

Dominican Playa



Effective for travel 2020-2024

DAY ONE - Arrival Santo Domingo 5 Nights

Arrive in Las Americas International Airport. Greeting by Interact's Representative in the airport lobby. Transfer to your Colonial Zone hotel or Santo Domingo Este homestay neighborhood, where you'll meet your host families.

HOST FAMILIES are interviewed, selected, monitored and continually evaluated by Hispaniola Language School, founded in 1995. Families live in Santo Domingo Este, a quiet middle-class family neighborhood. Because homes are typically not in proximity to one another, roundtrip transfers are included for scheduled excursions.

Although Santo Domingo is a modern and cosmopolitan city, it is the birthplace of the American civilization. Founded in 1496, it's the oldest city of the New World, and its Colonial Zone, with more than 300 monuments, has been classified by UNESCO as a Worldwide Heritage for Humanity Site.

DAY TWO – Historic Colonial Zone

Santo Domingo teems with Spanish Colonial History. Cobblestone streets, reminiscent of the French Quarter in New Orleans, wind their way through a historic treasure trove of monuments, churches, and museums. Walk through 500 years of history with your local guide. Stroll down Calle de Las Damas, the first paved street in the Americas, on your way to the magnificent Alcazar de Colon, built around 1500 by Columbus's son, Diego. In the afternoon, walk along El Conde, a bustling pedestrian street with a plethora of art galleries, jewelry stores, shops and street vendors. Have fun as you practice your Spanish and sharpen your bargaining skills.

DAY THREE – Modern Zone

Enjoy a panoramic ride along the Malecon, the city's breezy seafront boulevard. Continue through modern Santo Domingo, with its picturesque neighborhoods, parks, high rise office buildings, outdoor cafes, and malls. Visit the Botanical Gardens, where you'll enjoy a relaxing ride on the tourist train.

DAY FOUR – Chocolate *interACTION*

Today's *interACTION* is at a Cacao Plantation. Hand pick some cocoa pods, select some beans and participate in all the steps of the process. Plus, meet a group of chocolatiers who will roast, hand grind cocoa and make chocolate for your enjoyment and will ask you to participate in the process. Your *interACTION* will conclude with a demonstration on how to enjoy a good cup of Dominican hot chocolate, casaba and homemade cornbread.

DAY FIVE – SOMOS / *InterACTION*

Participate in our exclusive **SOMOS** humanitarian total experience. After arrival, you'll receive a list of the most needed items and specific service projects. Visit a modern "super", where you'll purchase, budget \$15, those items. Then, drive to La Piedra, a community located north of the airport. Interact by playing baseball or other games with the children before enjoying a delightful Dominican "tipico" lunch. Conclude with a short moderate hike to the Ni Rahu Taino Cave for a guided eco-historical tour. Witness the most incredibly beautiful stalactites and stalagmites.

DAY SIX – Resort Playa / Optional zip line

Sit back and relax as you witness the scenic views via Los Haitises National Park. Consider the optional popular Samana zip line, the longest zip line in the Caribbean. At the final station, you'll hike to the Lulu waterfall where lunch is served. Sit back and relax or perhaps a refreshing swim. On your way to the resort, participate in a brief orientation of the town. Your resort hotel is located along the idyllic Playa Las Ballenas.

DAY SEVEN – Resort Playa

Relax and enjoy your resort and beach facilities, stroll to town where you'll experience the European influence with pastry shops, cafes, and boutiques. Or, arrange your own optional watersports or jungle excursions.

DAY EIGHT – Departure to USA



8 DAYS



7 NIGHTS

Santo Domingo Hotel or Homestay 5
Playa Resort 2



ALL MEALS ARE INCLUDED