EXPERIENTIAL AND SERVICE-LEARNING TRIPS

Engage in meaningful service in Batey Libertad while learning about Dominican and Haitian history and culture, international development, and human rights issues on Hispaniola.

www.yspaniola.org
ABOUT YSPANIOLA

Yspaniola works in Batey Libertad, a vibrant community comprised of Dominicans, Haitian migrants, and Dominicans of Haitian descent.

In addition to providing educational opportunities to local children in our Learning Center and to young adults through our University Scholarship Program, Yspaniola operates experiential-learning trips for high school and university students.

OUR TRIPS CHALLENGE PARTICIPANTS TO THINK CRITICALLY ABOUT DEVELOPMENT AND THEIR ROLE AS VISITORS AND ENCOURAGE COLLABORATIVE WORK FOR LONG-LASTING CHANGE.
“Yspaniola has been a wonderful organization to work with, not merely because of the way they create an amazing and rich opportunity for student learning but because the work they do is precisely the kind of work that I want my students to think about, reflect on, and participate in.

Their work is centered on the community they serve in Batey Libertad, prioritizing opportunities for leadership and ideas to come from members of the community, particularly young people. In this way, my students have been able to see what meaningful work can be done to help develop capacity grow organically.

“Yspaniola and Batey Libertad have been so crucial to my own teaching and thinking that I consistently think of ways to organize my course around their work, including the assignments I build with students. And my students have consistently raved about the study abroad and learning experiences that have been facilitated by Yspaniola's amazing staff.”

Raj Chetty, St John’s University Trip Leader
ALL TRIPS INCLUDE

- A cultural immersion experience in Batey Libertad
- Accommodation and meals at a local homestay
- Intercultural exchange with young people in the community
- Visit to a human rights-focused nonprofit
- Reflective journal sessions that help participants build an understanding of the social issues and challenges faced by community members
- A day at the beach
- An overnight stay at an eco-reserve
1. Santiago de los Caballeros

As the second largest city in the Dominican Republic, Santiago is a metropolis of finance, culture and industry. Visitors usually fly into the city’s international airport. We always recommend a visit to the Centro Leon museum, where participants can acquire a deeper understanding of the nation’s birth and development.

2. Batey Libertad

A 3-day homestay with a local family will allow you to experience batey life as you engage in informational discussions and reflective journaling. All our host families are warm and welcoming, and love meeting new people.

3. Beach

For a truly authentic experience, spend the day relaxing at playa “La Ensenada”. Bustling on Sundays, Dominicans from the region flock to this local gem on weekends to relax with their families, dance bachata and enjoy the white sand and shallow blue waters.

4. Eco-reserve

“La Protectora” eco-reserve is a wonderful place to explore nature and experience a different kind of tourism. Much of the produce you will consume here is harvested on the grounds. The wooden chalets offer amazing views of the Cibao valley, and a hike up to the viewpoint makes this a memorable visit.

ADDITIONAL LOCATIONS! Prices on request for locations 5, 6 and 7
5. Dajabón

A market town located on the border with Haiti, Dajabón serves as a trade center for timber, bananas, coffee, and honey produced in the region, as well as many other products. Here, you can witness the opening of the border and the interactions between border officials and merchants as they make their way to the binational market to sell their goods. A visit to the market is included.

6. Monte Cristi

A striking, unique landscape, El Morro National Park rises 794 feet and encompasses salt flats, sub-tropical dry forests, lush lagoons, and a spectacular and rugged coastline. A visit to Monte Cristi combines well with Dajabón.

7. Santo Domingo

The Dominican capital and largest metropolitan area in the Caribbean, Santo Domingo is the oldest continuously inhabited European settlement in the Americas. Here you can wander the historic colonial city center, experience beautiful cave lagoons at the “Parque los Tres Ojos” and even hit the beach.

**PRICING**

Yspaniola offers high-quality, customized learning experiences. If you have specific educational goals or additional destinations in mind, we can discuss adjusting your trip to meet your requirements.

**Guide price per participant***

- Under 10 participants  US$1,500
- Over 10 participants  US$1,250

Note: The trip leader is eligible for a 50% discount.

*All fees are per participant and include all transportation including pick-up and drop-off at the airport, hotels and homestay accommodation, meals, excursions and activities. Yspaniola staff accompany the group at all times. These prices do not include flights or personal spending money.

**FUNDRAISING**

Yspaniola is funded entirely by generous individuals and foundations. We ask trip participants to fundraise in advance of their trip to support our educational programs.
SERVICE TRIPS

Yspaniola encourages participants to view our experiential and service-learning trips as an educational opportunity that will inform changes you will make and actions you will take upon returning home.

In short, your learning is your service! Occasionally, visiting groups do carry out service projects within the Batey Libertad community. These are based on an assessment of needs made by our local staff and community members. We only facilitate service projects that are sustainable and don’t remove agency or labor opportunities from local people.
“My experience with Yspaniola is one that I will not soon forget. This is an excellent organization, and the whole staff is extremely dedicated to the cause, knowledgeable, and very approachable, too.

“The work that they are doing for the children in the Batey is very admirable, and I would definitely recommend them to anyone looking for a charitable cause to get behind.”

Scott Jackle, University of Delaware 2019 participant

INTERESTED IN BOOKING A TRIP?

For more information or to inquire about your customized experiential-learning trip, please get in touch.

Email info@yspaniola.org today!