

College Mission to the Dominican Republic FAQ

Purpose of the Trip:

An opportunity to serve the poor people of the Dominican Republic and to put our Christian morals into practice.

Dates:

July 15th-26th, 2019

Time Difference:

None

Location:

El Factor, Dominican Republic (2 hours from all the airports)

Address: Calle 27 de Febrero #13

El Factor, Dominican Republic

Communication:

Sister has a phone that will be used to call the contact person back in Boston who will let everyone else know that we are safe

Cost:

- Approximately \$1,500 (dependant on airfare) individually fundraised
- **Breakdown** → Flight \$800-900, living expenses \$400, Remaining amount becomes a donation

What will we be doing each day?

6:30 AM wake up and 10:30 PM lights out!

- Daily mass
- Morning and evening prayer
- Time for reflection.
- You will be helping at a local parish, retreat center, and parish school with whatever they need done: "manual labor" (maintenance-type of work: painting a chapel, or simple construction assistance), visits to the local small communities: one-day Vacation Bible school (singing songs, telling Jesus stories, arts and crafts, host a party for the "special needs" community.

Monday - Friday you are helping at the Parish/school (VBS style activities (4 activities done a ton of times!; plan 800 children for each activity; 4 groups of 25 kids per activity); crafts that practice fine motor skills that take no longer than 20 minutes and no harder than a 7 year old level; NO BEADS, songs, bible stories etc., manual labor etc.

Saturday - you go out two by two to parish homes. You are not guests! You're doing everything that they are doing. Sister Lisa comes and visits each group two times to make sure that everything is going well. That night, you come back together and have dinner and then go to mass together

Sunday - Special Needs party

Transportation:

Direct flight from Boston (American or JetBlue) into wherever is cheapest (Santo Domingo, Santiago, or Porto Plata) and then mission based school buses along with the parish truck for luggage bringing us to our Retreat Center/Parish. 2 hour drive from all the airports to the Retreat Center.

Food:

Filtered water (bring a water bottle) and traditional food (chicken, beans, rice, bananas, mangoes, pineapples etc.). Spaghetti, mac and cheese, ramen noodles. All food prepared with filtered water.

Living Arrangements:

Running water, indoor plumbing, and toilets. Dorm style sleeping arrangements (bunk beds; individual rooms and private bathrooms) at the Parish Retreat House. Bedding and towels provided

What's the Weather Like?

Very warm and humid with there being always a possibility for rain - no AC but they have fans. YOU MUST DRINK WATER (filtered provided)

Political Atmosphere:

Very stable and people are very welcoming. You are safe in El Factor and will be welcomed as guests.

Clothing:

- **Nothing sleeveless** – no tank tops (this goes for guys and girls) – no shirts that show your stomach.
- **Ladies**, no shorts higher than capri length pants (except for sleeping and wearing around our living area). You'll need a dress or skirt for mass but no short skirts.
- **Swimsuit** for beach day: No bikinis and nothing too low in the front or high elsewhere. If necessary, you can wear a t-shirt over what you have. Men, no speedos. We will have mass on the beach so please be respectful.
- **Guys** can wear sports shorts but need a pair of long pants for Sunday Mass.

What If there is a Medical Emergency?

Clinic in El Factor. There are no required vaccines for this trip. Please consult your primary care physician with any questions about recommended vaccines.

What to Pack:

- EVERYTHING YOU NEED FOR THE WEEK NEEDS TO GO IN YOUR CARRY-ON (Follow flight regulations for liquids; no more than 3 fl. Oz per bottle that all have to fit in one quart size bag)
- Backpack/drawstring bag
- Passport
- **Donations** in checked bag (22 X14 X9 inches – and not over 50 lbs)
 - Money to put towards a project the parish needs, school supplies (rulers, pencils, pens, erasers, copybooks, markers, crayons, colored pencils, colored pencils, coloring books,), dollar store toys, full sized shampoo, conditioner, lotion, antibacterial waterless wash, bandages, gauze, tape, ointments, medicine, toothbrushes and toothpaste, balloons, baseball caps, work gloves, umbrellas, flashlights, clothing and shoes for all sizes (NO WINTER STUFF PLEASE), socks and flip flops for kids (all sizes), beach balls, bubbles, jump ropes chalk, arts and crafts supplies, bats, wiffle balls, soccer balls, basketballs, pumps, Peanut butter, Jelly, Nutella etc.
- Baseball caps and work gloves for work days
- Personal medications
- Toiletries
- Bug Spray/Sunscreen
- Flashlight
- Toilet Paper/travel sized tissues

- Appropriate Clothing - see above
- Candy/bubbles to give out (nothing that melts: no chocolate)
- Water bottle - not metal (starts to smell weird)
- Contacts and plenty of Contact solution if necessary
- Glasses if you wear them
- Gatorade mix - you'll be sweating a lot
- Bible & Rosary
- Journal and pen
- Protein bars/snacks
- \$10.00 to enter the country
- Suggested \$150.00 worth of spending money; there will be a shopping day
- \$5.00 for your host family (One day activity; sent out by twos)