determine the schedule of your week based on the Focused Area of Ministry that you choose. Santiago-based teams will also have opportunities to visit four of our major areas of ministry, where you will learn how you can get involved and pray for the future of this growing ministry. These include:

- GO Kids School (El Colegio Isaias Emmanuel)
- GO Medical Center – Current location and future site
- GO Seminary of the Americas
- GO Leadership Development Complex

CHURCH SERVICES

As a part of your week, your team will have the opportunity to experience the Dominican or Haitian Culture through a church service. If someone from your team would like to teach or if you have worship music prepared, please let us know in advance.

SANTIAGO TEAMS BEACH DAY/ OPTIONAL OVERNIGHT TRIP

Before you leave, you will have the opportunity to enjoy God's creation at the beach. The purpose of this time is to be able to step away from the ministry you have been doing, so that you are able to listen to what God wants you to learn from your time here. It is important that your team processes all that they have seen and experienced before heading back to the States. There are two options:

- Beach Day – The team will leave early in the morning and travel 1.5-2 hours to the northern Coast town of Sosua to enjoy the beach and shopping. Lunch is provided at the beach.
- Overnight Stay at the Resort – You will leave after Church on Sunday (for summer teams) or Thursday morning (for winter, spring & fall teams) and travel 1-1.5 hours to Puerto Plata. You will stay at an all-inclusive beach resort. All meals are included. There is an additional \$50 fee per person for this option.

DEVOTION

You and your team members will receive a copy of the GO devotion when they arrive at the dorm. There is time set aside each morning for you to go through the devotion, led by a member of the GO Staff.

TRANSLATORS

Translators will be available for your team.

PHONE CALLS/INTERNET

The emergency phone numbers are 1-829-404-6724 or 1-849-857-0949. **Emergencies only please!** We desire for your trip to be a time where the team can “unplug” so that they can focus on what God has in store for you. However, your team members can purchase international coverage if they choose to. We do ask that they limit their phone usage to when you are in the dorm. Internet is not accessible for our team members in the dorms.

TEAM TRACKER

Upon your arrival to the Dominican Republic, we will snap a photo of your team and post it onto the GO website and social media outlets to notify friends and family that your team has arrived safely. Please allow up to 24 hours for this to be uploaded to the website.

<http://gomin.org/ministry/teamtracker/>

MEDICAL TREATMENT

If there is a need for medical treatment, we will see to it that you get the best care available. Being in the second largest city of nearly a million people is ideal because there are several medical facilities nearby. You will be responsible for all medical costs, but usually they are very small in comparison to the USA. We encourage all team members to purchase short term coverage. Please refer to page 10 of this guide for more information on how to purchase this insurance.

MONEY

We encourage team members to bring extra spending money for souvenirs or snacks from the convenience store. You will have the opportunity to purchase souvenirs at the beach such as clothing, Dominican jewelry, paintings, sculptures, and pottery or enjoy going snorkeling (\$5-10). Please bring cash only, no traveler’s checks or credit cards.

24 HOURS PRIOR TO TRIP CONFIRM FLIGHT WITH AIRLINES

DEPARTURE DAY

Make sure you have a copy of everyone’s passport, health forms, & have all airline tickets before heading to the airport. Encourage your team to purchase a travel pouch for around their neck to keep passport, ID and money. Have them choose a place to always keep their boarding passes and always return them to the same place. The team should stay together through all transfers. Pray before you leave your local airport as a team. The team leader should always be the last one through in case there are any problems.

ARRIVE IN THE D.R.

If there are any problems entering the country, keep a cool head and pray! Remember your example sets the tone for the team. Remind your team not to let anyone help them with their luggage at the airport because we will have to tip each person. If customs has any questions, tell them the things you are bringing are for the church and will be free to the community.